

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

All Saints Sunday



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023**

**10 A.M.**

## 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.*



## REMEMBRANCE OF ALL SAINTS

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

P Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✚ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

**Congregation (C) Amen.**

P Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Steadfast and faithful God,

**C you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P Beloved in Christ,

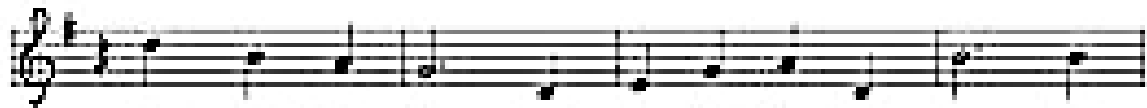
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✚ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

**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**      422      *For All the Saints*



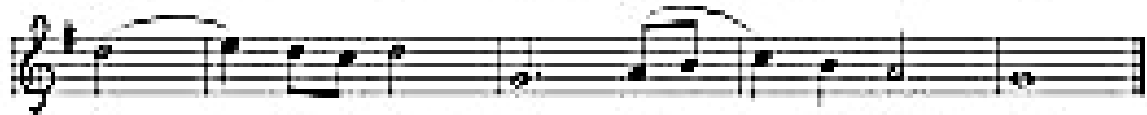
1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who  
2 Their vast their rock, their for - tress, and their might, thou,  
*Stanzas 2-3 on facing page*  
6 But then there breaks a yet more glo - rious day: the  
7 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far -thest coast, through



thee, thy birth be - fore the world con - fessed, thy  
Lead, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight; . . .  
saints tri - um - phant rise in bright ar - ray: the  
gates of pearl streams in the count - less host, . . .



name. O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest  
thou, in the dark - ness draw, their one true light.  
King of glo - ry pass - es on his way  
sing - ing in fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost:



A - - le - la - - ia!      A - - le - la - - ia!

1 Oh, bless com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship ab - sine,  
 4 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fire long,  
 3 The gold - en eve - ning bright - ens in the west;

we see - by strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet  
 speak on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, and  
 soon, soon so faith - ful ser - vants com - e in  
 ...

all are one in thee, for all are thine,  
 hearts are brave a - gain and arms are strong,  
 sweet is the calm of par - a - dise the best.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: William W. How, 1824-1892  
 Music: RENE SCHWENK, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958  
 Copyright © 1980. Music from The English Hymnal. © Oxford University Press 1980.

## GREETING

B 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. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb  
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

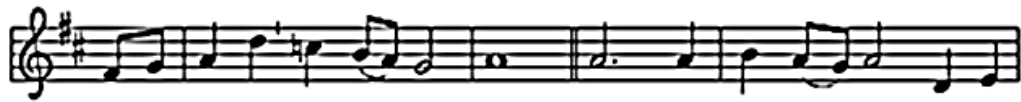
*Refrain*



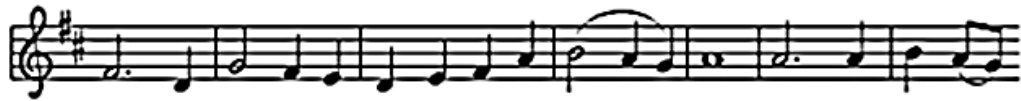
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and  
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



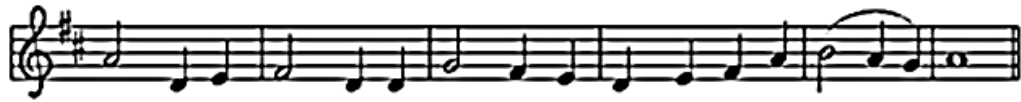
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



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,



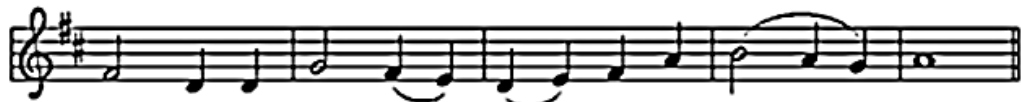
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



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.



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

**B** 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.*

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup>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, <sup>12</sup>singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" <sup>14</sup>I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that 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.

<sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; <sup>17</sup>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 in response to the first reading.*



Leader <sup>1</sup>I will bless the LORD<sup>1</sup> at all times;  
the praise of God shall ever be <sup>1</sup> in my mouth.

