St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Church on Main Street, where God's love is lived.

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS (1851 - 2026)

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 6, 2026

Holy Eucharist, Rite II at 10:00 am

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

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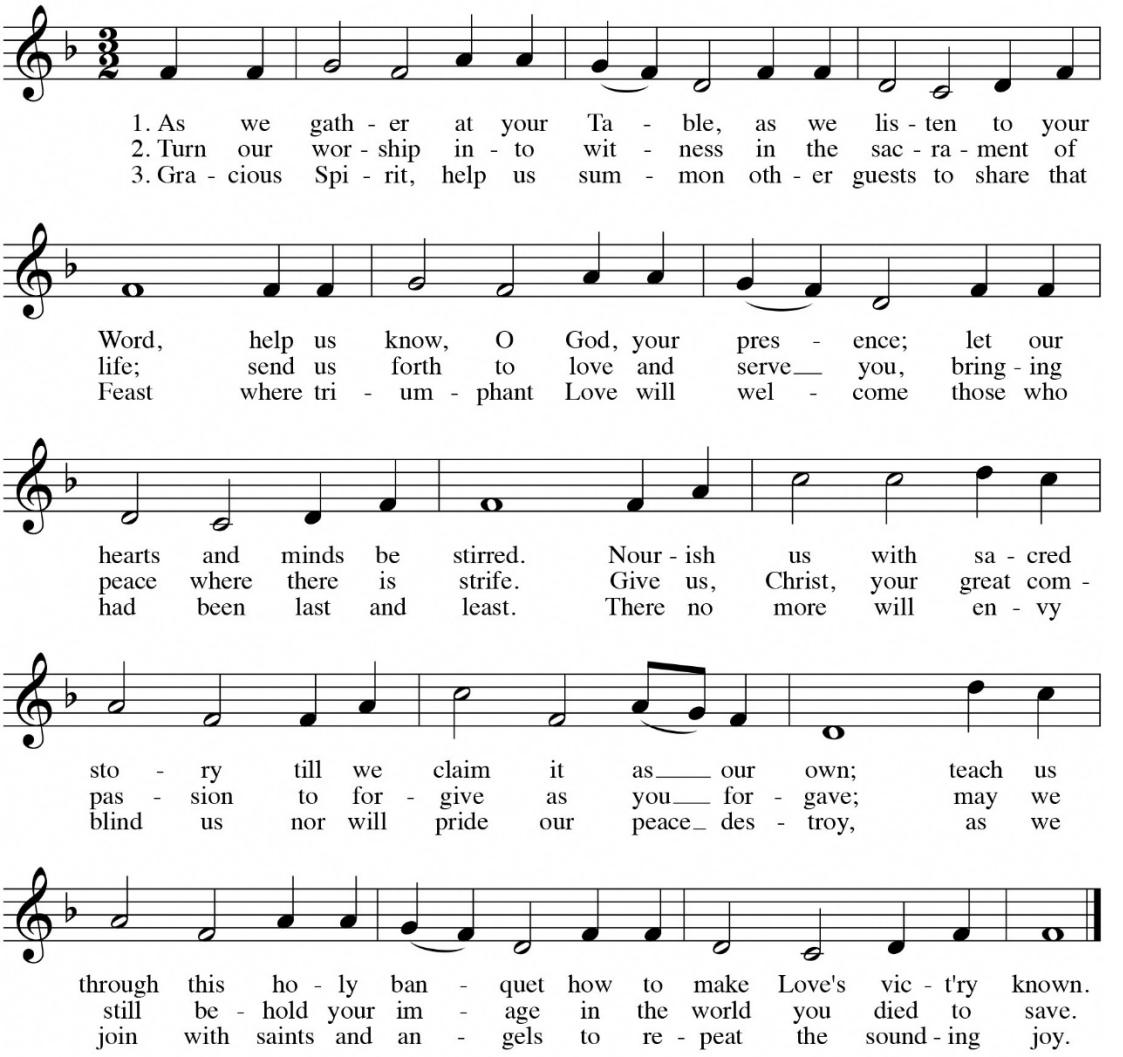
St. Stephen's Hymnal (the red spiral bound book):
"SSH" followed by a number indicates hymns.

