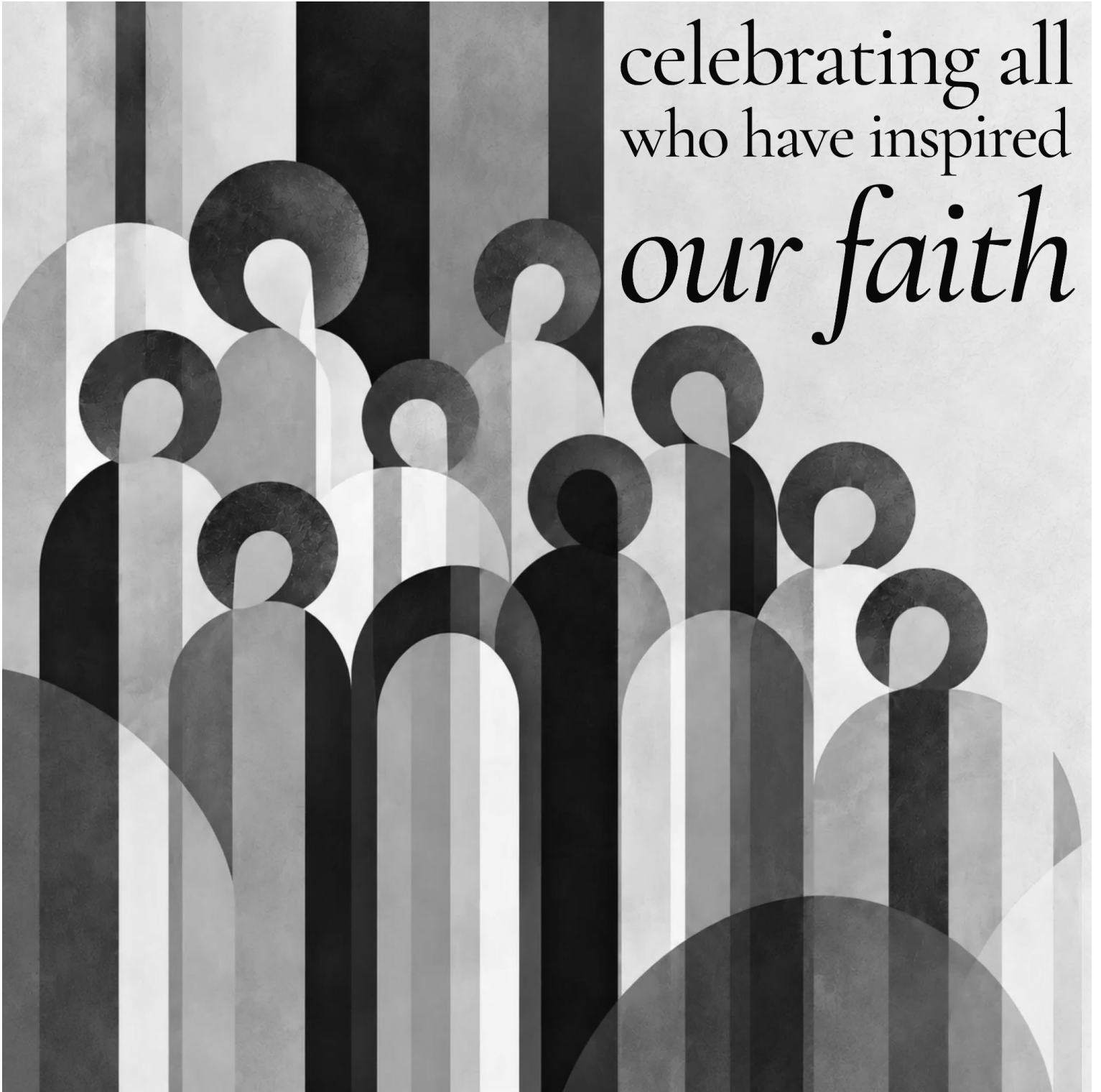




ST. STEPHEN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF RIDGEFIELD

celebrating all
who have inspired
our faith



ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY 2026

*"God will guide them to springs of the water from life,
and will wipe away every tear from their eyes."*

Revelation 7:17

We hold in remembrance those buried from St. Stephen's in the past year

Barbara Goodhue Smith

William John McKale

Carol Lee Dickinson

Lois G. Myers

William Francis Somers

Judith Manderbach White

Joel Hugh Third

Michael Patrick Londrigan

Per Hellman

Emily Locke White

and Friends and Loved Ones who have passed to eternal life

John Baker

Virginia Redmond Faber

Nick Barton

Jean Ann FitzPatrick

George Carr

Helene Gianotta

John Carr

Joseph Gianotta

Marie Carr

Steve Goodhue

Mary Carr

Charles Hendrickson

William Carr

Gerald Henry

John Ceccherelli

Anthony Hopko, Jr.

