ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



November 01, 2026
10 a.m.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

(850) 385-2728, Office
sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com, Email http://www.ststephenlutherantally.com
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor
Katharine Gossman, Music Director Rita Ford, Office Manager
All Members, Ministers

Welcome, Everyone!

We are glad to have you with us this morning. If you need assistance in finding anything, one of our ushers will be glad to help you.

Restrooms are found in the fellowship hall and office building to the right as you exit the sanctuary. Proceed up the stairs and through the glass door. Unisex bathrooms are available through the kitchen in the office area.

"Let the Little Children Come" Matthew 19:14 - In accordance with St. Stephen's mission "to be a welcoming community . . ." we encourage all ages to worship on Sundays. We also believe that children learn to welcome others by how they have been welcomed. If you are a parent of a young child, know that this community supports your efforts to engage your child in worship and understands that it can be a stressful process. Having children in worship is a joy that we treasure, so please know that we welcome you and your children as they learn to become active members in Christ's body.

Please remember to turn off your cell phone during the liturgy.

All the hymns for the worship service are in the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship book and numbered by hymn, not page.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church (ELCA) is a Reconciling in Christ congregation that explicitly welcomes people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. St. Stephen is equally committed to anti-racism. We welcome people without regard to race, ethnicity, age, family status, economic status, or differing abilities.

All are invited to receive the sacrament. Lutherans believe that Jesus Christ is present in, with and under the consecrated bread and wine of Holy Communion. Those not wishing to commune are welcome to the altar to receive a blessing. To indicate this, please cross your arms over your chest. If you are not able to come forward, please inform the ushers and the meal will be brought to you.

INTRODUCTION

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

PRELUDE

The assembly stands.



+ GATHERING +

REMEMBRANCE OF ALL SAINTS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection.

P Holy God,

C we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.
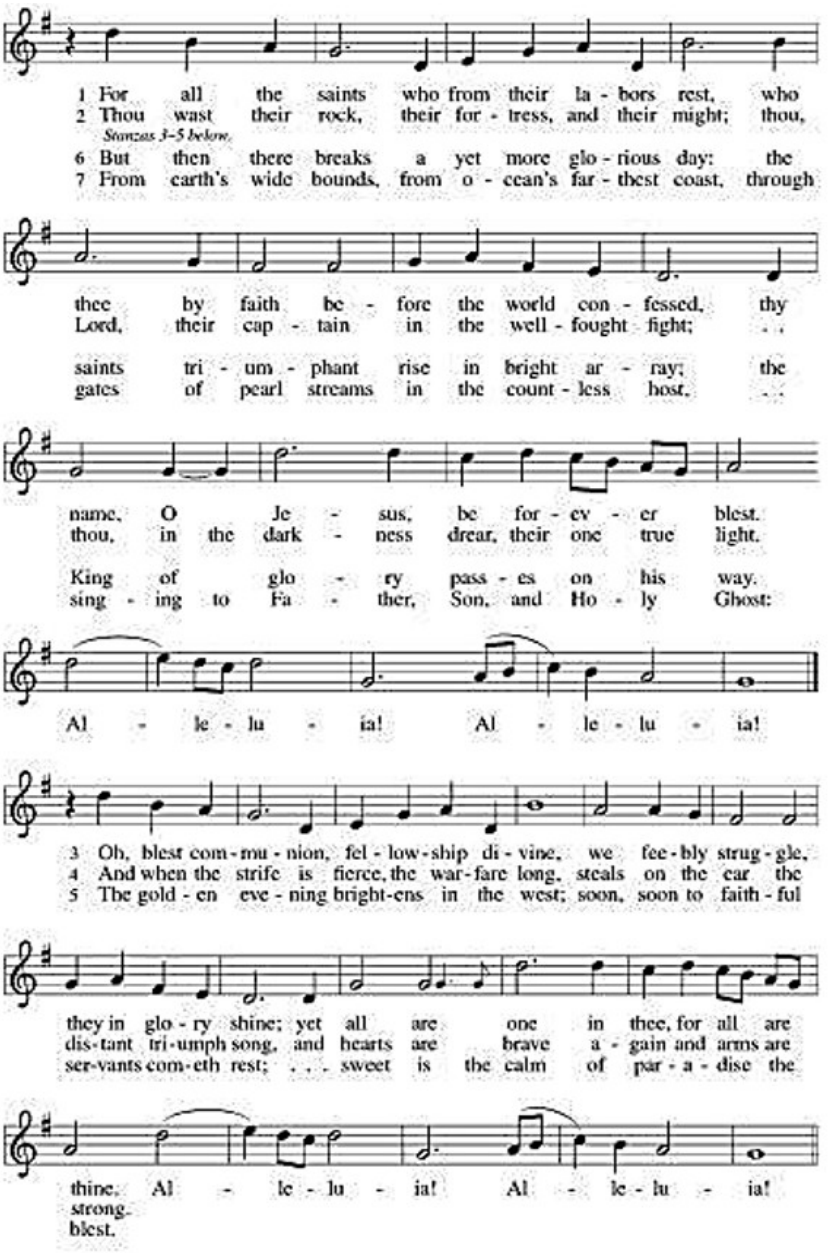
P Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

As each name is called, the congregation is invited to light candles in remembrance of loved ones. After the candles are lit, stand as you are able for the gathering hymn.

