St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Church on Main Street...
where love begets love

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 10, 2026

Holy Eucharist, Rite II at 10:00 am

Welcome to St. Stephen's Church. We are delighted that you are here.

The second Sunday of the month we have our "Second Sunday Intergenerational Service." Our children and youth join us for the entirety of the service, with some serving as liturgical ministers. We use child specific resources for some of the readings and prayers, and make other changes so the liturgy is more accessible to the younger among us.

All of what you need to join us is in this bulletin or in one of two hymnals:

Hymnal 1982 (the blue book)
"H" followed by a number indicates hymns.
"S" followed by a number indicates selections that appear in the front section of the blue hymnal.

St. Stephen's Hymnal (the red spiral bound book):
"SSH" followed by a number indicates hymns.

PRELUDE

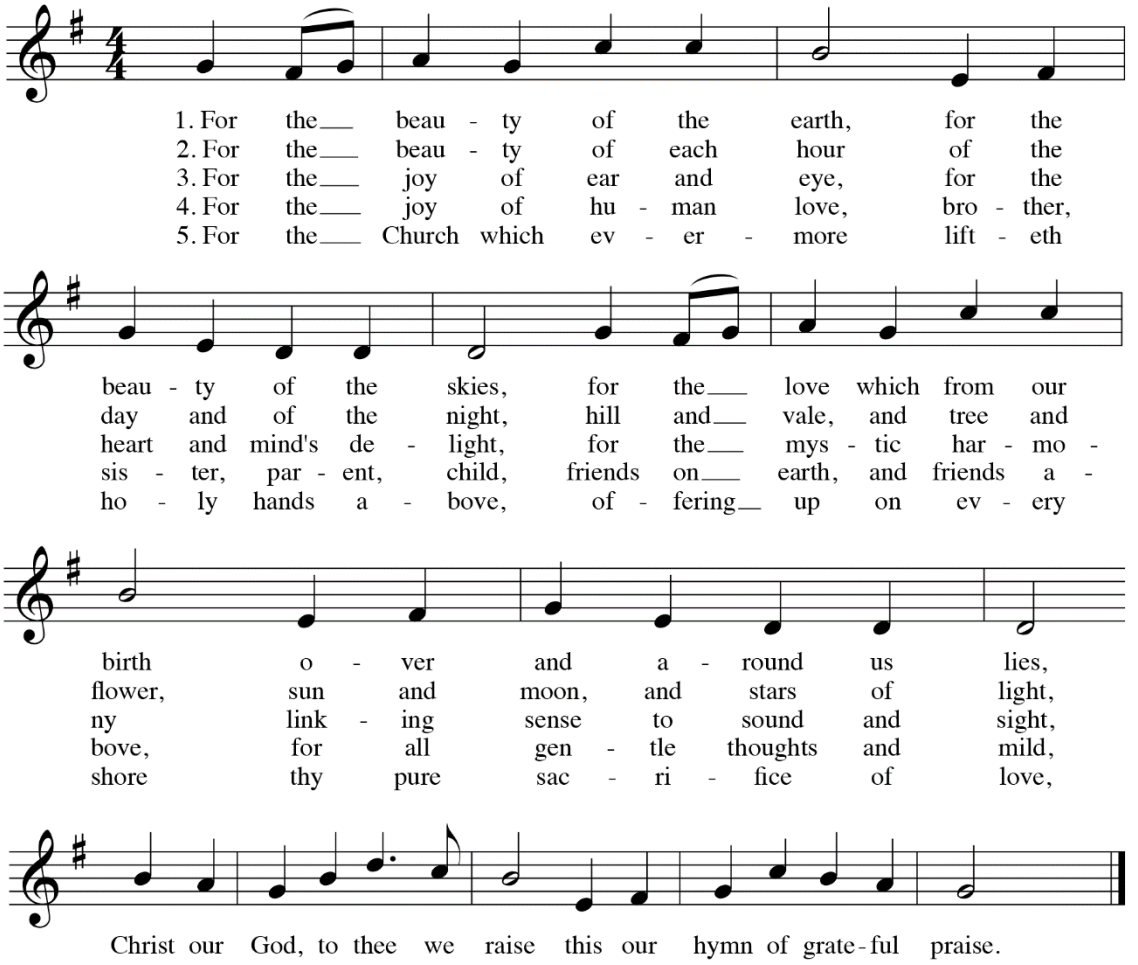
Gather

We come together to praise God.