Arlene Coleman

Julia Mally

"Kittie" Doess

David Weigel

Aileen Dux

Special thanks to St. Stephen's Choir and guest musicians for their contributions to today's service:

Lydia Toperzer, Barbara Lawrence, Rebecca Greenlee, Nora Cascella

Kathleen Haaversen, Linda Berry, Cameron Moss, Christine DiCamillo

Chris Fallon, Jack Herr, Thomas Carr, Dave DiCamillo, Dave Otis, Tom Figgatt

Lydia Toperzer, Kathleen Haaversen, Chris Fallon, Thomas Carr, *soloists*

Simon Bilyk and Emily Franz Orenstein, *violins*

Rachelle Jonck, *organ*

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of
Margaret Adkin • Richard Henry Commons*



ST. STEPHEN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF RIDGEFIELD

*Belonging
with purpose*

Our Mission: Embracing and living God's commandment to love our neighbors through worship, stewardship, and service to others.

The Feast of All Saints • Holy Eucharist with Holy Baptism

November 1, 2026 • 10:00 A.M

Prelude *Largo* from Double Violin Concerto, BWV 1043

J. S. Bach

All stand and join in singing **Hymn 287** vv. 1-4

Sine Nomine

Children are invited to follow Storytime Leaders down to the Choir Room by following behind the procession



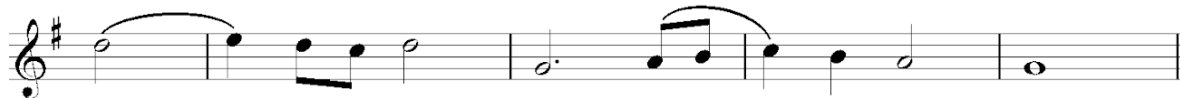
1 For all the saints, who from their la - bors rest, who
2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might:____
3 O may thy sol - diers, faith - ful, true, and bold,____
4 O blest com - mun - ion, fel - low - ship di - vine!____



thee____ by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
thou, Lord, their Cap - tain in the well - fought fight;____
fight as the saints who no - bly fought of old, and
We feeb - ly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet



Name, O____ Je - sus, be for ev - er blessed.
thou, in the dark - ness drear, the one true Light.
win, with____ them, the vic - tor's crown of gold.
all are____ one in thee, for all are thine.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Celebrant
People
Celebrant
People
Celebrant
People

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.
There is one Body and one Spirit;
There is one hope in God's call to us;
One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
One God and Father of all.

All join in

The Collect for Purity

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.

All sit as the Choir sings **Kyrie eleison and Gloria in excelsis**

*Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo
et in terra pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis.
Laudamus te,
benedicimus te,
adoramus te,
glorificamus te,
gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam,
Domine Deus, Rex cælestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili Unigenite, Jesu Christe,
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis;
qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus Altissimus,
Jesu Christe,*

All stand.
*cum Sancto Spiritu:
in gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.*

Missa Brevis in C Major 'Sparrow Mass', W.A. Mozart

*Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.*

*Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of The Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,*

All stand.
*with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.*

*Celebrant
People
Celebrant*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting **Amen.**

All sit for

A Reading from the First Letter of John

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

1 John 3:1-3

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, with milk and hon - ey blest,
 2 They stand, those halls of Zi - on all ju - bi - lant with song,
 3 There is the throne of Da - vid; and there, from care re - leased,
 4 Oh, sweet and bless - ed coun - try, the home of God's e - lect!

be - neath thy con - tem - pla - tion sink heart and voice op - pressed:
 and bright with man - yan an - gel, and all the mar - tyr throng:
 Oh, shout of them that tri - umph, the song of them that feast;
 Oh, sweet and bless - ed coun - try that ea - ger hearts ex - pect!