GATHERING HYMN **ELW 422** *For All the Saints (vs 1, 4-7)*
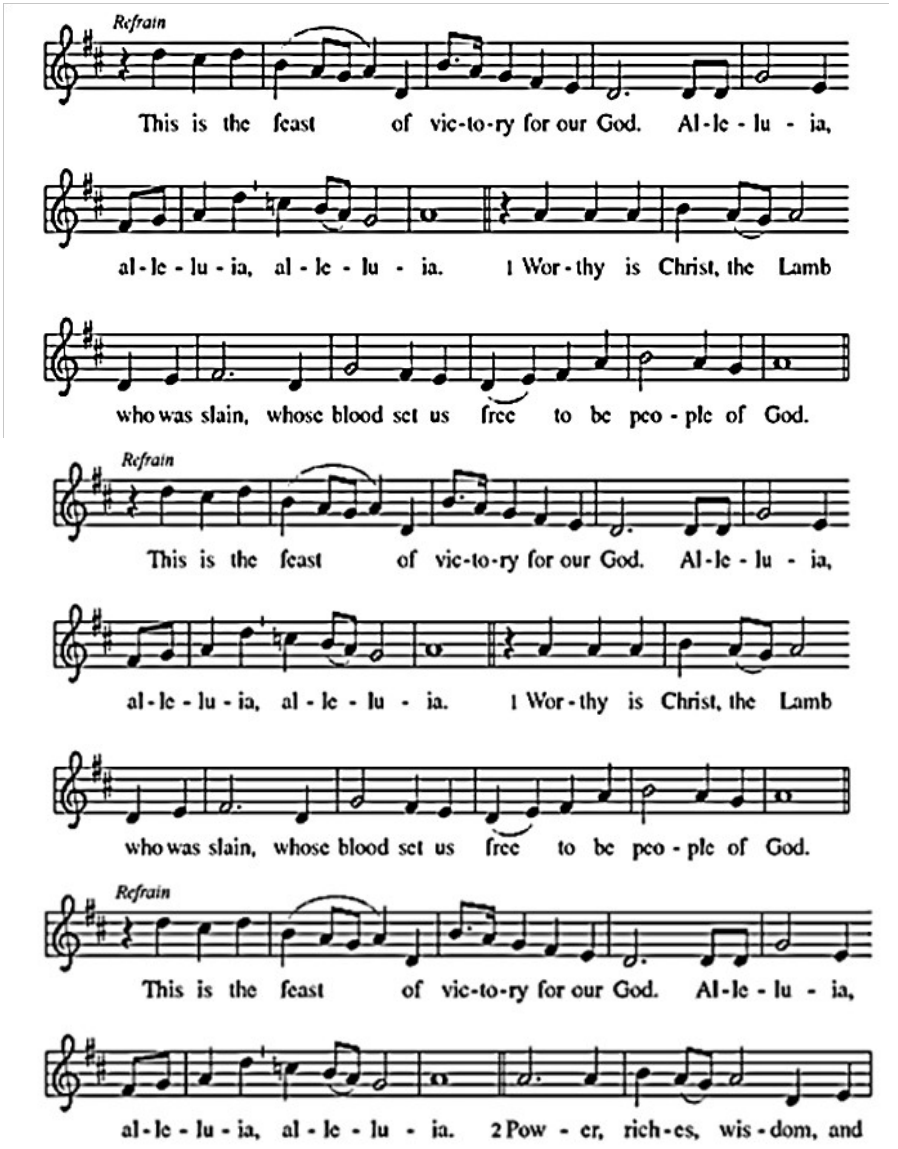