PRELUDE

Gather
We come together to praise God.

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN
As we gather at your table — *Beach Spring*



Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944); ©1989 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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WELCOME

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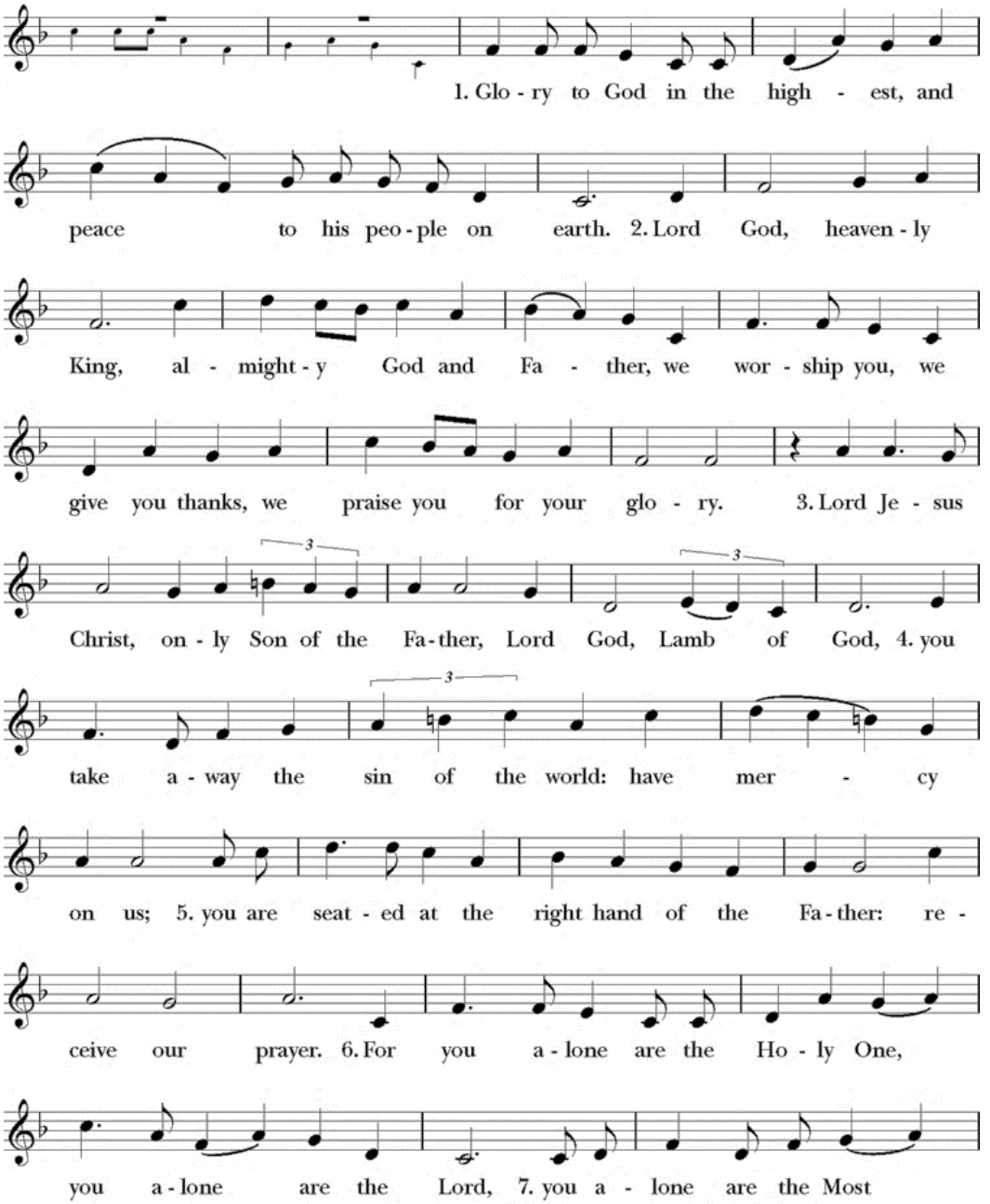
We hear and respond to the story of God's liberating acts.

