

*November 14, 2021*  
*Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost*



**ST. STEPHEN**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

\*Congregation is invited to stand as able  
Please be aware that video cameras are in use during our hybrid (combined) Worship Service and that images are being shared with the online participants.

November begins with All Saints Day and ends in or near Advent, when we anticipate Christ's coming again. It is fitting, then, that the readings today tell of the final resurrection and the end time. In the turmoil of hope, fear, and disbelief that these predictions provoke in us, Hebrews sounds a note of confident trust. Christ makes a way for us where there is no way, and we walk it confidently, our hearts and bodies washed in baptismal water, trusting the one who has promised forgiveness. The more we see the last day approaching, the more important it is to meet together to provoke one another to love.

**Our Mission**

We respond to Christ's love by feeding those who hunger in body, mind, and spirit.

**Prelude**

*"Be Thou My Vision (Lord of All Hopefulness)"* arranged by Dale Wood

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit .

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Have mercy on us, O God.

**We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor. We have built walls instead of tables and have turned away the stranger. We have sought glory for ourselves and have treasured that which does not satisfy. Help us to love as you love, to welcome those you send, and to treasure mercy and justice. Turn us from our ways to your ways, and free us to serve those in need. Amen.**

God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for ☩ Jesus' sake and remembers them no more. Lift up your heads and your hearts. Yours is the kingdom of God. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**

*“Lord Our God, with Praise We Come”*

Hymn#730, vs. 1-3

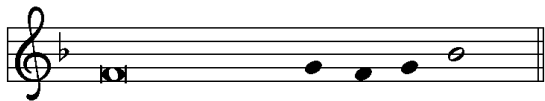
- 1 Lord our God, with praise we come before you.  
Let all nations humbly now implore you.  
May we endeavor to praise you ever,  
and ceasing never,  
may we forever adore you.
- 2 God is God, though lands were all forsaken.  
God is God, though all by death were taken.  
Although all races had left no traces,  
in starry spaces  
God's love embraces creation.
- 3 Vales and hills shall move from their foundations;  
heav'n and earth shall crash in consternation;  
mountains transcending will have their ending.  
Then Christ descending  
shall bring unending salvation.

Text: Peter Dass, 1647-1707; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881-1959, alt.  
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**\*Apostolic Greeting**

The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

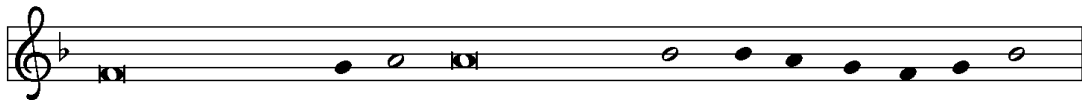
**\*Kyrie**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



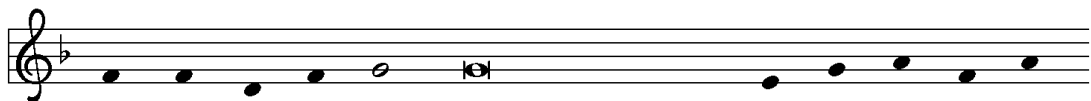
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



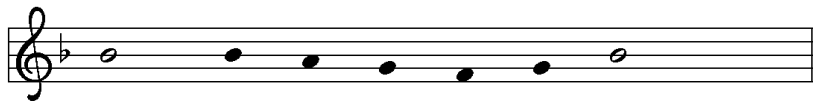
God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



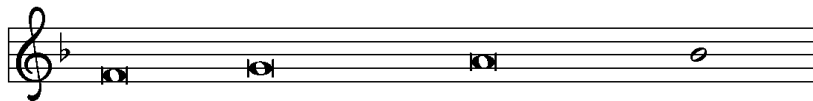
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

**\*Canticle of Praise**



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the  
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.  
3 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.  
*Final refrain*  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est.  
A - men, a - men.