Text: William W. How, 1823–1897
Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
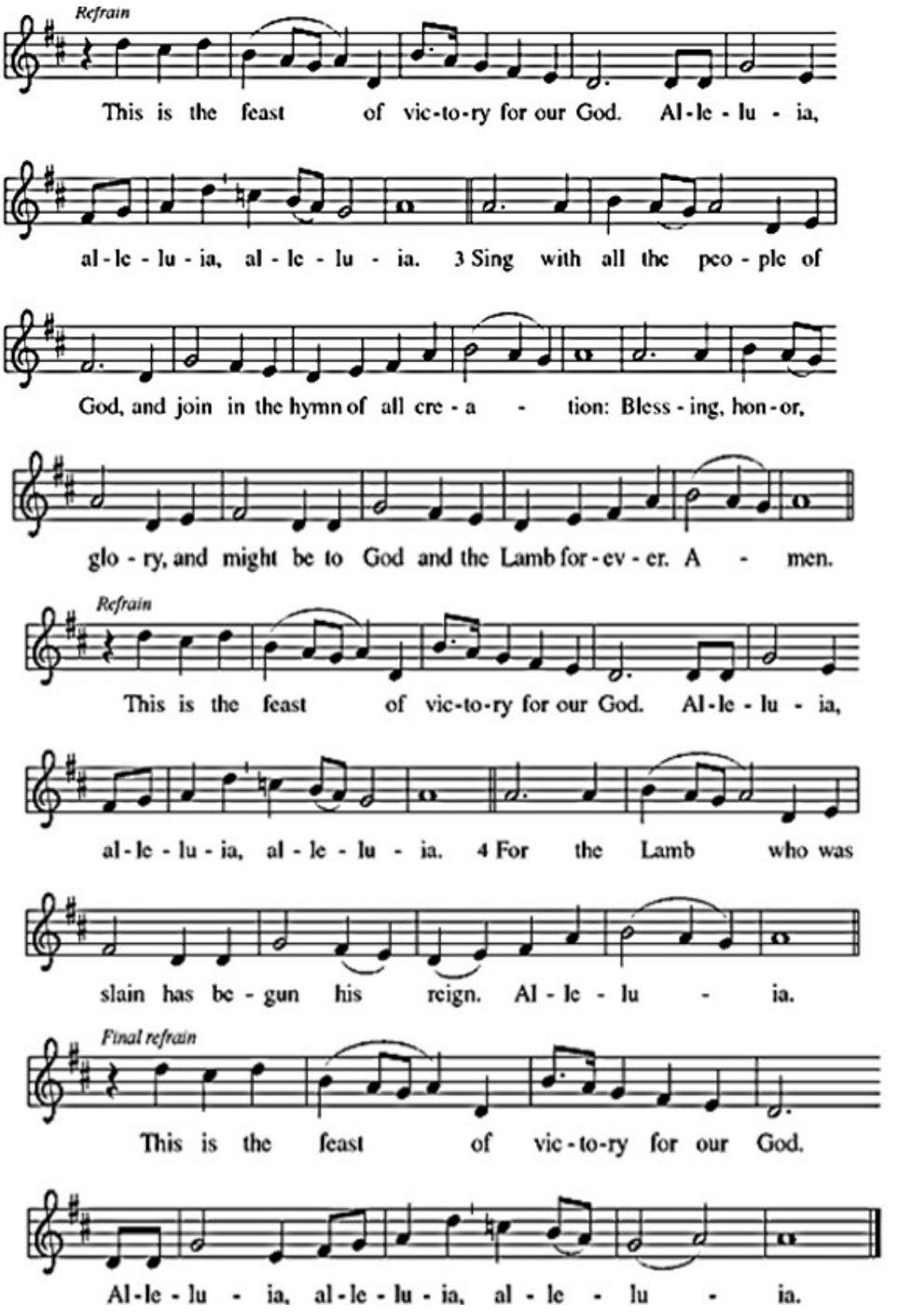
GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE




Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 3 Sing with all the peo-ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,
glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.
Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.
Final refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY



P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME + WORD +

FIRST READING: Revelation 7:9-17

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory.
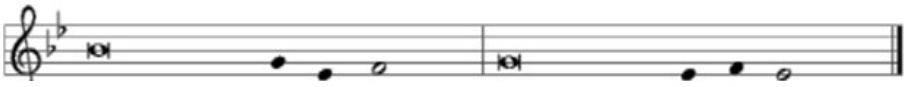
9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from
every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and
before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a
loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the
Lamb!" 11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four
living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,
12 singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power
and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and
where have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he
said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their
robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 For this reason they are before
the throne of God and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is
seated on the throne will shelter them. 16 They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat, 17 for the Lamb at the center of the
throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and
God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 34:1-10, 22 *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader [1] I will bless the Lord | at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be | in my mouth.

C **[2] I will glory | in the Lord;**
let the lowly hear | and rejoice.

L [3] Proclaim with me the greatness | of the Lord;
let us exalt God's | name together.

C **[4] I sought the Lord, who | answered me**
and delivered me from | all my terrors.

L [5] Look upon the Lord | and be radiant,
and let not your faces | be ashamed.

C **[6] I called in my affliction, and | the Lord heard me**
and saved me from | all my troubles.

L [7] The angel of the Lord encamps around those who | fear the Lord
and de- | livers them.

C **[8] Taste and see that the | Lord is good;**
happy are they who take ref- | uge in God!

L [9] Fear the Lord, you saints | of the Lord,
for those who fear the | Lord lack nothing.

C **[10] The lions are in want and | suffer hunger,**
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing | that is good.

L [22] O Lord, you redeem the life | of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished.

Spoken after the psalm is sung:

Amen.

