"People of Christ Making a Difference"

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026

8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S!

A nursery is provided for children through age 4 for both worship services and for infants and toddlers during Sunday School. The nursery is located at the end of the hall on the right side.

Children's bags can be found in the "Kid's Corner" of the narthex.

Restroom facilities are located down the hall on the left side.

First Aid, Emergency Equipment, and a wheelchair are located by the first hall stairwell.

If for any reason you must leave the sanctuary, the service is live streamed in the Agape Sunday School classroom. Any usher will be glad to direct you.

Sunday school classes are provided for 2 year olds through adults.

Listening devices and larger print bulletins are located in the narthex.
Ushers are also available to assist you.

If you are a visitor feel free to sign-in using the QR code. Here's how it works:
Point your camera at the image, tap the link that appears on your screen, and
Share whatever information you desire. Thank you! Hope to see you again soon!

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PEACE

PRELUDE *"Sing to the Lord of Harvest"* John Barr

(11:00) LITURGY FOR THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

(We Stand)

(8:30) THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM
Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, Father, **+** Son, and Holy Spirit, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.
Amen.

A reading from Romans: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. *(Romans 6:3-5)*

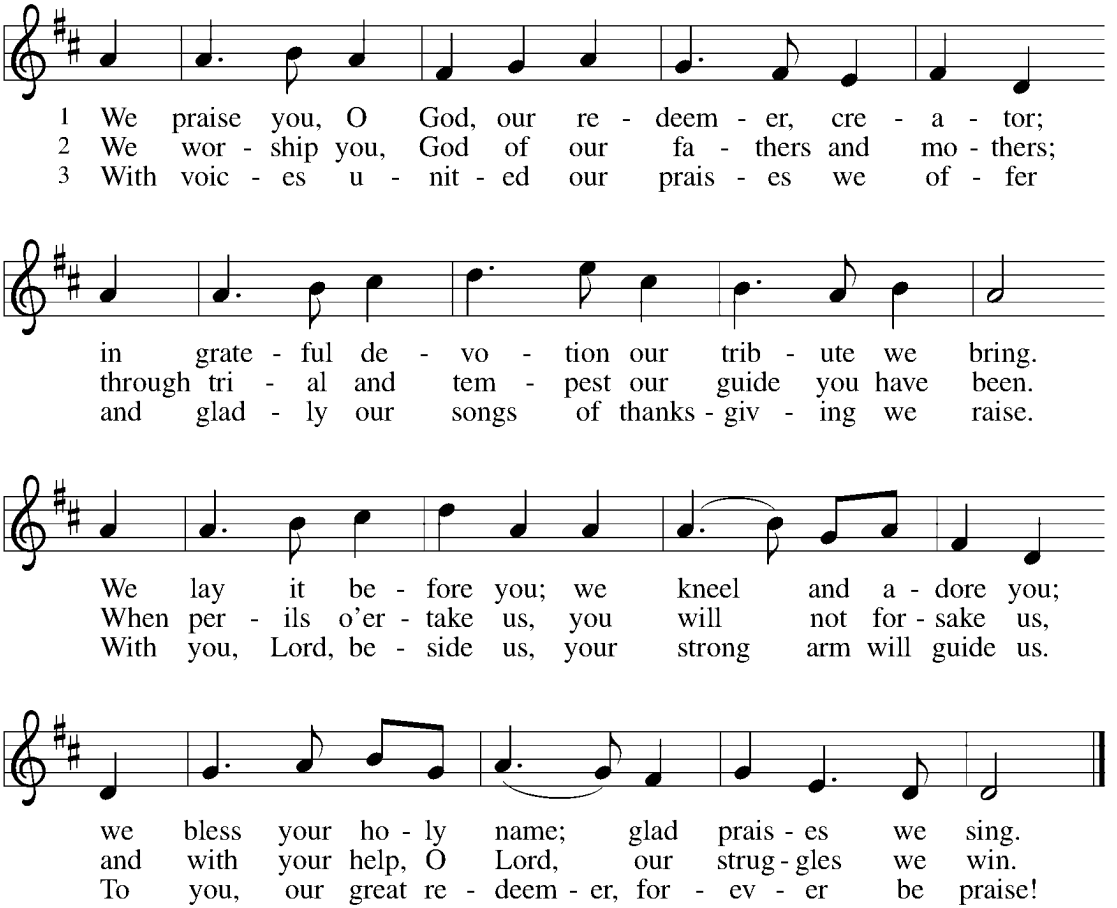
Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life through + Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *"We Praise You, O God"* ELW 870



GREETING
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.
And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