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

SSH 11 For the beauty of the earth *Dix*



Words: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917), alt. Music: *Dix,* Conrad Kocher (1786-1872)

WELCOME

Word

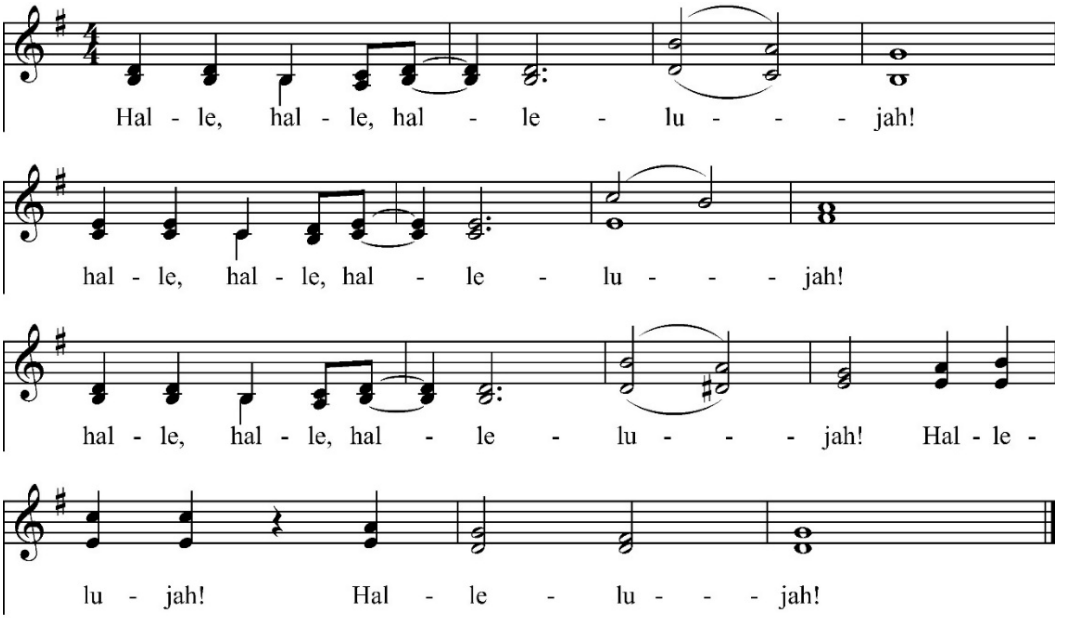
We hear and respond to the story of God's liberating acts.

Blessed are you, holy and living One.
You come to your people and set them free.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GLORIA

Halle, halle, hallelujah! *Traditional Caribbean*



Words and Melody: Traditional Caribbean. Arr. Mark Sedio (b. 1954) © 1995 Augsburg Fortress, PO Box 1209, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1209 [www.augsburgfortress.org]. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Dear God, we thank you for the gift of life and love. We thank you, too, for the gift of maternal love that is modeled for us by Mary. We are so very grateful for the love of women in our lives today who are able to follow the example of Mary in their love for the children they birth, adopt, or foster, as well as all who choose to love and nurture a child to become their best, most authentic self. We ask an awareness of your loving compassion for all whose mothers could not love them in this way, whether because of illness or death, or any other stress or absence. For all women who desire to be mothers but struggle with infertility or any other obstacle, give them courage and strength in this difficult time. For all those women who have loved and nurtured, only to lose, a child of any age, we ask you to bless their hearts and lives with peace.