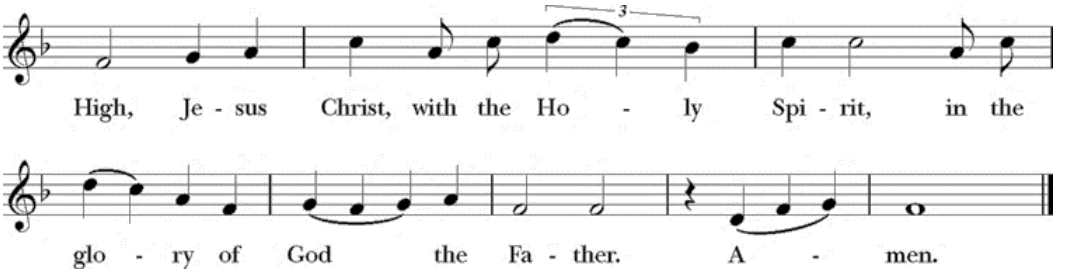
Blessed are you, holy and living One.
You come to your people and set them free.

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

S 280 Glory to God in the highest *Robert Powell*





COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

A Reading from the book of Ezekiel. 33:7-11

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, "As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?"

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

119:33-40, *The Saint Helena Psalter*

Teach me, O God, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.

Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.

Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.

Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.

Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.

Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.

Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.

Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.

THE SECOND LESSON

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome. 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

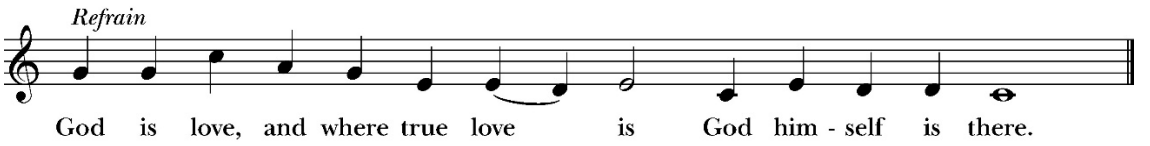
Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