SECOND READING 1 John 3:1-3

A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.
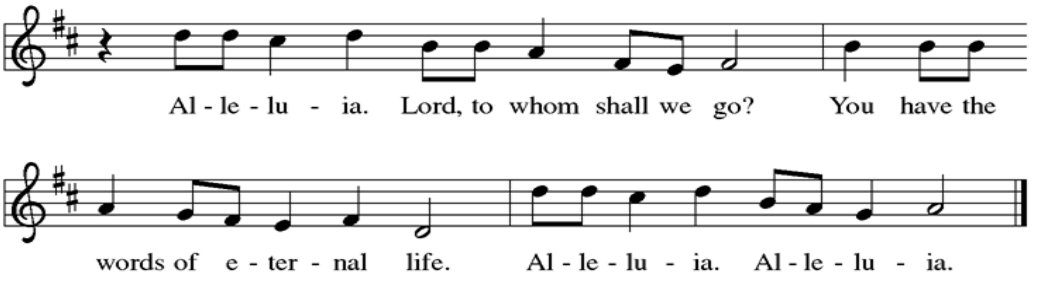
[1] See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and
that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
[2] Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What
we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.
[3] And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

R The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: **Matthew 5:1-12**

In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

P The holy gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples
came to him. 2 And he began to speak and taught them, saying: 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be
comforted. 5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 "Blessed are those who
hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they
will receive mercy. 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 "Blessed are the
peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted
for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil
against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for
in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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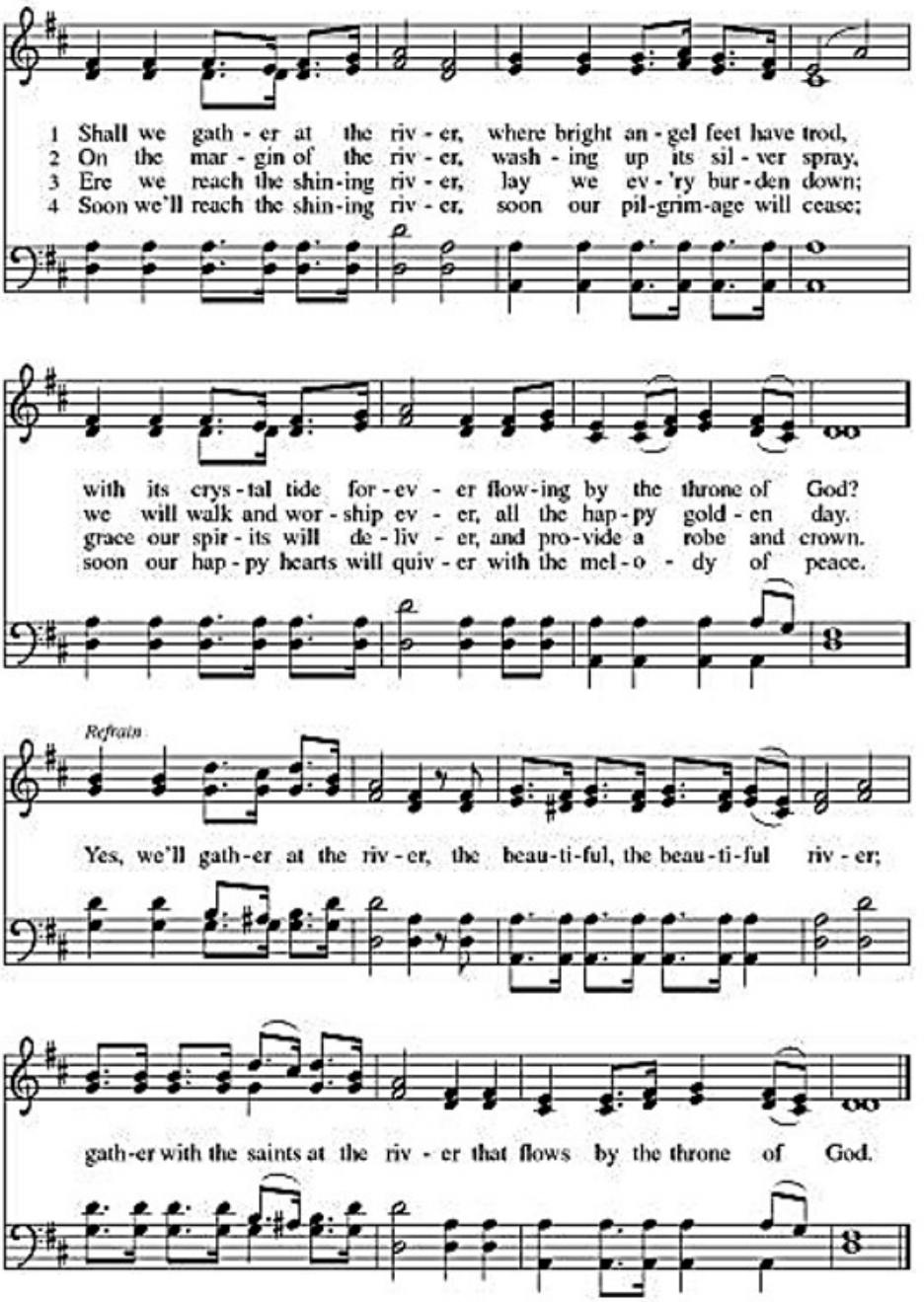
C Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*

Quiet reflection.
The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY **ELW 423** *Shall We Gather at the River*



Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899
Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

NICENE CREED

A Let us confess our faith.