**C <sup>2</sup>I will glory <sup>1</sup> in the LORD;  
let the lowly hear <sup>1</sup> and rejoice.**

L <sup>3</sup>Proclaim with me the greatness <sup>1</sup> of the LORD;  
let us exalt God's <sup>1</sup> name together.

**C <sup>4</sup>I sought the LORD, who <sup>1</sup> answered me  
and delivered me from <sup>1</sup> all my terrors.**

L <sup>5</sup>Look upon the LORD<sup>1</sup> and be radiant,  
and let not your faces <sup>1</sup> be ashamed.

**C <sup>6</sup>I called in my affliction, and <sup>1</sup> the LORD heard me  
and saved me from <sup>1</sup> all my troubles.**

L <sup>7</sup>The angel of the LORD encamps around those who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD  
and de- <sup>1</sup> livers them.



**C** <sup>8</sup>Taste and see that the | LORD is good;  
happy are they who take ref- | uge in God!

**L** <sup>9</sup>Fear the LORD, you saints | of the LORD,  
for those who fear the | LORD lack nothing.

**C** <sup>10</sup>The lions are in want and | suffer hunger,  
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing | that is good.

**L** <sup>22</sup>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:*

**C** 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.*

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

*Spoken after the Psalm is sung:*

**C** Amen.

*The assembly stands.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### 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.**

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

*The assembly stands.*

HYMN OF THE DAY 428 *Give Thanks for Saints*

1 Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all a -  
2 Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, be - yond mere  
3 Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a spar - kling  
4 Give thanks for saints of a - ges past and saints a -

round seems bleak: on God's good prom - ise they re - ly, so  
mor - tal sight: who seek the cit - y God has planned, the  
pre - cious stone: they show by what they say and do an  
live to - day: though of - ten by this world de - spised, their

while they live and when they die how force - ful -  
true, e - ter - nal prom - ised land, and steer on  
in - ward beau - ty, warm and true, for God's con -  
hearts by God are rich - ly prized. Give thanks that

ly they speak— the strong, who once were weak!  
toward that light, a bea - con ev - er bright.  
cerns they own— God's love through them is known.  
we may say we share their pil - grim way.

Text: Martin E. Leckebusch, b. 1962  
Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918  
Text © 2003 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Used by permission.

## 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

*Each petition ends: Hear us, O God.*

*Congregational response: Your mercy is great.*

## PEACE

A The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

*The assembly is seated.*



+ MEAL +

## **OFFERING**

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

## **ANTHEM**

*"Down to the River to Pray" - Allan/Crandal*

As I went down to the river to pray,  
studying about that good old way  
and who shall wear the starry crown-  
Good Lord, show me the way!

O \*sisters, let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down.  
O \*sisters, let's go down,  
down to the river to pray.

\*brothers

\*singers

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

1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things  
 2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our  
 3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's  
 4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -

liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the  
 neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work  
 guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -  
 fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will

or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.  
 with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.  
 joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.  
 hun - ger, your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.  
 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version  
 Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.  
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

## 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. By the witness of the saints you show us the hope of our calling, and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may delight in your mercy, and rejoice with them in glory. And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*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.**

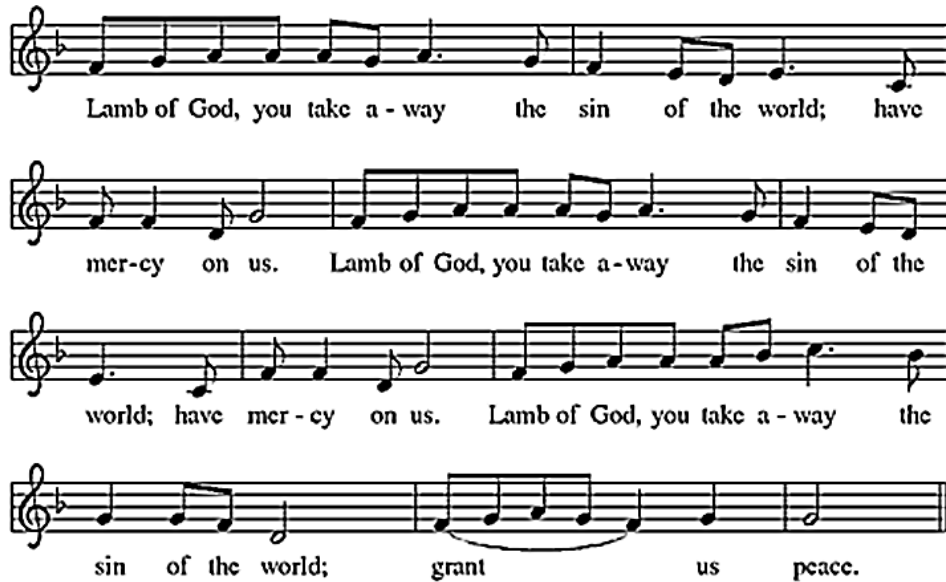
#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