THE SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

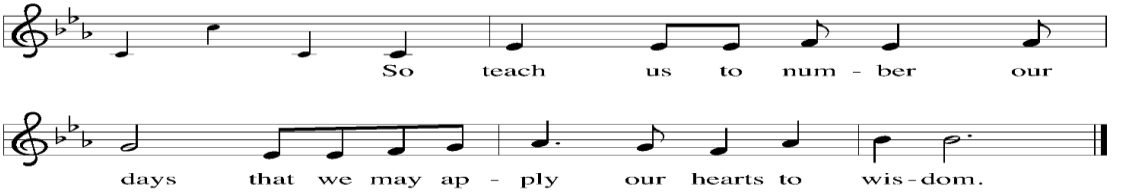
(We Sit)

FIRST READING Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he
has consecrated his guests. 12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he
do harm." 13 Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they
shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. 14 The great day of
the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries
aloud there. 15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. 17 I will bring such distress upon people that they
shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like
dust, and their flesh like dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the
LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will
make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 90:1-8 (9-11) 12



1 Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,**
from age to age | you are God.
3 You turn us back to the | dust and say,
"Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past**
and like a watch | in the night; R
5 you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
6 **in the morning it is | green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.
7 For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
8 **Our iniquities you have | set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance. R
[9 When you are angry, all our | days are gone;
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.
10 **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength | even eighty;**
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and | we are gone.
11 Who regards the power | of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your | indignation?]
12 **So teach us to num- | ber our days**
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom. R

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. [2] For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6] So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; [7] for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

(We Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said] [14] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; [15] to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. [16] The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [22] And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26] But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and

give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

(We Sit)

CHILDREN'S SERMON Pastor Ralph

SERMON Pastor Ralph

(We Stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"* ELW 707



THE APOSTLE'S CREED
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

(We Sit)

OFFERING
God calls us to be generous stewards for the sake of our ministry near and far. You can support our ministry by putting your offering in the offering plate, mailing it to the church, giving online (sslc.org or use the QR Code) or through the Givelify app. If you would like more details on direct deposit giving please contact our Parish Administrator, Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, at (803) 359-6562.

Anthem *"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"* John Leavitt

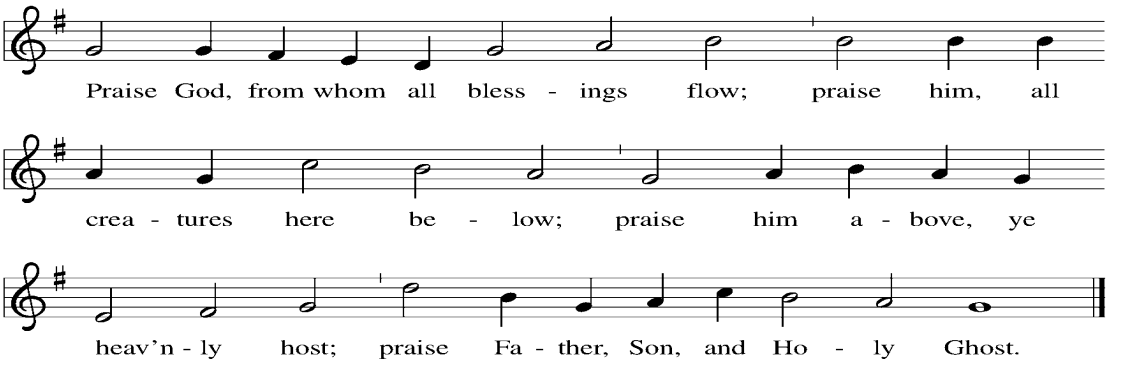
Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy.
Bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the word around, loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one. At the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live and bless, love in word and in deed express.

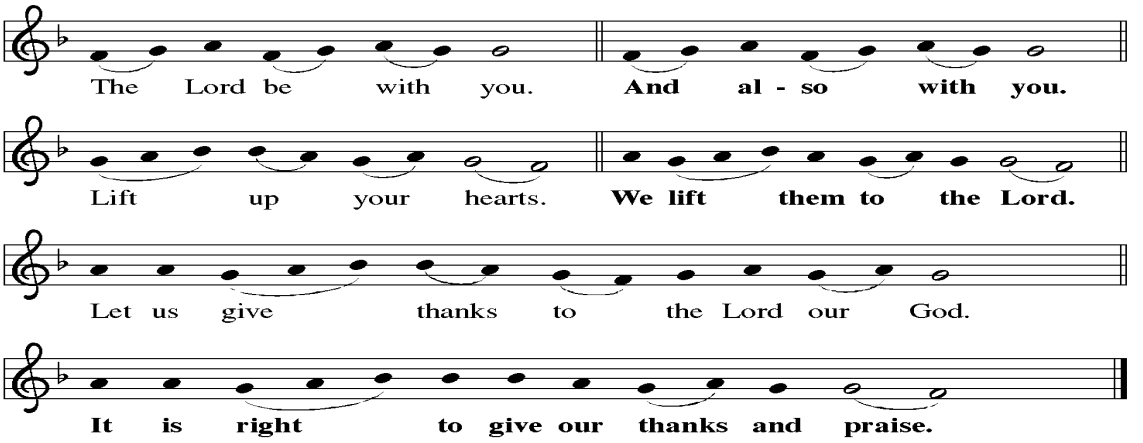
Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God, Immanuel, everywhere!.