I know not, oh, I know not, what joys a - wait us there;
 the Prince is ev - er in them, the day - light is se - rene;
 and they who with their Lead - er have con - quered in the fight,
 Je - sus, in mer - cy bring us to that dear land of rest,

what ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, what bliss be - yond com - pare!
 the pas - tures of the bless - ed are decked in glo - rious sheen.
 for ev - er and for ev - er are clad in robes of white.
 who art with God the Fa - ther, and Spi - rit, ev - er blest.

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Matthew 5:1-12

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Whitney Altopp, D. Min.

A moment for reflection follows the sermon.

Children return from Storytime as those participating in Baptism gather at the font.

Hymn 508 (seated)

Nova Vita

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die;
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
un - til with thee I will one will, to do or to en - dure.
till all this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

HOLY BAPTISM

Walter Woodrow Bear • Eliza Anne • Leah Elizabeth Margaret

Presentation of Adult/Older Child Candidate(s)

Celebrant The Candidate(s) for Holy Baptism
will now be presented.

Sponsors I present N. to receive
the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Celebrant asks candidates who can answer for themselves

Do you desire to be baptized?

Candidate I do.

Presentation of Infants and Younger Children

Celebrant The Candidate(s) for Holy Baptism
will now be presented.

Parents I present N. to receive
& *Godparents* the Sacrament of Baptism.

Celebrant Will you be responsible for seeing
that the child you present is brought
up in the Christian faith and life?

(God)Parents I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you by your prayers and
witness help this child to grow into
the full stature of Christ?

(God)Parents I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Parents & Godparents I renounce them.

Celebrant Do you renounce the evil powers of this world
which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Parents & Godparents I renounce them.

Celebrant Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Parents & Godparents I renounce them.

Celebrant Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Parents & Godparents I do.

Celebrant Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Parents & Godparents I do.

Celebrant Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Parents & Godparents I do.

The Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons
in their life in Christ?

People **We will.**

All stand for **The Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

Celebrant Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,
and respect the dignity of every human being?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the Candidates

Celebrant Let us now pray for *these* persons who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Leader Deliver *them*, O Lord,
from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open *their* hearts to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill *them* with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep *them* in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach *them* to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send *them* into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring *them* to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying
The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water.* Now sanctify this water, we pray you,

by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Baptism

Celebrant N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Then the Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross and saying
N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon *these* your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised *them* to the new life of grace. Sustain *them*, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give *them* an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Celebrant Let us welcome the newly baptized.

All **We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Offertory Sentence

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High. *Psalms 50:14*

Offertory Anthem

Felix Mendelssohn

*See what love hath the Father bestowed on us, in His goodness;
that we should be called God's own children. 1 John 3:1*

All stand for the **Presentation Hymn**

Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him, all creatures here below,
Praise him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

IT IS RIGHT, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our great High Priest; in whom we are built up as living stones of a holy temple, that we might offer before you a sacrifice of praise and prayer which is holy and pleasing in your sight. 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:

Sanctus and Benedictus

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

All stand or kneel as the Celebrant continues

WE GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,
**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

AND WE OFFER our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Blessed Stephen and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

All

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant
People

Alleluia: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast: Alleluia.

Invitation to Communion

Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the people of God.

All those desiring to make their communion do so as the choir sings

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

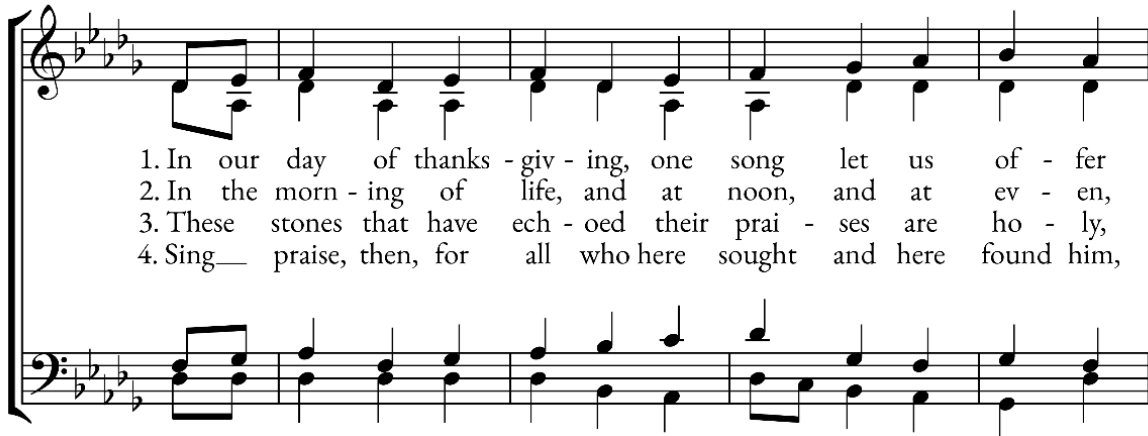
Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God,
who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