We ask this same blessing for those who have said their final goodbyes to the loving and nurturing women in their lives. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. 17:22-31, adapted from *GWMV*

Paul stood in front of everyone and said:

As I was walking through your beautiful city of Athens, I noted how extremely religious you all are. I even found an altar with this written on it, "To an unknown God." I have a God I know well. This is what I know about my God: My God made the world and everything that's in it. My God doesn't live in shrines we humans build. My God gives life itself to everything. My God made the first man and the first woman, and all the people of the earth are related to one couple. My God made the boundaries of space and time and planted in each of us a space that can only God can fill. We all search for God, even though God's not very far at all from each of us. "In him we live and move and have our being" someone once said. And "we too are his offspring."

God is not something we can hold, like gold or silver or stone, and no one has ever painted a picture of God. God wants us all to turn toward her, and know that we are right with her because of Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 66:7-18, *GWMV*

Shout it loud, people. Bless you, God!
You hold our souls in your hands
and won't let us slip through your fingers.
Come and listen, friends, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

You have tested us, God, just as silver is tested.
We've been in traps and had heavy burdens on our backs.
We've had enemies ride their horses over our heads.
Come and listen, friends, and I will tell you what God has done for me.
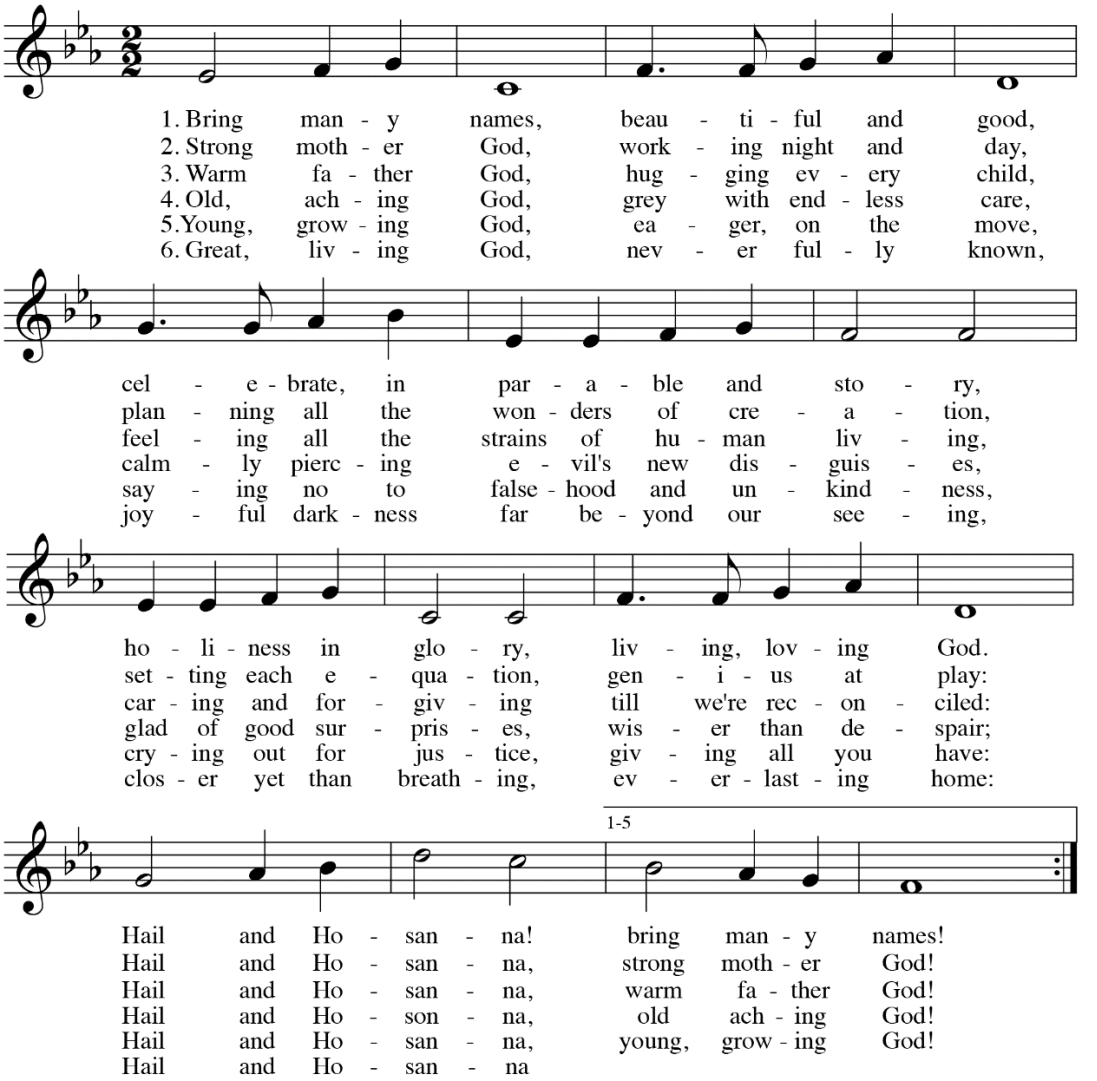
We walked through fire and water
and you brought us through all of it, to a beautiful place of refreshment.
I will come to your house with gifts and make good the promises
I made when I was in trouble and you helped me.
I will bring you anything you want.
Come and listen, friends, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