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy
catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

(A brief silence)

Fill your church with mercy and humility. Awaken hearts to proclaim the gospel and be surprised by God's relentless love. Renew and inspire all who preach and teach among us. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Restore all lands from ecological degradation. We pray for relief from coastal floodings in the United States and widespread flooding in Sri Lanka. Point us toward innovative ways of living in harmony and joy with creation. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Unite the nations in action toward peace and justice. Raise up leaders who listen deeply to the needs of their community and surround our election process with wisdom, discernment and equality. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bring comfort to all in need, especially those who mourn today. Sustain the weary, comfort the lonely, and heal the sick and injured. We pray for people in Cuba and South Sudan. St. Stephen, who else would welcome our prayers today?

(Pause for people to speak petitions.)
God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Nurture the growth of our visitation team to support elders and visit the homebound. Bless nurses, social workers, hospital staff, and caregivers who work within prison systems. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

A few at a time, each week, we pray for people within the St. Stephen worship community. We pray today for Marda Messick, Monty Mortensen, Eunice, Victor, Vince and Vivien Muchuruzza and for their extended families. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

With grateful hears we remember all who have died and now rest from their labors. Fill us with songs of praise until we too are gathered at your side. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

AMEN!

The peace of Christ be with you, always!

And also with you!

Let us share the peace of God with one another.

The assembly is seated.

Stephen Saint
@Stephen-Saint

venmo

Use this QR Code to connect to Venmo for a donation to St. Stephen. Code 5469



+ MEAL +

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

ANTHEM *"Death Be Never Last" - Makeever, arr. Sims*
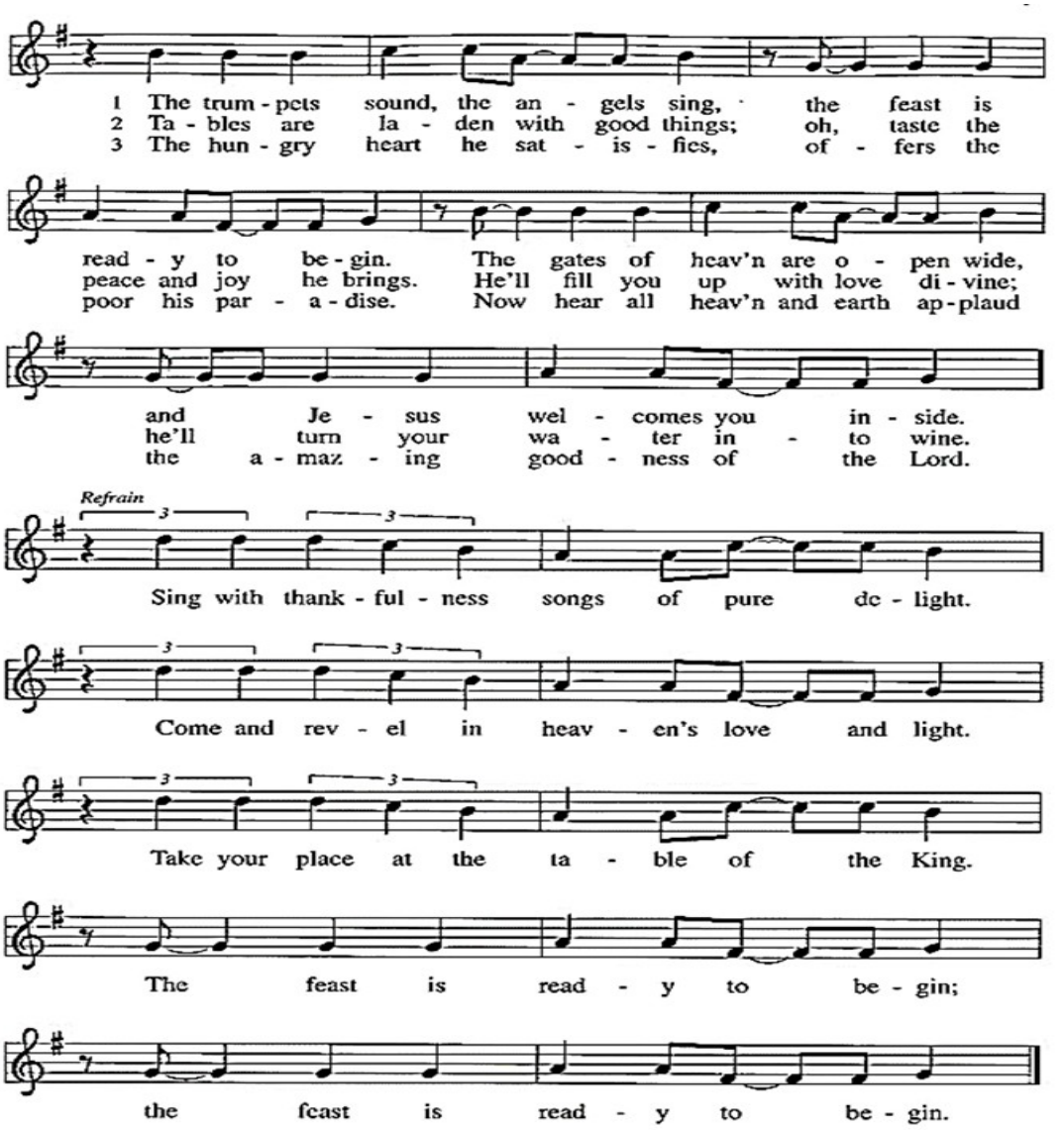
We walk in light of countless faces bright as beams of rising sun,
certain as the morning chases night in endless ages' run.
Turning eyes now to their shining mem'ry, to their faithful past,
saints be now the truth divining: death be now but never last.