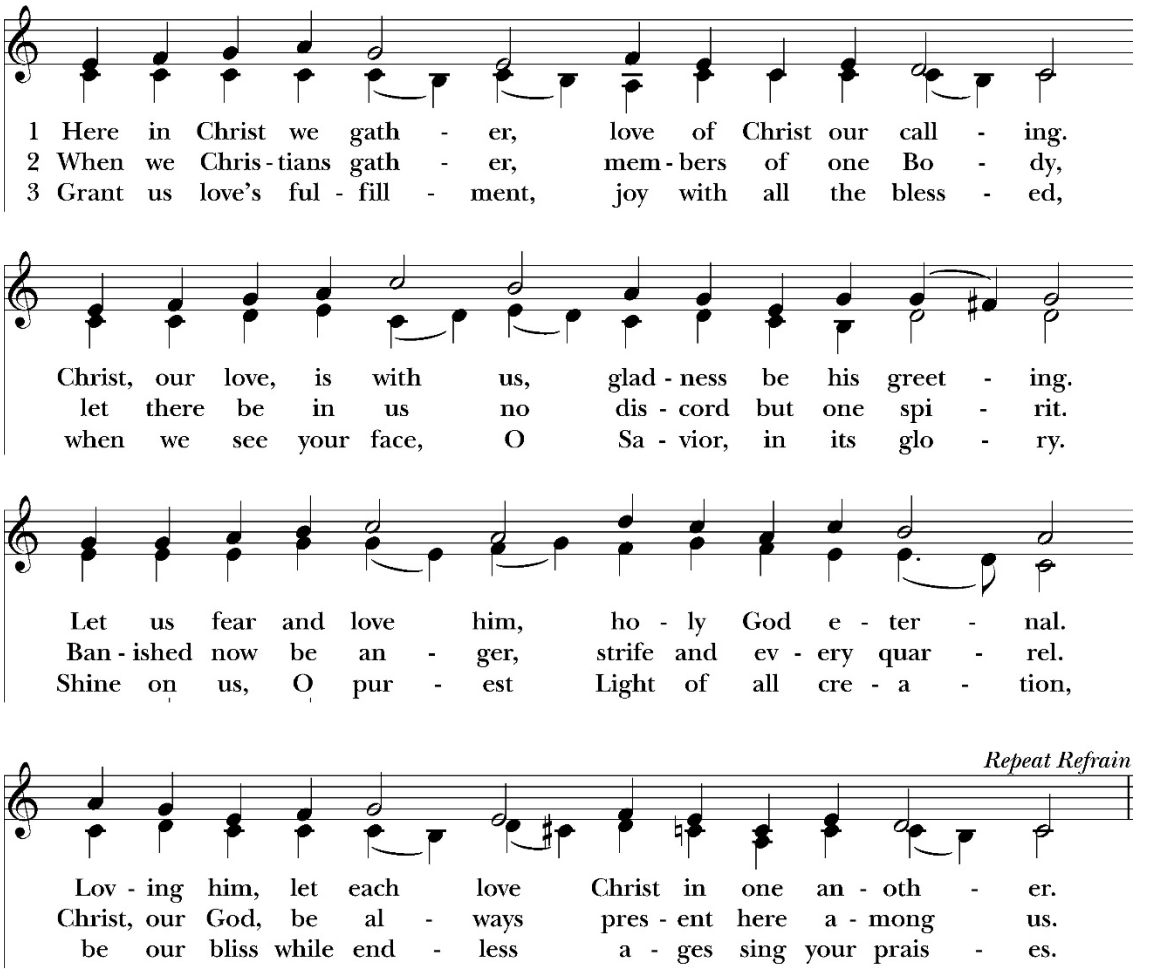
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN

H 577 God is love, and where true love is *Ubi caritas*





THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. 18:15-20

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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 *The Rt. Rev. Geralyn Wolf (adapted)*

As the Church, the Body of Christ in this time and place, let us offer our prayers, responding, "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we may love the Lord with our whole heart, and soul, and mind, and our neighbor as our selves, claiming the great commandment as our pathway and destination; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That our love may be revealed through our actions, as we commit ourselves to visiting those who are in prison, or confined to their homes, or living in nursing facilities, that in seeing their face we will see the face of Jesus; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That peace may flourish wherever there is strife or enmity between peoples, bringing opportunities for improved nutrition, health, and education, revealing God's mantle of light; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the power of the Holy Spirit in guiding us in our discovery of our vocation, our manner of expressing God's indwelling love, so that we may be passionate about our work and ministry; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the grace to turn away from anything that places a barrier between God's love and our actions, so that in turning back to Jesus we may receive mercy for the past and strength for the future; let us pray.
Lord, hear our prayer.

For blessings upon those who have died, that their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God may rest in peace; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
In thanksgiving for the blessings we have received, we continue our prayers.

For those on our parish prayer list:

Mary Ruth Stone	James K.	Carol McManus	Doris Rockwell
Kris Hunt	Ron G.	Ambika Bedi	Kyle McManus
Aldaiza DaSilva	Sue and Larry H.	Timothy M.	
Martha Lipowski	Maggie Holland	Barbara H.	
Boyd Hunnaman	Celine Ghiara	Ellen K.	