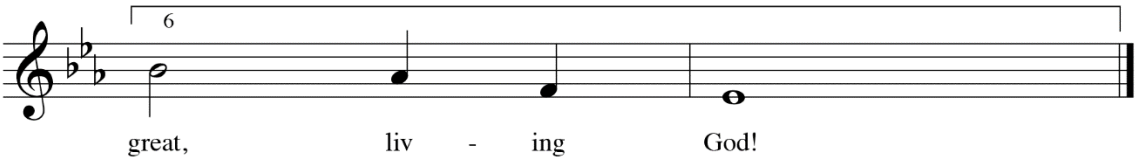
I yelled to God for help and I yell God's praises.
Bless you, God!
You didn't find evil in my heart when you looked.
You have heard my voice.
Bless you for not throwing me and my prayers out.
Come and listen, friends, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

Please stand as you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN

SSH 10 Bring many names *Westchase*





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Music: *Westchase*, Carlton Young, © 1989 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.
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THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. 14:15-21, adapted from *ICB*
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

"If you love me, you will do the things I command. I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper. He will give you this Helper to be with you forever. The Helper is the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept her because it does not see her or know her. But you know her. She lives with you and she will be in you.

"I will not leave you all alone like orphans. I will come back to you. In a little while the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live, too. On that day you will know that I am in my Father. You will know that you are in me and I am in you. He who knows my commands and obeys them is the one who loves me. And my Father will love him who loves me. I will love him and will show myself to him."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

THE SERMON *The Rev. Paula J. Toland*

Please stand as you are able.

THE CREED *Enriching Our Worship*

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, 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 THE PEOPLE

Form III, BCP

God, we pray for your holy catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; Bless all who lead and teach Christians in this community; for Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Carlye, our Diocesan Bishop; Paula, our Rector; Karen, our Deacon; Maryalice and Roger, our Wardens; our Vestry and delegates;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; Guide Donald, our President; J.D., our Vice-President; Mikie, our Governor and Frank, our Mayor, that they would lead with compassion and mercy;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Bring healing and peace, to all who have been harmed, live in fear, or experience anxiety because of the words and actions of leaders anywhere;
That they would live an awareness of your unconditional love for all people.