When sorrow's heavy hand has weighted loss against the greater gain,
pinning down that grief sore fated laden on the bed of pain.
Turning eyes now to their shining mem'ry, to their faithful past,
saints be now the truth divining: death be now but never last.

When joy returns with laughter singing thanks to God for life's sweet song
let us follow after bringing thanks to God for those now gone.
Turning eyes now to their shining mem'ry, to their faithful past,
saints be now the truth divining: death be now but never last.

OFFERING HYMN **531** *The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing (vs. 1)*

The assembly stands to sing the offering hymn as the collection and the gifts are brought forward.



Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950
Music: Graham Kendrick
Text and music © 1989 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

THE FEAST IS READY
LM and refrain

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.
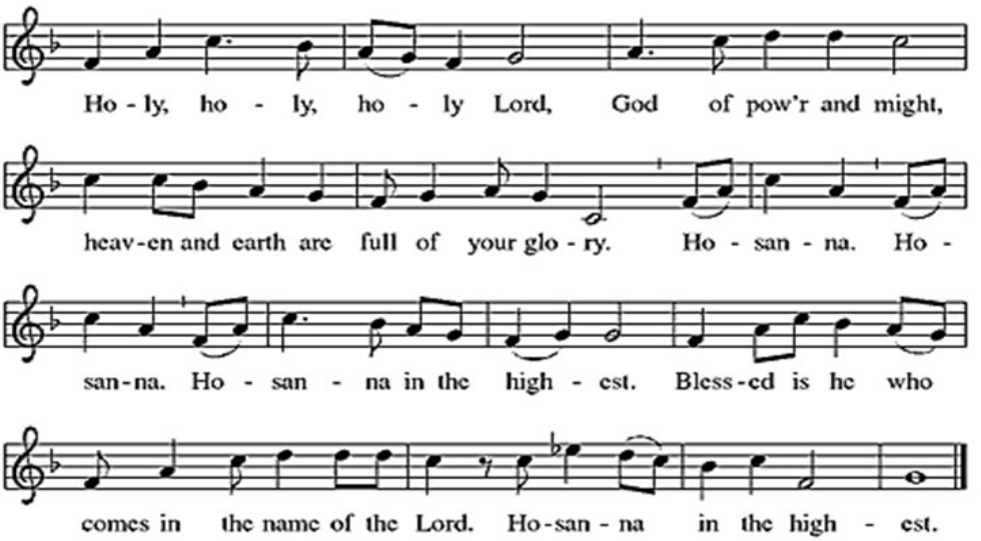
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



The presiding minister continues to give thanks.

P In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

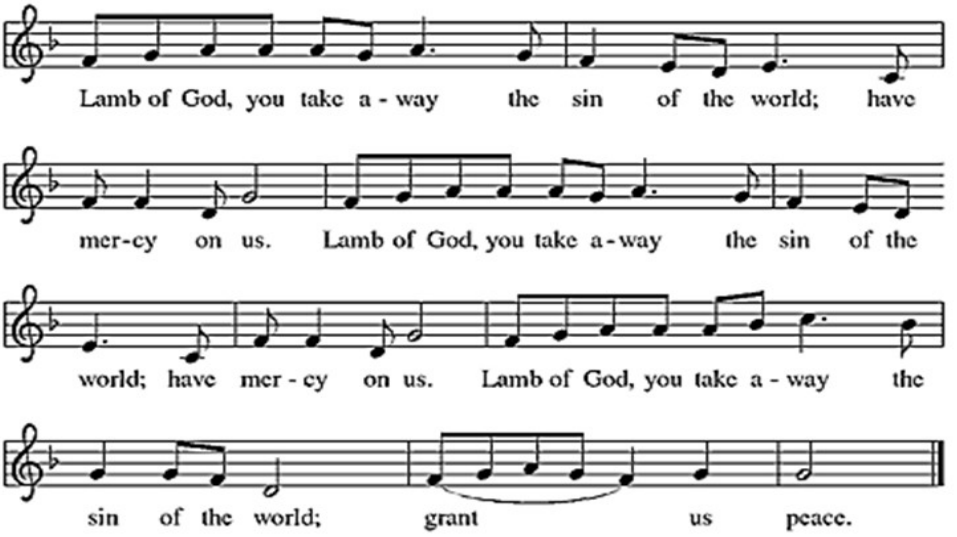
C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