Let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our Ministry Partners: Apostles' House, Cross Roads, Family Promise Essex County, North Jersey Pride, and North Porch; for our sister congregations in the Evelyn Underhill Regional Ministry Network: Calvary, Summit; Christ Church in Short Hills; St. Paul's, Chatham, St. George's, Maplewood; and Grace, Madison; in the Diocese of Newark, let us pray for St. George's, Parsippany; the ministries of the Rev. William Rowson, the Rev. Deacon Nancy Read, the Rev. Margaret Reinfeld Haridis, and the Rev. Canon Wade Renn; and the churches in the Constance and Her Companion Regional Ministry Network; in the Anglican Communion, let us pray for the Episcopal/Anglican Province in Alexandria. Let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have been harmed, live in fear, or experience anxiety because of the words or actions of leaders anywhere; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For 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; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who serve in our worship, formation, hospitality, outreach, administrative ministries, and the preschool staff whose devotion and creativity enrich the life of our community; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Presider offers a concluding Collect.

Holy One of blessing, you are the source and giver of all good things, hear the prayers of our hearts, minds, and lives; and give us the wisdom and grace to embody your way of love each and every day. **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.

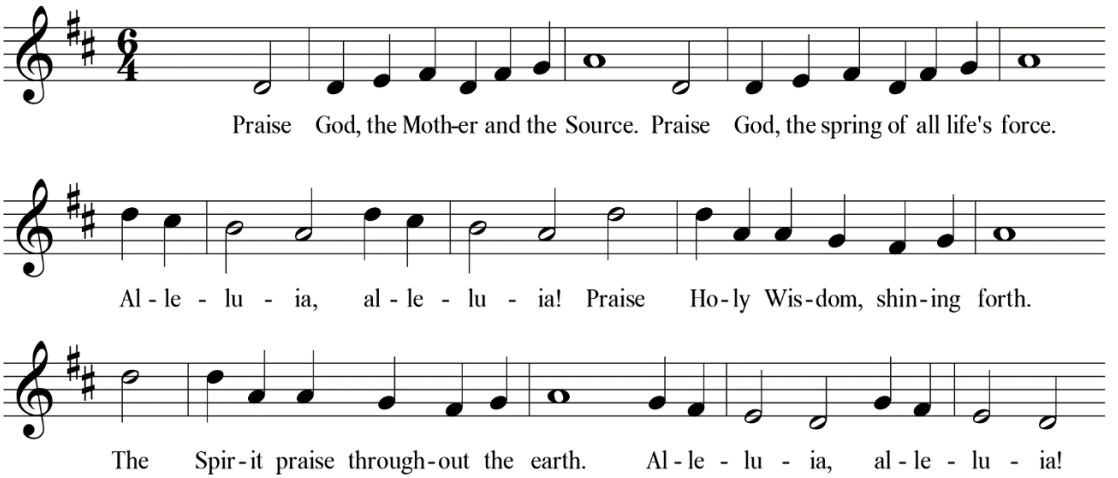
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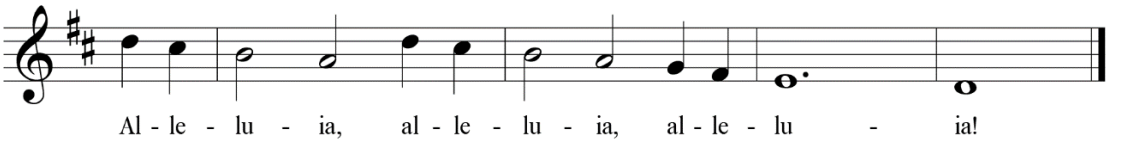
Organ Meditation

Please stand as you are able.