Give courage to allies and advocates everywhere that they may continue the fight to uphold the dignity and worth of every human being as they walk alongside those who have experienced dehumanizing or demoralizing treatment of any kind;
That they will continue to have the strength and courage to do this holy work.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; we pray for our partners in ministry: Apostles' House, Cross Roads, Family Promise, North Jersey Pride, and North Porch. We pray for our sister congregations in the Evelyn Underhill Region: Calvary, Summit; Christ Church in Short Hills; Grace, Madison; St. George's, Maplewood; and St. Paul's, Chatham.
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, including those on our parish prayer list:

Mary Ruth Stone	Keith Taber	Karen Eberhardt	Carol McManus
Kris Hunt	Boyd Hunnaman	Sue and Larry H.	Eugene Foley
Aldaiza DaSilva	James K.	Maureen Burke Rockaway	Ambika Bedi

Antonio DaSilva Martha Lipowski	Walter Ron G.	Maggie Holland Celine Ghiara	David Cabush John Branson

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

We give you thanks for St. Stephen's Staff and Preschool.

The Presider offers a concluding Collect.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Table

We offer our gifts, give thanks, and we gather at Christ's banquet

Please be seated.

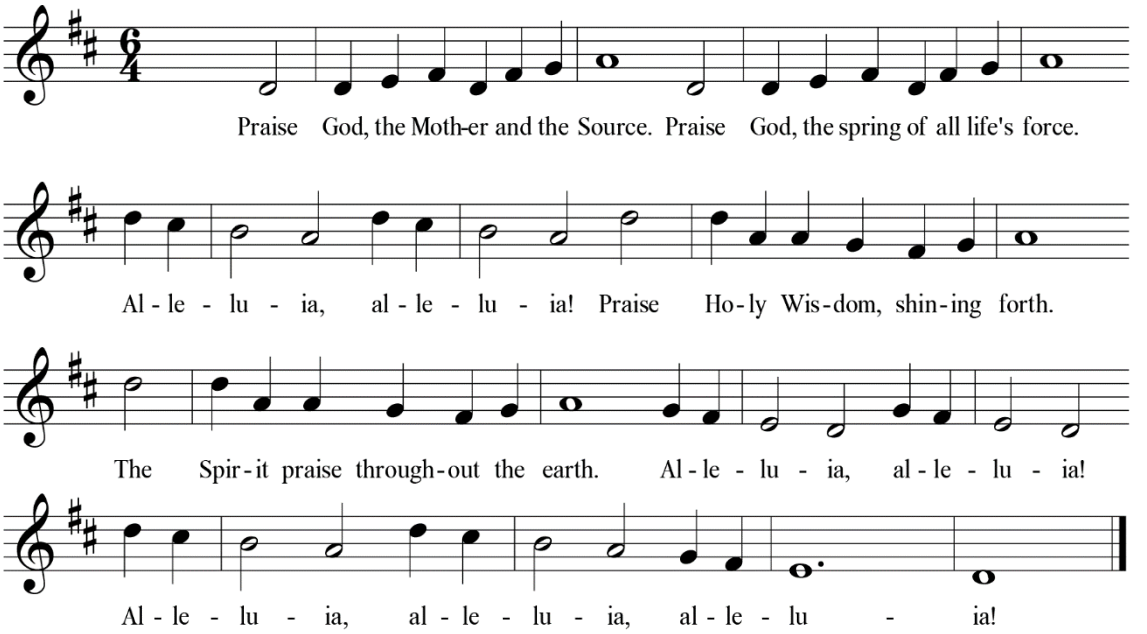
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

With a voice of singing — *Martin Shaw; arr. Carpenter*
Senior Choir

Please stand as you are able.