The assembly is seated.

LAMB OF GOD



DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

As the ushers direct you, come to the altar using the side aisles and return to your seat via the central aisle. The assisting ministers offer both wine (first) and grape juice (second) from pouring cups. Take a communion glass from one of the trays at the corners as you approach the rail. Leave the empty glass on the lower rail. Wheat-free wafers are available, simply tell the pastor.

COMMUNION HYMNS **ELW 977** *Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table*

ELW 428 *Give Thanks For Saints*

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

+ SENDING +

BLESSING *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*

P The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 424 *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones* 

DISMISSAL

A We believe out loud that God's mission for us is:

C to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God's call.
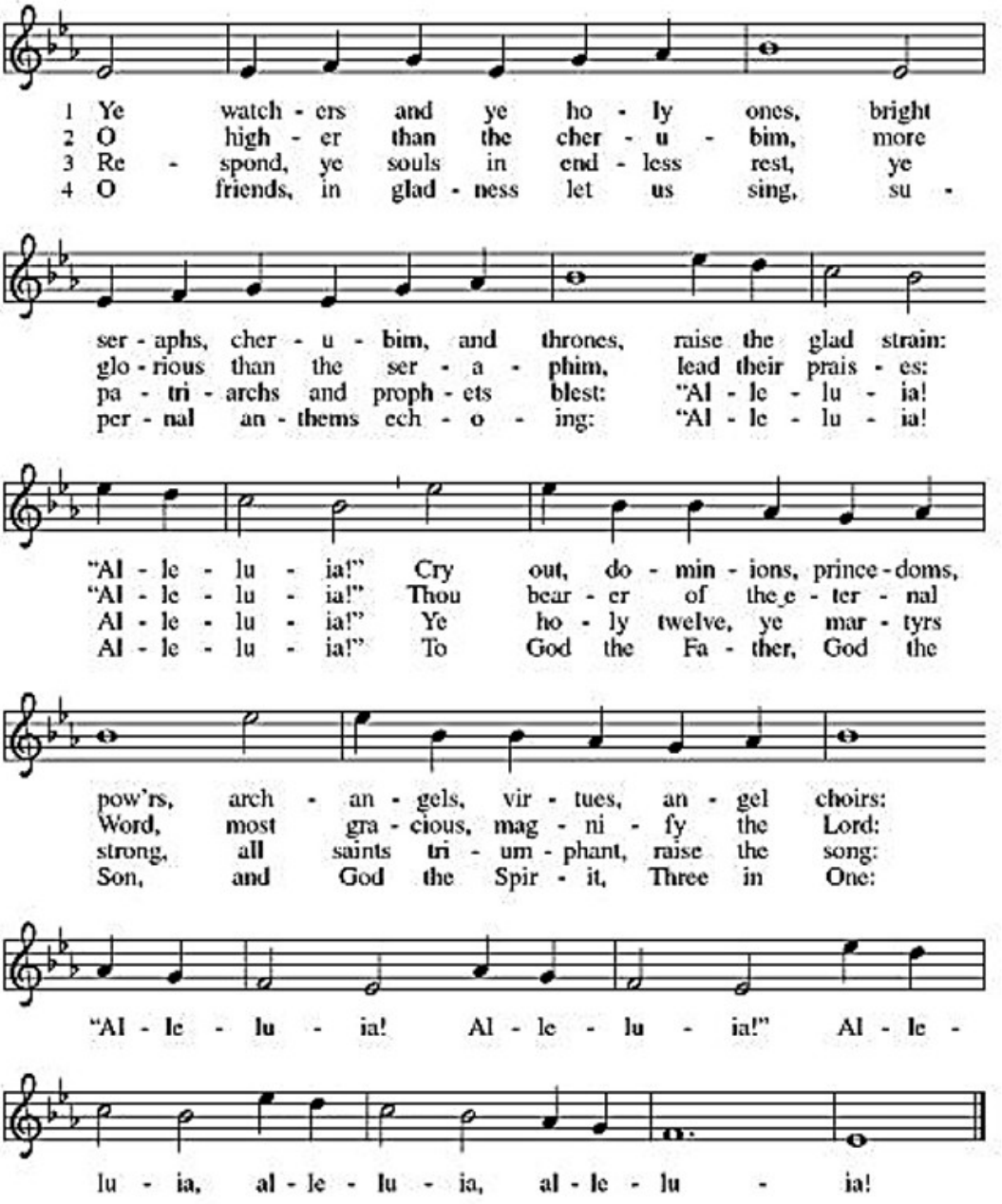
A Go in peace. Encourage one another.