(We Stand)

OFFERTORY ELW 854

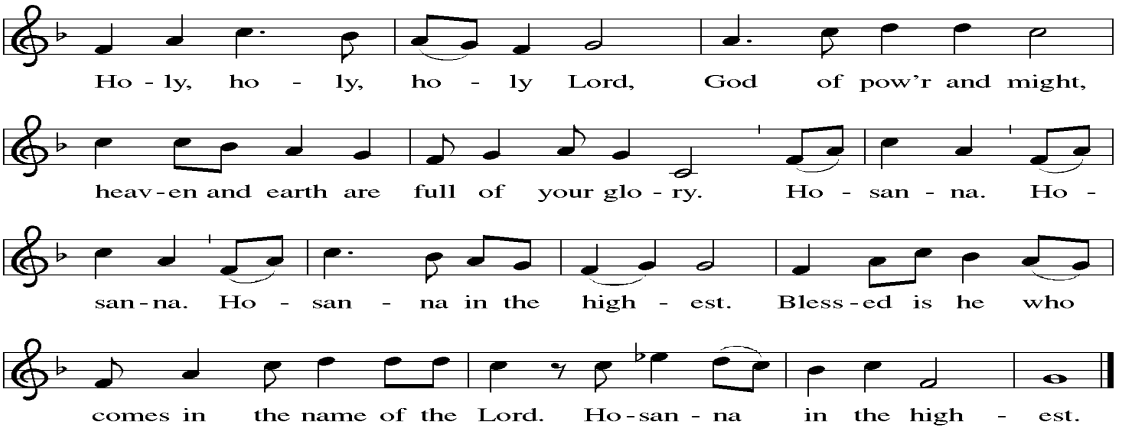


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



THE PREFACE

THE SANCTUS



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

(We Sit)

THE AGNUS DEI



RECEPTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Christ welcomes you to this Holy Meal of the Baptized! We receive communion this morning at the center aisle. Communion will be brought to the front rows for those who wish to remain seated. Children who commune should be assisted by adults near them. Those unable to partake of wine or wheaten bread are assured of our Lord's presence in, with, and under each element alone. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Communion Music *"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"* Frederick Atkinson

The Congregation is encouraged to participate in the following Communion Hymn.
The hymn can be found in the back portion of the WOV (Blue) Hymnal in your pew rack.

Communion Hymn *"One Bread, One Body"* WOV 710

(We Stand)

BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

Almighty and merciful God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you this day and forevermore.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN *"Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"* ELW 890



DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"* Jamaican Folk Tune

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in memory of Leon Strock on his 80th birthday (11/13) by Myra Strock.

SERVING TODAY:

Ushers: (8:30) Eric Wessinger, Ivan Black, Bill Carroll, Aaron Rawl, Vernon Hester, Deon Fink, Blaine Richardson, and Chad Geary;
(11:00) Alon Cox, Roy Welch, Brian Paeth, Doug Harper, Heyward Addy, and Matt Martin

Cantors: Madison LaFontan

Greeters: (8:30) Neil Brown; (11:00) Christy Addy

Readers: (8:30) Jim Nantz; (11:00) Mary Sesler

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Ann Clark; (11:00) Peggy Sherman

Order of St. Stephen's: (8:30) [A] Ethan Kean [C] Jackson Rawl;
(11:00) [A] James Carrero [C] William Carrero

The Church Staff **Website: www.sslc.org**

The Rev. Jason T. Antley
Mrs. Shannon Burnett, Director of Family Life
Ms. Susan Wilson, Director of Music/Organist
The Rev. Ralph G. Hill
Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, Parish Administrator
Mrs. Julie Tworzyanski, Preschool Director
Mrs. Sylvia Looney, Organist Emeritus

Sunday School Information:

Locations for Children's Classes		**Locations for Adult Classes**
Nursery – Room #105		**Agape Adult Class** Room #102 (Closest to Narthex)
2—4 year olds & 5K – Room #103		**Saints & Sinners with PJ and PR** Room #203 (Large Upstairs Room)
1st—5th Grade – Room # 216		
6th—8th Grade – Room #212		For those not attending a Sunday School class but waiting on a child who is in one, feel free to gather in the Social Hall!
9th—12th Grade – Room #217		If you are interested in beginning a new Sunday School class please contact Mrs. Shannon.

If you are not receiving the weekly announcements and monthly newsletter via email and would like to receive them, please email Shannon (Shannon@sslc.org) so she can add you to the distribution list.

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