ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

All Are Welcome!

Thanksgiving Day Service

November 26, 2026, 10:30 am



Healing of a Leper

Thanksgiving Day Service

Prelude ***We Gather Together*** R. Rowland-Raybold

✝ ***This symbol represents the point at which we sign ourselves with the sign of the cross during worship.***

The Word of God

Please stand for the Opening Prayer.

Opening Hymn ***Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*** Hymnal 290

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest-home:
all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms
begin; God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to
be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest-home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow
grown: first the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn
shall appear:
grant, O harvest Lord, that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take his harvest
home; from his field shall in that day all offenses purge away;
give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest-home;
gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free
from sin;
there, for ever purified, in thy presence to abide;
come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest-home.

The people standing, the Celebrant says
✢ Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. *Amen*.**

Celebrant and People
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*.

Song of Praise, all standing
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee Hymnal 376

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
praising thee, their sun above. Melt the
clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away; giver of
immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever
blessing, ever blest, well-spring of the joy
of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother: all
who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to
the joy divine.

The Collect for Thanksgiving Day

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

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Lessons
May we hear the Word of God through these words.
A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy 8:7—18

Moses said to all Israel: For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the

end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God

Psalm 65 *(to be read in unison)*

You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; *
to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.

To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, *
because of their transgressions.

Our sins are stronger than we are, *
but you will blot them out.

Happy are they whom you choose
and draw to your courts to dwell there! *
they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,
by the holiness of your temple.

Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,
O God of our salvation, *
O Hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the seas that are far away.

You make fast the mountains by your power; *
they are girded about with might.

You still the roaring of the seas, *
the roaring of their waves,
and the clamor of the peoples.

Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at
your marvelous signs; *
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.

You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous; *
the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, *
for so you provide for the earth.

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; *
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

You crown the year with your goodness, *
and your paths overflow with plenty.

May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, *
and the hills be clothed with joy.

May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; *
let them shout for joy and sing.

At the end of the Psalms is said
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

May we hear the Word of God through these words.
A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 9:6—15

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written,

"He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever."

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn ***For the Beauty of the Earth*** Hymnal 416

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies,

Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,

Refrain

When the Gospel is being announced, a cross is made,

✢ *(on the forehead) in my mind to understand it,*

✢ *(on the lips) on my lips to proclaim it, and*

✢ *(over the heart) in my heart to live it.*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 17:11—19
***People Glory to you, Lord Christ**.*

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

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

Sermon Hymn Hymnal 416

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight,

Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

Refrain

A sermon or meditation may follow the Gospel.

The Nicene Creed

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

We bow for the two lines in bold.

he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.*

A Litany of Thanksgiving
For the Prayers of the People a Litany of Thanksgiving is used.

People sit or kneel for the Litany.

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us. For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,
People ***We thank you, Lord.***

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,
People ***We thank you, Lord.***

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,
People ***We thank you, Lord.***

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,
People ***We thank you, Lord.***

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,
People ***We thank you, Lord.***

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,
People ***We thank you, Lord.***

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,
People ***We thank you, Lord.***

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,
People ***We thank you, Lord.***

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;
People ***To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.***

Confession of Sin

Celebrant says Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People
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*.

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

Please stand.

The Peace

Jesus said, *Peace I leave with you; my Peace I give to you . . .*John 14:27

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People ***And also with you.***

At the conclusion of the peace the Celebrant says:
Celebrant God is Good!
People ***All the Time.***



The Holy Communion

Offertory ***Offertory on "Dix"*** R. Hobby

Doxology—to be sung

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
O Praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
O Praise Him! O Praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! *Amen*.

The Great Thanksgiving
Eucharistic Prayer A

People remain standing.

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

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

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

The Celebrant proceeds
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For with your co-eternal Son and Holy Spirit, you are one God, one Lord, in Trinity of Persons and in Unity of Being: and we celebrate the one and equal glory of you, O Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

<u>Holy, holy, holy</u>
<u>Lord</u>, God of power
and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
✢Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Please sit, kneel or remain standing.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. ***Amen***.