C Thanks be to God!

+ + +

Sundays and Seasons v.20200805.1416
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SENDING HYMN ELW 424 *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones*



Text: J. Athelstan Riley, 1858–1945
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623



Today's altar flowers are dedicated
by Linda and Bob Eshleman in loving memory
of all the saints who have gone before us.

Next Sunday's Readings, Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost:

Amos 5:18-24
Psalm 70
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13



SERVING EVERY SUNDAY

Pastor Tom, presiding and preaching

Katharine Gossman, piano

Karl Barton, flute

Denise Bookwalter, announcements

Choir: Karl Barton, Melissa Barton, Tom Buchanan, Mark Canning, Austin Cowan, Kirsten Ebbesen, Rita Ford, Alison Haney, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Olivia James, Lawana Lamb-Daniels, Graham Reece, Jen Reece, Donna Schiffer, Simone Schuster, Sylvia Smith, Dave Suhrweir, Cassandra White.

SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY

Serving	November 1	November 8
Assisting Minister	Kirsten Ebbesen	Colleen Holdcraft
Cup Minister	Rob Schiffer	Beth Alexander
Cantor	Simone Schuster	
Lector	Emery Oates	Greta Scavone
Acolyte		
Tech Team	Ben Bush Colin Hackley	Cindy Suhrweir Caroline Collins
Ushers	Colin Hackley Patrick Kennell	
Altar Guild	Linda Eshleman Barbara Sullivan	Colleen Holdcraft Susan Warren
Counters	Rob Schiffer Patricia Handschy	Margaret Bowers Diane Hines

PRAYER REQUESTS

For the sick: Sallie Robinson (wife of Erik Robinson); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White); Laura McDuffie (sister of Rob Schiffer).

In treatment for cancer: Matthew Canning (son of Sue and Mark Canning); Scott Simmons (son of Sharon Simmons); Gordon Fleischer; Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; David McManus (friend of Audrey Post); Shannon Miller (friend of Barb ODonnell).

Health and protection: For Frank "Rame" Meyers, in long-term care. For those encountering fear & uncertainty around government cuts and the future of Medicaid. For immigrants and refugees who are working and raising families in the United States, that they may be safe and secure without unnecessary deportations.

For prisoners: All those on Death Row.

Other concerns: Joann Stomberg (friend of Margaret Bowers), after the death of her husband; Jayden Schiffer (grandson of Rob and Donna Schiffer), experiencing unresolved and serious digestive problems; Pr. Trixie Richter (friend of Cheryl), on the unexpected death of her husband, Adrian; St. Philip Lutheran Church, Mt. Dora, as they grieve their pastor's loss; Cheryl Stuart and family, following the death of her friend Linda Bobbit; Charlie Cogswell, son of Judee Light, for continued healing; Haley Larsen (daughter of Rob Schiffer's cousin), experiencing serious gastrointestinal problems; Sharon Simmons and family, following the death of her sister, Sue Berent; Kevin Robinson (son of Erik Robinson), in need of encouragement; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Walt Steinvorth (friend of Rob Schiffer), suffering from pericarditis and vestibular neuritis and learning to cope with dizziness and severe equilibrium problems; Karen Elizabeth Olson.

Church concerns: St. Stephen Church Council; the Florida-Bahamas Synod Council; all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Bishops Pedro Suarez and Yehiel Curry; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA advocacy offices and ministry.

World concerns: For all people suffering and/or recovering from hurricanes; migrants and asylum seekers; civil rights for people around the world; a ceasefire in Ethiopia and in Ukraine; peace in Gaza and the Middle East.

Calendar for November 1 - November 8

01	Sun.	9:00 am	Bible study
		9:30 am	Choir rehearsal
		10:00 am	Worship, All Saints Sunday
04	Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir rehearsal
05	Thurs,	10:00 am	Bible study
09	Sun.	9:00 am	Bible study
		9:30 am	Choir rehearsal
		10:00 am	Worship, Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWER CHART FOR 2026: Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you would like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service by signing up for the 2026 Flower Chart located in the narthex. The cost is $40, and you can place it in the offering plate.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER: Want to read a sermon you missed? Visit ***https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters***. Want to read the latest newsletters? Go to ***https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters***. Want to browse a collection of St. Stephen songs? They're at ***https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters***

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Care & Hospitality, Lawana Lamb-Daniels	**Outreach,** Sharon Simmons
Mutual Ministry, Sylvia Smith	**Education & Discipleship,** Emily Stover
Communications, Colleen Holdcraft	**Youth,** Graham Reece