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, the Mother and the Source *Jody L. Caldwell*



Words: Jody L. Caldwell. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the author.
Tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen,* melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesaeng,* 1623.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 3 *EOW*
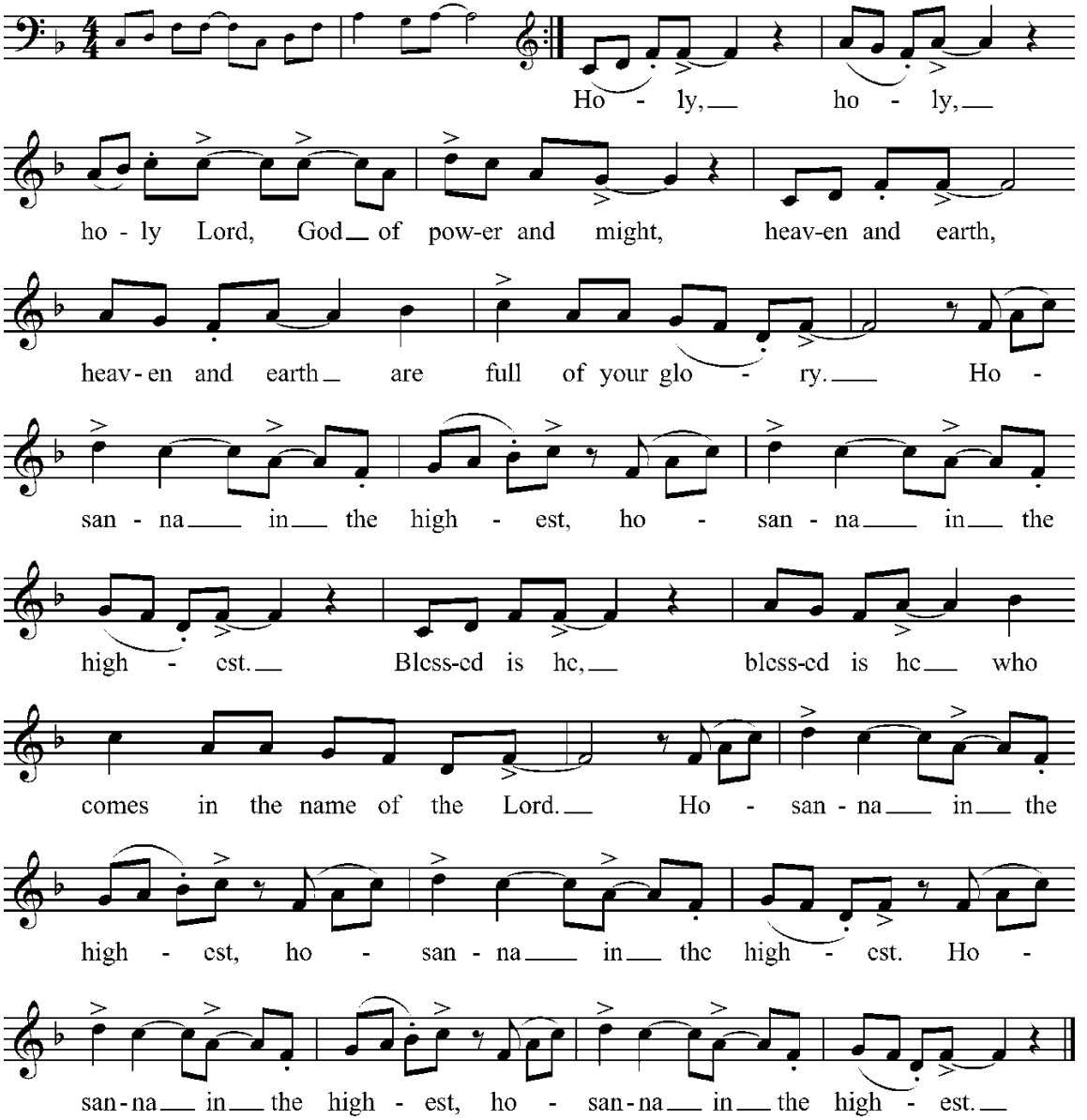
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord *Glover*



Words: from The Book of Common Prayer (1979) of the Episcopal Church USA.
Music: Rob Glover (b. 1950), from *Mass of Plenty* © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 [www.giamusic.com].) All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ.

Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with St. Stephen and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, our Mother, 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE INVITATION

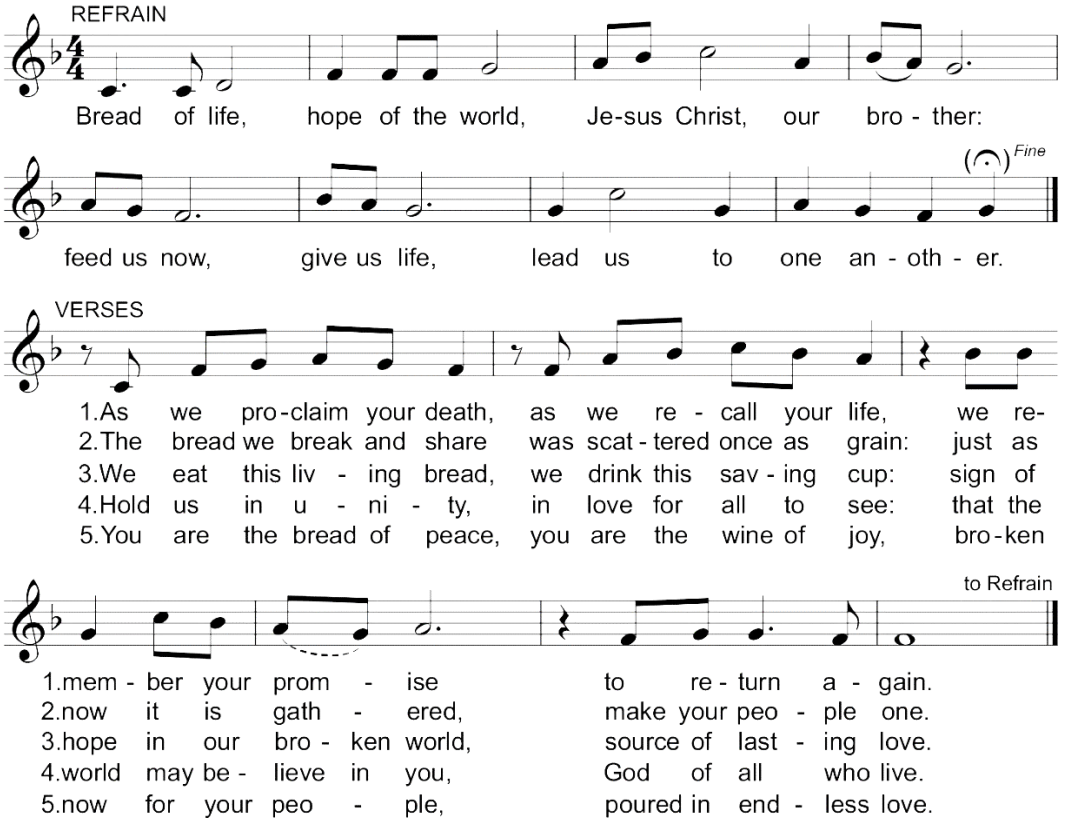
We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Whoever you are, where ever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome at Christ's table.

All are welcome at God's table to receive Communion or a blessing. Gluten-free hosts are available. Please use the hand sanitizer available in the pew before coming forward.

COMMUNION HYMN

Bread of life — *Farrell*



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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