THE DOXOLOGY

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





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Tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen,* melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesaeng,* 1623.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 3 *EOW I*

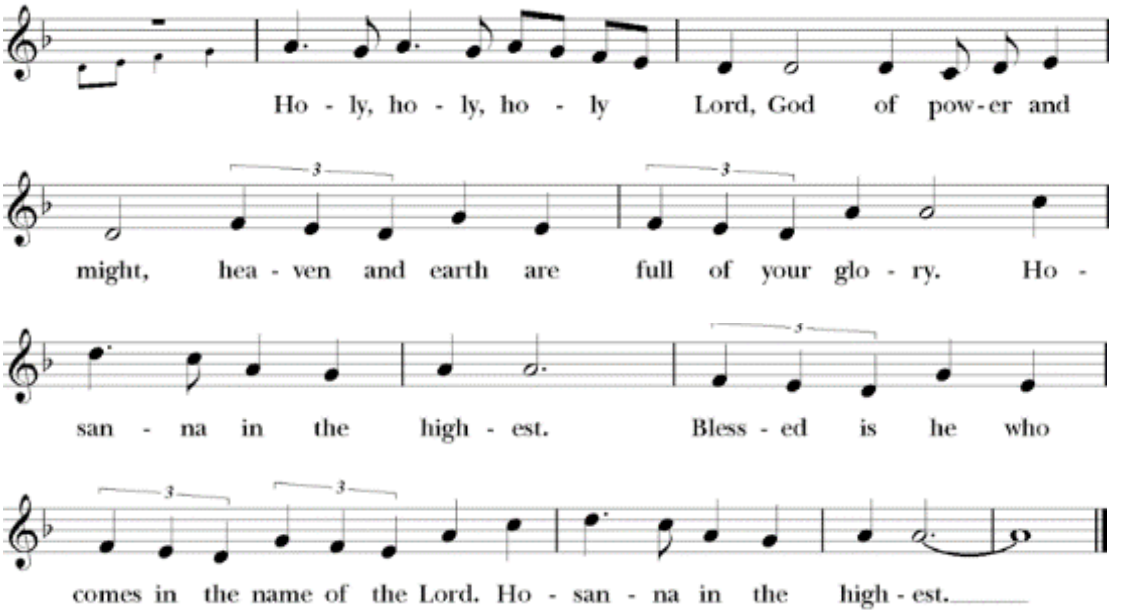
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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

S 129 Holy, holy, holy Lord *Robert Powell*



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 blessed 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

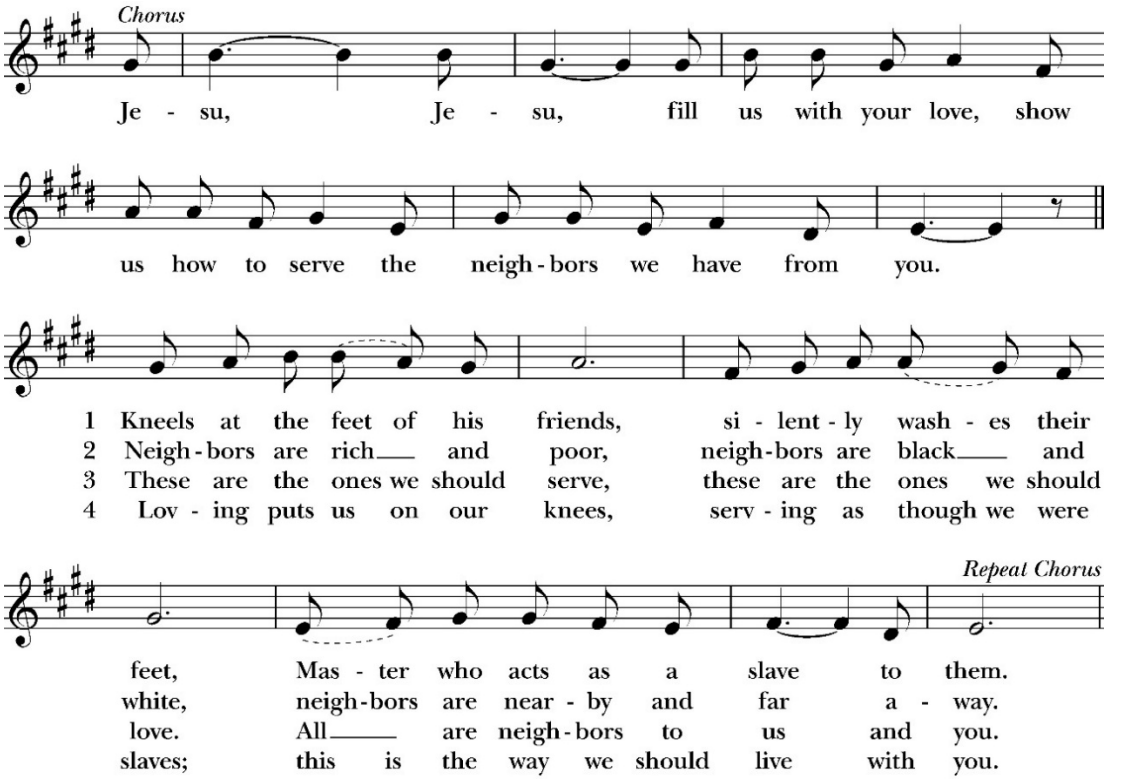
We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