**\*Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Word**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**The First Lesson**

**1 Samuel 1:4-20**

*This story introduces us to Elkanah, a devout Israelite, and his wife, Hannah, who is unable to have children. God grants Hannah's prayer and she bears a son, Samuel, who will be an important figure in Israel's history. Samuel, the last of Israel's judges, anoints the first two kings of Israel, Saul and David.*

A reading from the 1st book from the prophet Samuel, the 1st chapter.

<sup>4</sup>On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; <sup>5</sup>but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb. <sup>6</sup>Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. <sup>7</sup>So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. <sup>8</sup>Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

<sup>9</sup>After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the LORD. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. <sup>10</sup>She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD, and wept bitterly. <sup>11</sup>She made this vow: "O LORD of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head."

<sup>12</sup>As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. <sup>13</sup>Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk.

<sup>14</sup>So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine." <sup>15</sup>But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. <sup>16</sup>Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time." <sup>17</sup>Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him." <sup>18</sup>And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your sight." Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer.

<sup>19</sup>They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. <sup>20</sup>In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the LORD."

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm**

## **1 Samuel 2:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted <sup>1</sup> in my God.

My mouth derides my enemies, because I re- <sup>1</sup> joice in my victory.

<sup>2</sup>**There is no Holy One like the LORD, no <sup>1</sup> one besides you;  
there is no Rock <sup>1</sup> like our God.**

<sup>3</sup>Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come <sup>1</sup> from your mouth;  
for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by the LORD ac- <sup>1</sup> tions are weighed.

<sup>4</sup>**The bows of the might- <sup>1</sup> y are broken,  
but the feeble <sup>1</sup> gird on strength.**

<sup>5</sup>Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry  
are <sup>1</sup> fat with spoil.

The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children <sup>1</sup> is forlorn.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD kills and <sup>1</sup> brings to life;  
the LORD brings down to Sheol and <sup>1</sup> raises up.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD makes poor <sup>1</sup> and makes rich;  
brings low, and al- <sup>1</sup> so exalts.

**<sup>8</sup>The LORD raises up the poor from the dust; lifting the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a<sup>l</sup> seat of honor.**

**For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them God has<sup>l</sup> set the world.**

<sup>9</sup>You, LORD, will guard the feet of your<sup>l</sup> faithful ones,  
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness; for not by might does<sup>l</sup> one prevail.

**<sup>10</sup>The LORD's adversaries shall be shattered; the Most High will thun-<sup>l</sup> der in heaven.**

**O LORD, you will judge the ends of the earth; you will give strength to your king, and exalt the power of<sup>l</sup> your anointed.**

## **The Second Lesson**

**Hebrews 10:11-25**

*Images of worship and sacrifice are used throughout Hebrews to highlight what Christ has uniquely accomplished through his death. Because we have received forgiveness through Christ's death, we live with sincere hearts by trusting in God's promises and encouraging love and good works from each other.*

A reading from the book of Hebrews, the 10th chapter.

<sup>11</sup>Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup>But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," <sup>13</sup>and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." <sup>14</sup>For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. <sup>15</sup>And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

<sup>16</sup>"This is the covenant that I will make with them  
after those days, says the Lord:

I will put my laws in their hearts,  
and I will write them on their minds,"

<sup>17</sup>he also adds,

"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

<sup>18</sup>Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*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.

**\*Gospel Reading**

**Mark 13:1-8**

*In the last week of his life, Jesus warned his disciples concerning trials that were to come upon them and upon the world. He exhorts the listener: Do not be alarmed.*

A reading from the Gospel according to St. Mark, the 13th chapter. **Glory to You O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” <sup>2</sup>Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

<sup>3</sup>When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup>“Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” <sup>5</sup>Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. <sup>6</sup>Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. <sup>7</sup>When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. <sup>8</sup>For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You O Christ.**

**Sermon**

The Rev Matthew Best

**Hymn of the Day**

“Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth ” Hymn#727 vs. 1,2,4

- 1 Lord Christ, when first you came to earth,  
upon a cross they bound you,  
and mocked your saving kingship's worth  
by thorns with which they crowned you.  
And still our wrongs may fashion now  
new thorns to pierce that steady brow,  
and robe of sorrow round you.
- 2 O awesome Love, which finds no room  
in life where sin denies you,  
and, doomed to death, shall bring to doom  
the pow'r that crucifies you,  
till not a stone is left on stone,



and then the nations' pride, o'erthrown,  
will nevermore defy you!