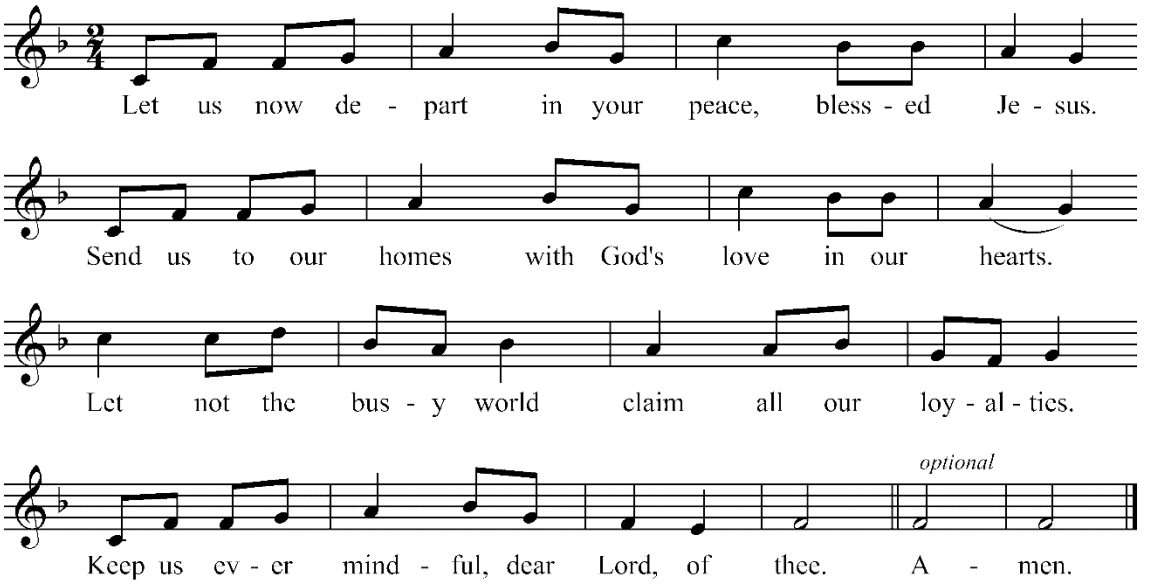
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF THE SECOND SUNDAY SPECIAL GIVING
To benefit North Porch

BLESSING
Source: Celtic

The Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, in the name of the Holy Trinity. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN
Let us now depart in your peace
A la puerta



Words: New Mexican Folk Song, adapted by Lee hastings Bristol, Jr. (1923-1979) © 1961 Concordia Publishing House, 3558 Suth Jefferson Avenue, St. Louis, MO [www.cph.org]. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Music: *A la Puerta*, New Mexican Folk Song.

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of the Risen Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE

LITURGICAL STEWARDSHIP

Officiant:	The Rev. Paula J. Toland
Deacon:	The Rev. Deacon Karen Eberhardt
Minister of Music:	Kim Williams
Organist:	John Schucker
Altar Guild:	Nancy, Irene
Chalicer/Crucifer/Acolyte:	Steve, Martin, Clara
Reader/Intercessor:	Rosie, Ava, Bella
Oblations Bearer/Offering:	Rosie, Alex
Greeter/Usher:	Katie, Maryalice
Tech Verger:	Ron
Coffee Hour:	Jackie

Source for today's lectionary: The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL)
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Upcoming Events

Details can be found in the weekly e-newsletter, which is available on our website.

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
5/10	10:00 AM	Intergenerational Sunday Worship
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting
5/11	7:30 PM	MA Meeting
5/17	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	11:30 AM	Vestry Meeting
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"A diverse Episcopal parish, a life-giving sanctuary, a place where love begets love. Seekers, doubters, and believers find a comfortable place in our midst."

119 Main Street, Millburn, NJ 07041 / 973-376-0688 / ststephensmillburn.org
Rector: The Rev. Paula J. Toland; Emergency Contact: 508-542-1327

Parish Administrator: Maria T. Card
Children & Youth Minister: Julia Kaluzna

Minister of Music: Kim Williams; Organist: John Schucker

Members of the Vestry
Maryalice Chech: Warden, People & Programs; Roger Riedel, Warden, Property & Preschool; Ashley Morgan: Treasurer; Fran Taber; Julia Dorn; Kira Hanson; Linda Soughan; Steve Moran; Tom Hillemeier; Barbara Riedel: Recording Secretary & Clerk

Sheelagh Clarke; Eugene Foley: Vestry Emeriti

If you wish to receive the weekly e-newsletter, please contact the parish office at 973-376-0688 or church@ststephensmillburn.org.