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

H 602 Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love *Chereponi*



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us in Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people on heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Saviour. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING
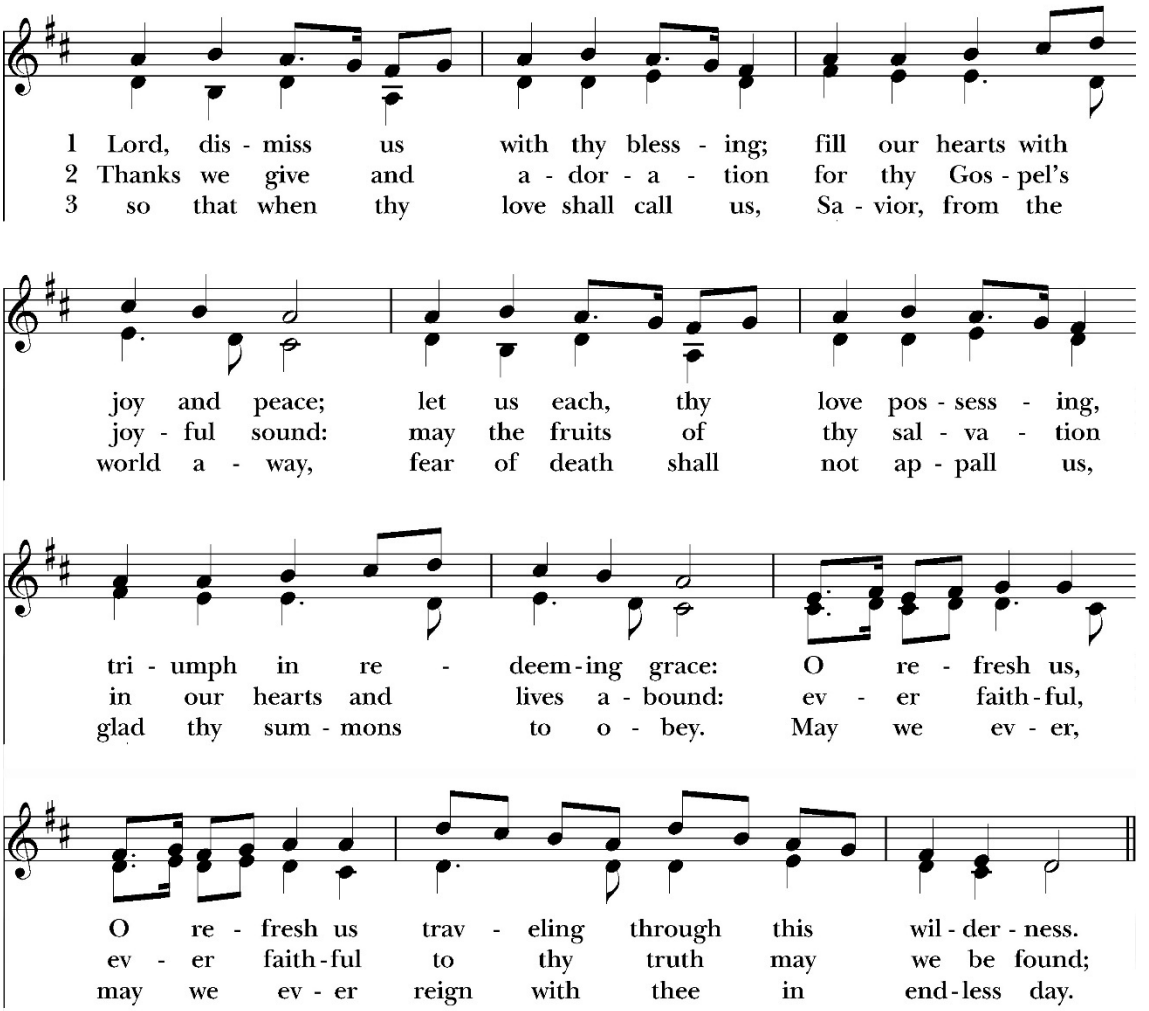
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God's Blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, and the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