*The assembly is seated.*



## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## 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 minister offers a pouring cup (wine or grape juice). If you prefer to receive the wine or juice in an individual glass, take one from the tray as you approach the rail. Leave the empty glass on the rail. Wheat-free wafers are available--simply tell the pastor.*

<b>COMMUNION HYMNS</b>	<b>492</b>	<i>Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup</i>
	<b>628</b>	<i>Jerusalem, My Happy Home</i>
	<b>632</b>	<i>O God, Our Help in Ages Past</i>

*The assembly stands.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

C **Amen.**

## + SENDING +

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

B May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SENDING HYMN**      423      *Shall We Gather at the River*

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,  
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,  
 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;  
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?  
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day,  
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown,  
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

*Refrain*

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;

gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.


**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 Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God!**


+ + +

*Sundays and Seasons v.20220805.1416  
Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.*

**Today we have two altar bouquets.**



**One is from Joel Meyer,  
in loving memory  
of his parents,  
Debee and Steve.**



**With the other, Hector Quinones  
thanks God for the opportunity  
to celebrate another birthday  
amid his St. Stephen family.**

**Calendar for Nov. 5 - 12**

Nov.	5	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10:00 am	Worship, All Saints Sunday
			11:30 am	Outreach Committee meeting in FH
	8	Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir practice
	12	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10:00 am	Worship, Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

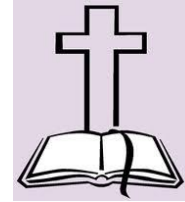
Next Sunday, Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost:

[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, Judi Duffy, Kirsten Ebbesen, Rita Ford, Martin Guttenplan, Vicki Guttenplan, Jake Hartung, Ron Hartung, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Sandy Ness, Dave Suhrweir

**SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY**

Serving	November 5	November 12
Assisting Minister	Audrey Post	Rob Schiffer
Cup Minister	Beth Alexander	Rita Ford
Cantor		
Lector	Ron Hartung	
Acolyte	Cup Minister - or Colton Allen or Graham Reece	
Tech Team	Colin Hackley Jonas Holdcraft	Colleen Holdcraft Audrey Post
Ushers	Bob Eshleman Colin Hackley	
Altar Guild	Linda Eshleman Lawana Lamb-Daniels Sandy Lamb-Daniels	Beth Alexander
Counters	Audrey Post Billie Reardon	Patricia Handschy Greta Scavone

## PRAYER REQUESTS

***New concerns:*** Family and friends of Debee Meyer, mourning her passing; Phil Williams in treatment for prostate cancer; Steve Michael (cousin of Rob Schiffer), in rehab after a serious accident.

***For the sick:*** Val Sullivan; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Sallie Robinson (wife of Erik Robinson); Don Dowd; Isabelle Taylor (granddaughter of Bill & Connie Taylor), being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and Primary Immunodeficiency; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White).

***In treatment for cancer:*** Gordon Fleischer; Stephanie Barber; Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Chris Dickman (synod council member); Craig Timm (friend of Cheryl & Steve); Laura Ketchum-Jahn, (friend of Cheryl & Steve); Aubrey Thonvold (Reconciling Works Exec. Dir.).

***Health and protection:*** For all affected by the coronavirus – especially those experiencing mental-health difficulties due to isolation, those struggling to recover from the disease, those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personnel, EMTs), the millions of unemployed people, etc.; for the unaccompanied children entering the U.S., including those “unaccounted for.”

***For prisoners:*** All those on Death Row.

***Other concerns:*** For Karen Olson; Kevin Robinson (son of Erik Robinson), in need of encouragement; Isaac (son of Terri Schmitt), for physical and emotional healing.

***Church concerns:*** St. Stephen’s Church Council; the Florida-Bahamas Synod Council; all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

***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 Afghanistan and the Middle East.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OWLS GATHERING** - The next OWLs lunch will be at The Gathering (2386 Allen Rd.) on **MONDAY**, Nov. 13 at 11:30 a.m. RSVP to Margaret at [ambowersfl@gmail.com](mailto:ambowersfl@gmail.com).

**FLOWER CHART FOR 2023:** 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 2023 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>.