

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026 9:30am

Rooted in our Tradition, Open to Yours

Welcome and Prelude

## Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.
**Amen.**

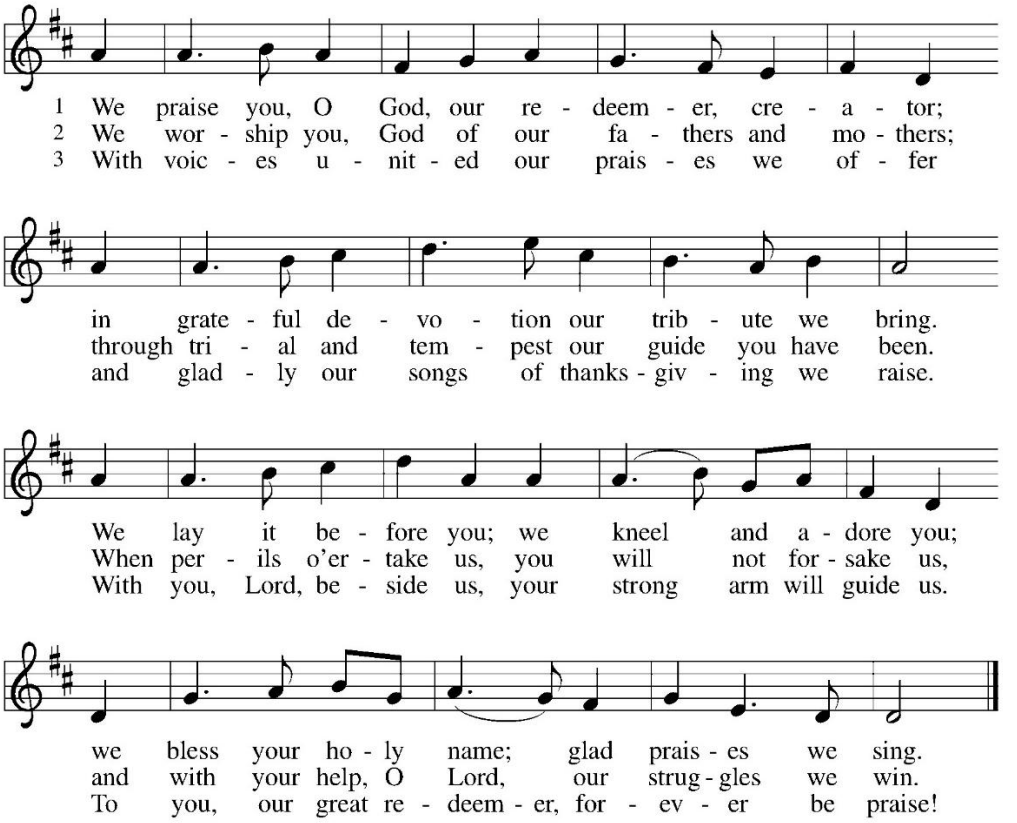
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,
**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.**

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ✠ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
**Amen.**

## We Praise You, O God ELW 870




## Greeting

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


Assisting minister
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
All
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The 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, brothers and sisters, 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.**



Gospel: **Matthew 25:14-30 Glory to you, O Lord**.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 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. At
once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off 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,
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.**

Sermon *~Please remain seated until the meal~*

## Lord of Glory, You Have Brought Us

ELW 707



Apostles' 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 People

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

*A brief silence.*

You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. **Enliven the worship, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news**. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. **Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on land and species**.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. **Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite.** God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing, especially Alyson, Polly, Jack, Inge, Judy, Scott, Nancy, Ted & Jacqui, Dan & Mary, Beth, Janet, Todd, Mary,

Doris, Bud, Donna, Jill, Amelia, Jareth, and all those we hold in our hearts.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all who serve in congregational leadership. **Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel**.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. **In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you.** 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 Sharing of the Peace

Special Music **Thanks Be To You, O Lord** St. Stephen Choir
Handel/Hopson

Meal

Great Thanksgiving

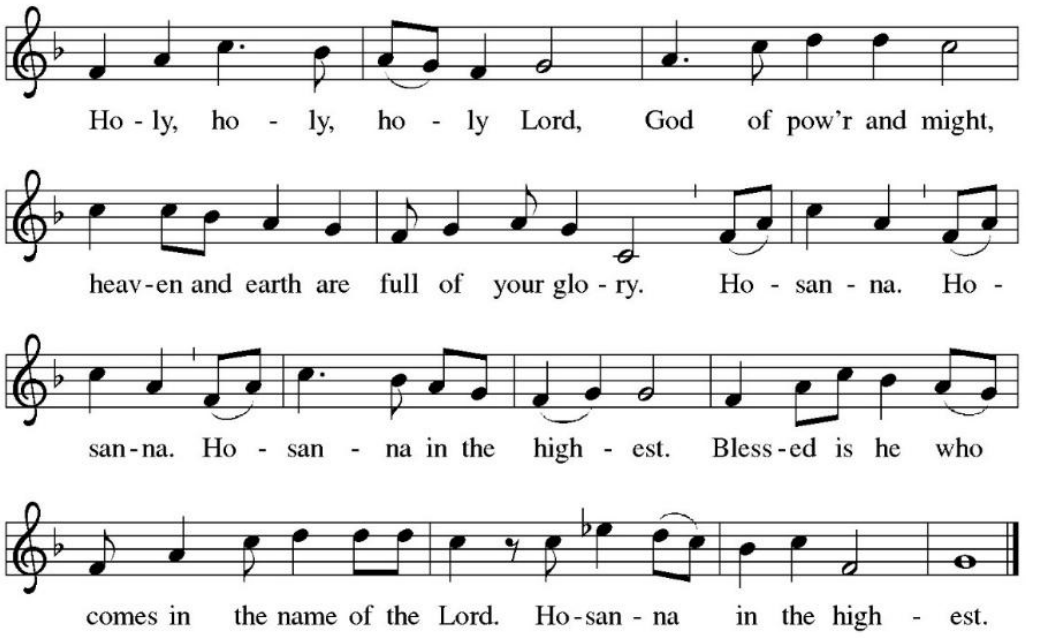
The Lord be with you.
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Preface