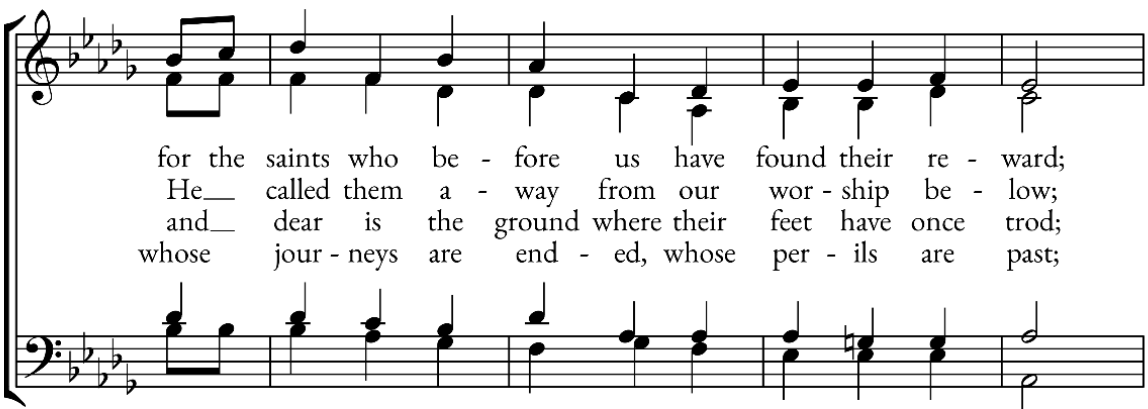
Lamb of God,
who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
who takes away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

All join in singing **Communion Hymn**



1. In our day of thanks - giv - ing, one song let us of - fer
2. In the morn - ing of life, and at noon, and at ev - en,
3. These stones that have ech - oed their prai - ses are ho - ly,
4. Sing— praise, then, for all who here sought and here found him,



for the saints who be - fore us have found their re - ward;
He— called them a - way from our wor - ship be - low;
and— dear is the ground where their feet have once trod;
whose jour - neys are end - ed, whose per - ils are past;

When the sha - dow of death fell up - on them, we sor - rowed,
 But not till His love at the font and the al - tar
 Yet here they con - fessed they were stran - gers and pil - grims,
 They be - lieved in the Light, and His glo - ry is round them,

but now we re - joice that they rest in the Lord.
 had girt them with grace for the way they should go.
 and still they were seek - ing the ci - ty of God.
 where the clouds of earth's sor - row are lif - ted at last.

All kneel for the **Prayer After Communion**

from Common Worship (The Church of England)

Celebrant

Let us pray.

All

Lord of heaven, in this eucharist

you have brought us near to an innumerable company of angels

and to the spirits of the saints made perfect:

as in this food of our earthly pilgrimage

we have shared their fellowship,

so may we come to share their joy in heaven;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing

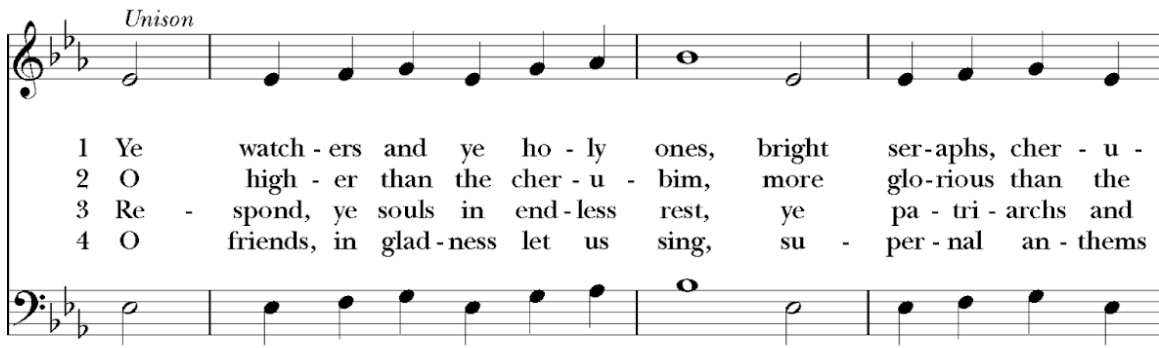
May Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate this festival of all the Saints,
 be now and evermore your guide and companion in the way. **Amen.**

May God, who has bound us together in the company of the elect,
 in this age and the age to come, attend to the prayers of his faithful servants on your behalf,
 as he hears your prayers for them. **Amen.**

May God, who has given us, in the lives of his saints,
 patterns of holy living and victorious dying,
 strengthen your faith and devotion,
 and enable you to bear witness to the truth against all adversity. **Amen.**

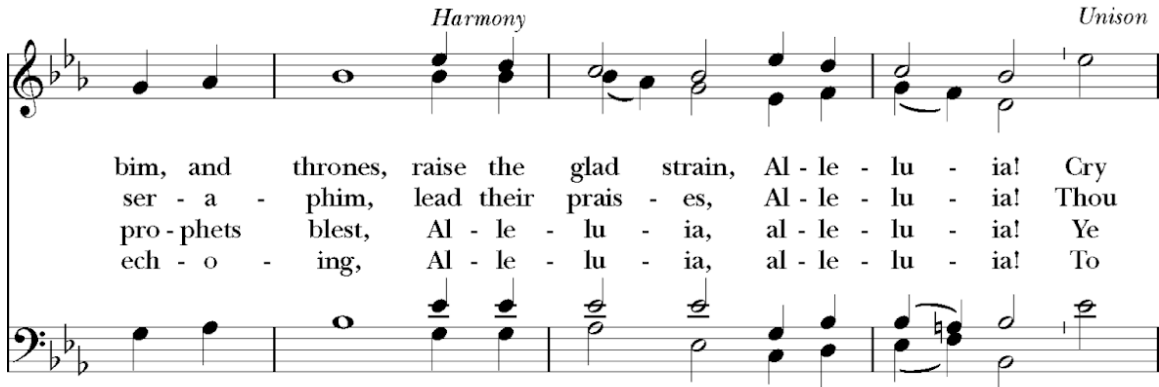
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy
 Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Unison

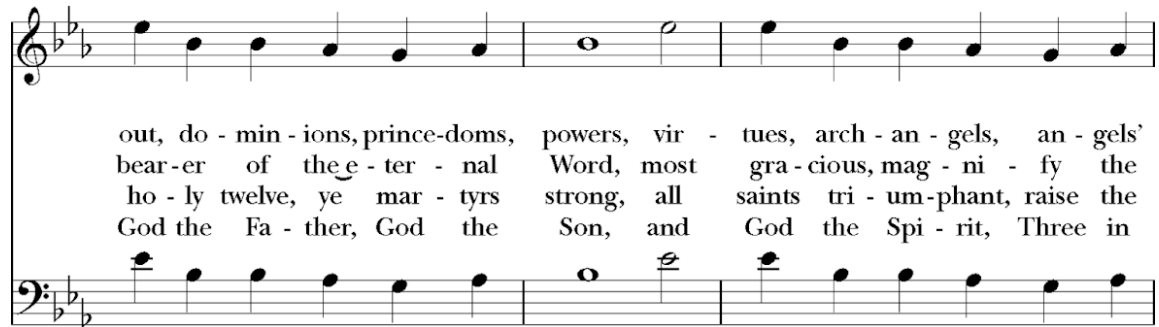


1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright ser-aphs, cher - u -
 2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more glo - rious than the
 3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, ye pa - tri - archs and
 4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, su - per - nal an - thems