And now, let us sing in thanksgiving the prayer our Savior Christ taught us,

Celebrant and People

Our Father, which 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
debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever. *Amen*.



The Breaking of the Bread
Celebrant and People to be sung

Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.
Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri-ficed for us;
There-fore let us keep the feast.
Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

The Celebrant says the following Invitation
The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by
faith, with thanksgiving.

This is the Lord's table, not of the church, but of the Lord.
It is made ready for those who love Him
and for those who want to love Him more.
So come, you who have much faith and you who have little;
You who have been here often and you who have not been here long;
You who have tried to follow and you who have failed;
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.
It is His will that those who want Him should meet Him here.

Please join in singing our Communion Hymns

Let Us Break Bread Together LEVAS 152

Let us break bread together on our
knees; Let us break bread together
on our knees;

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising
sun, Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our
knees; Let us drink wine together
on our knees;

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising
sun, Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our
knees; Let us praise God together
on our knees;

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising
sun, Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

We Gather Together Hymnal 433

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make
known; the wicked oppressing now cease from
distressing:
sing praises to his Name; he forgets not his own.
Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were
winning: thou, Lord, wast at our side: all
glory be thine!
We all do extol thee, thou leader
triumphant, and pray that thou still our
defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation:
thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

After Communion, the Celebrant says: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen*.

The Celebrant gives the blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and your loved ones far and near and remain with all of you for ever. ***Amen*.**

Closing Hymn ***Now Thank We All Our God*** Hymnal 397

Now thank we all our God,
with heart, and hands, and
voices, who wondrous things
hath done, in whom his world
rejoices; who from our
mother's arms hath blessed
us on our way with countless
gifts of love, and still is ours
today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near
us! With ever-joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer
us; and keep us in his
grace, and guide us when
perplexed, and free us
from all ills in this world
and the next.

All praise and thanks
to God the Father now
be given, the Son, and
him who reigns with
them in highest
heaven, eternal, Triune
God, whom earth and
heaven adore; for thus
it was, is now, and
shall be, evermore.

The Celebrant dismisses the people.

Priest We are called to be one with God and each other in Christ.
People ***By living the Gospel with love and compassion.***

Priest Alleluia. Alleluia. Let us go in peace to love and serve God and one another.
People ***Thanks be to God Alleluia. Alleluia.***

Postlude ***Nun Danket Alle Gott*** P. Post

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Our Mission
is to be one with God and humanity in Christ by living the Gospel with love and compassion.

Our Vision
is to become comfortable with Jesus Christ and boldly proclaim Him.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE CELEBRATION AT ST. STEPHEN'S

Ministers:	The Congregants of St. Stephen's, Family, Friends and Visitors
Celebrant:	The Rt. Rev. Dr. Wilmot T. Merchant II
Dir of Music:	Roberta Rowland-Raybold, c.a.g.o.
Asst Dir of Music:	Randy Page
Vergers:	Robert Dunn

MINISTERS AND LAYLEADERS

The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church
The Right Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Bishop, The Diocese of SC
The Right Rev.Dr. Wilmot T. Merchant, II, Bishop Suffragan of The Diocese of The Episcopal Church of Liberia, West Africa

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❖ Sue Crouch, Senior Warden (2026) ❖ Chris Welborn, Junior Warden (2027)
❖ Robert Dunn (2026)❖ Wayne Mumford (2026) ❖ Mike Raley (2027)
❖ Tracy Thompson (2027) ❖ Pete Barr (2028) ❖ Dean Graves (2028)
❖ Richard Martin (2028)

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❖ Joe Lenhard (2026) ❖ Glenda Scherer (2026) ❖ Bill Simpson (2026)

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❖ Will Bridges, Parish/Vestry Clerk, Sally Goodson, Assistant Parish/Vestry Clerk