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 overcomes death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opens 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:



## The Words of Institution

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.

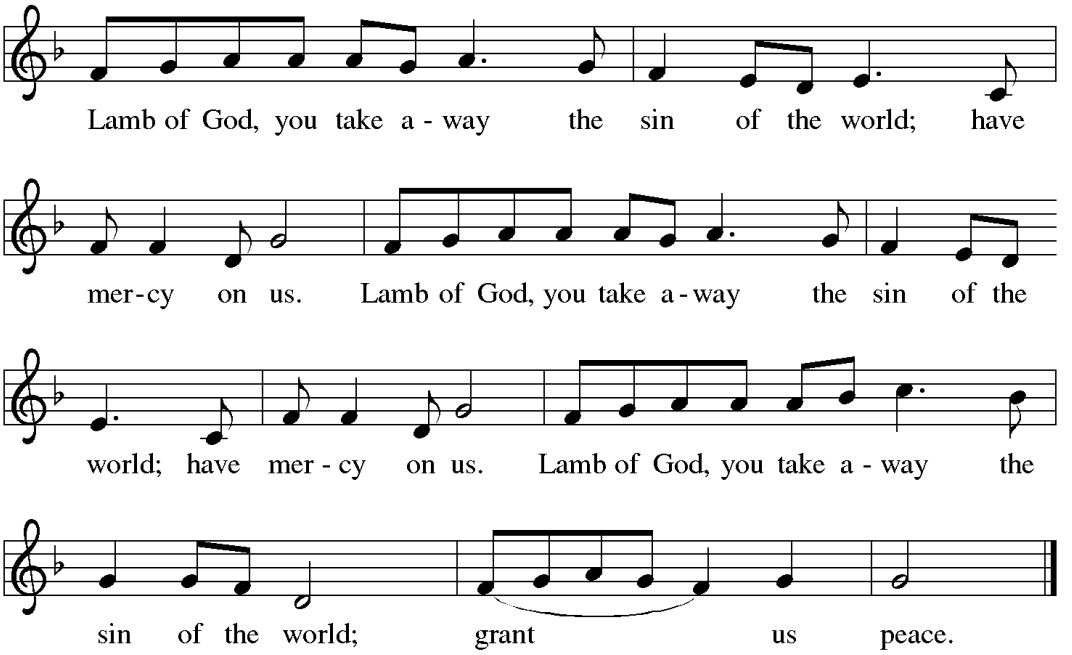
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## 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.**

## Communion

*All baptized Christians are welcome to participate in Holy Communion. We ask children who have not had First Communion instruction, or adults who do not wish to receive communion, to keep their hands folded and they will receive a blessing.*

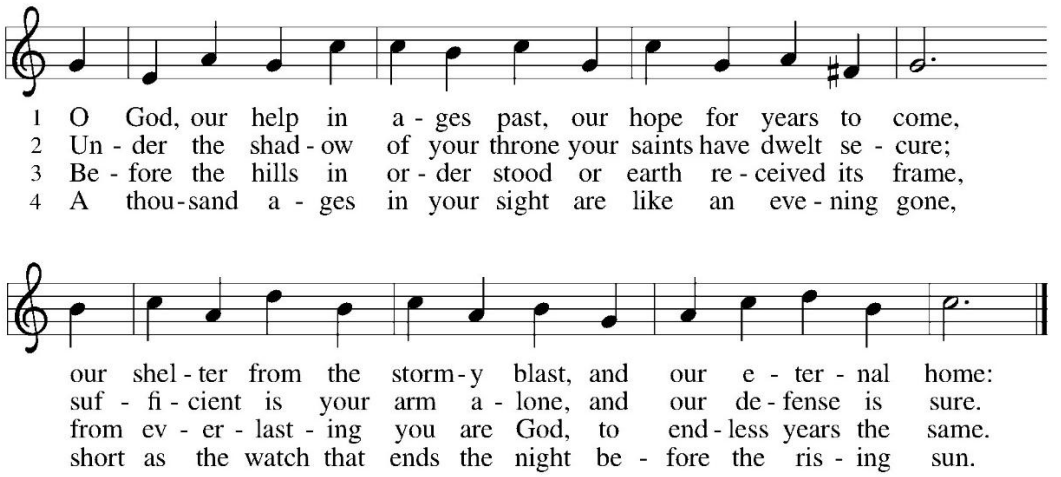



## Post-Communion Prayer

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.
**Amen.**

## O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ELW 632 vs 1,2,5,6




5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace. **Thanks be to God.**

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Encourage one another.

**Thanks be to God.**