H 344 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing

Sicilian Mariners



DISMISSAL

Let us go forth into the world to live in newness of life with Christ and each other.
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
Guest Organist:	Chris Hatcher
Altar Guild:	Nancy, Julia
Chalicer/Crucifer:	
Reader/Intercessor:	Fran T.
Greeter/Usher:	Irene, Jennifer
Tech Verger:	Ron
Coffee Hour:	Maria C., Julia, Nancy, Irene and Jennifer

Source for today's lectionary: The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL).
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Legacy Giving Through Your IRA

If you are age 70½ and older, a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) can be a powerful stewardship tool. By directing all or part of your IRA distribution directly to St. Stephen's, you can support the ministries and long-term mission of our parish while potentially receiving favorable tax treatment. For those subject to Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), a QCD may also help satisfy that requirement. As we look toward future ministry, capital improvements, and endowment growth, planned and charitable giving opportunities such as QCDs can create a lasting impact for generations to come. Please consult your tax and financial advisors to learn more.

Upcoming Events

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

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
9/6	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting
9/7	7:30 PM	MA Meeting
9/8	7:00 PM	Practicing Our Faith
9/13	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	11:00 PM	St. Stephen's Day Celebration & Parish Cookout
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting

COFFEE HOUR – Your Parish Admin and members of the Altar Guild invite you to a very special coffee hour today in celebration of Alexandra Cole's upcoming birthday.

SEPTEMBER 11 – In observance of the 25th anniversary of 9/11, St. Stephen's will host a day of remembrance in partnership with Father George and Christ Church in Short Hills. We will be open from 6:00 to 8:30 a.m. for prayer and quiet reflection. The church will reopen at noon and remain open throughout the day. A remembrance service will be held at 7:30 p.m., and the church will close at 9:00 p.m. All are welcome to St. Stephen's for prayer, silence, and quiet reflection. Please share this information with anyone who may find it meaningful.

MONTHLY GIVING: FAMILY PROMISE – We are continuing our hospitality ministry with Family Promise of Essex County and will be "hosting" the week of September 13th. There are currently two families in the shelter program. To help these families, we are collecting donations of ShopRite and DoorDash/Grubhub gift cards as well as some groceries. You may bring gift cards to our Church service on September 13th, or drop them off earlier at the Church office.

Grocery donations will also be collected on September 13th. If you would like to donate groceries, please use this sign up:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4DAAAD2CA1FC1-65425140-family

If you have any questions, please talk with Linda Soughan or email her at:
lindasoughan@comcast.net

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
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: Vestry Emerita

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