- 4 O wounded hands of Jesus, build  
in us your new creation;  
our pride is dust, our vaunt is stilled;  
we wait your revelation.  
O Love that triumphs over loss,  
we bring our hearts before your cross;  
come, finish your salvation.

Text: W. Russell Bowie, 1882-1969, alt.

### **\*Apostles Creed**

AM: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us profess our faith, using the words of the 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 Intercession**

*Congregational response after each petition:*

AM: ...God, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

God our creator, you show us the path of life. Bless faithful people everywhere with humility as they extend compassion to those who have experienced harm in religious spaces. Cultivate healthy congregations that tell of and enact your reconciling love. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our constant, you love our universe from beginning to end. As the seasons change,

protect animals that migrate and hibernate. Bring them safely to a sheltered place and a more abundant season. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our ruler, you write your law on human minds and hearts. Give wisdom to all elected leaders and officials to govern with insight and compassion. Make them mindful of the well-being of all people so that your world will flourish. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our stronghold, you are present amid disaster. We pray for those affected by natural disasters. Come to the aid of all survivors of earthquakes, famines, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires, and the first responders who support them. Calm their fear, supply their need, and be the solid ground beneath their feet. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our guide, you are greater than we can imagine. Surround congregations with your expansive inclusion. Be present in the midst of disagreements, differences, and questions. Unite people of diverse viewpoints in the love of Christ. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our beginning and our end, your beloved people shine like the brightness of the sky. We thank you for the lives of all who rest in your eternal mercy, from famous saints to the people we have loved. Assure us of your resurrection promise. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

#### **\*Peace**

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us show a sign of that peace!

#### **\*Offering**

The offering, whether in person or through digital means, is an act of worship. Worship, at its core, is a reverent love and devotion accorded to God. We give because God loves us first, and we are called to love God and neighbor as a result. The offering is one way we show our love of God.

To assist you in this act of worship, there are several ways to make your offering: Go to [www.StStephenLC.org](http://www.StStephenLC.org) and scroll to the bottom of the page, and click **DONATE**.

Text your offering dollar amount to 717-685-6947. Text "help" for options.

Use Engage from your smart phone or Internet connected device at <https://engage.suran.com/sslc/> or QR code below:



Set up regular electronic offerings by contacting Kevin, our office manager, at 717-766- 2168, Monday through Thursday from 9am – 2pm, or by email at [office@StStephenLC.org](mailto:office@StStephenLC.org) to get set up.

Mail in your check, made payable to St. Stephen Lutheran Church. Our address is  
30 W. Main St., PO Box 266, New Kingstown, PA 17072.

The offerings are used to carry out the ministry of the church, to share the Good News, to provide pastoral care, to worship as a community, and to create an environment where Jesus encounters people and their lives are transformed. All of these things continue to take place. Thank you for your generosity.

**\*Offertory Prayer**

Let us pray. Holy God,  
the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures.  
Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for  
the world through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**Meal**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**\*The 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.**

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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was handed over, 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

**\*Invitation to Communion**

A feast of love is offered here, for you and for all the saints.



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, grant us peace.

The Body and Blood of Christ given and shed for you

**\*Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray. Blessed Jesus,  
at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables  
and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet. **Amen.**

**Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**\*Blessing**

God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life, ✠ bless and  
keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**

*“ Give to Our God Immortal Praise “*

Hymn#848 vs. 1-3

- 1 Give to our God immortal praise!  
Mercy and truth are all his ways.  
Wonders of grace to God belong;  
repeat his mercies in your song.
- 2 God sent his Son with pow'r to save  
from guilt and darkness and the grave.  
Wonders of grace to God belong;  
repeat his mercies in your song.
- 3 Give to the Lord of lords renown;  
the King of kings with glory crown.  
His mercies ever shall endure  
when lords and kings are known no more!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*“ Fugue in B Flat Major”*

attributed to J.S. Bach

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