Harmony *Unison*

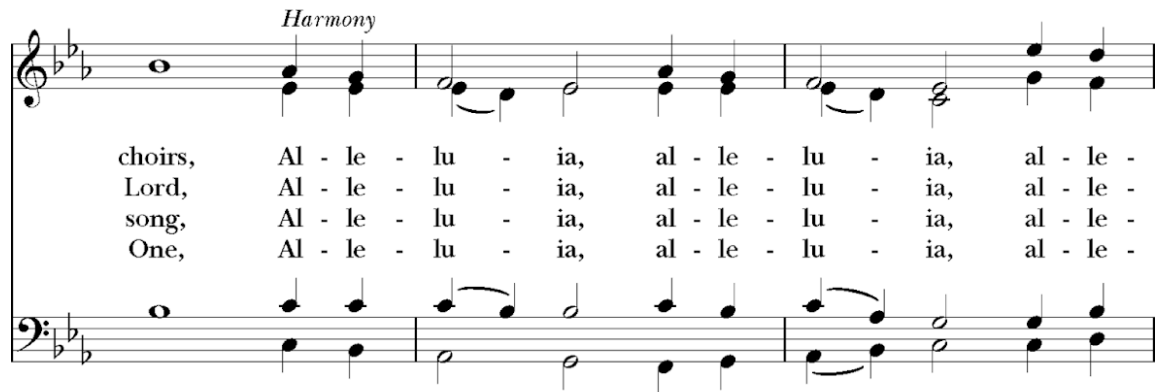


bim, and thrones, raise the glad strain, Al - le - lu - ia! Cry
 ser - a - phim, lead their prais - es, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou
 pro - phets blest, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Ye
 ech - o - ing, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! To



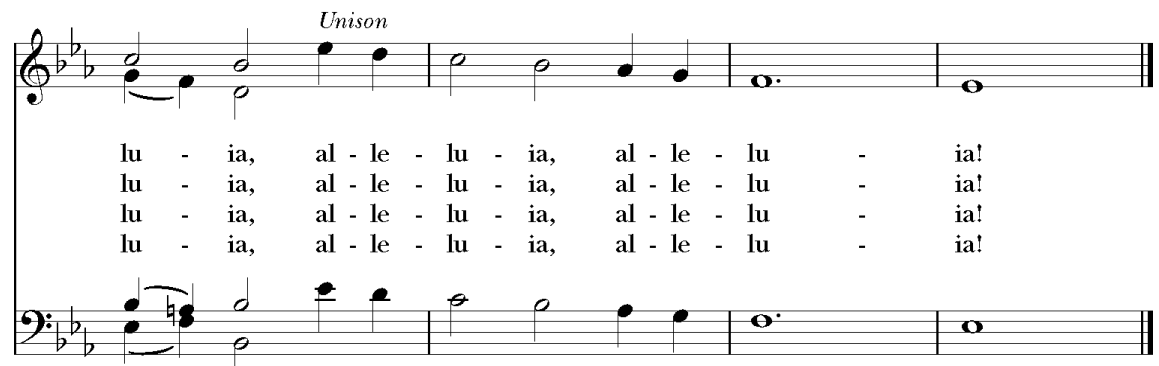
out, do - min - ions, prince - doms, powers, vir - tues, arch - an - gels, an - gels'
 bear - er of the e - ter - nal Word, most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the
 ho - ly twelve, ye mar - tyrs strong, all saints tri - um - phant, raise the
 God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spi - rit, Three in

Harmony



choirs, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Lord, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 song, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 One, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

Unison



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Dismissal Response Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude

MUSIC NOTES

For all the saints, written by William Walsham How in 1864, honors those who have gone before us in faith. Ralph Vaughan Williams composed its majestic tune, *Sine Nomine*, for *The English Hymnal* (1906). With its stirring procession and triumphant alleluias, the hymn unites the Church on earth with the saints in glory.

Jerusalem the golden looks toward the heavenly city and the promise of eternal rest. Its words derive from a twelfth-century Latin poem by Bernard of Cluny, translated by John Mason Neale. Alexander Ewing's expansive melody beautifully evokes the hymn's vision of everlasting peace and joy.

See what love comes from Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio *St. Paul* (1836), a work combining the contrapuntal mastery of Bach with the expressive warmth of Romanticism. Drawing upon 1 John 3:1—"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God"—this luminous chorus celebrates our shared identity as members of God's family. Its message is especially fitting for All Saints' Day, reminding us that sainthood is a calling shared by all who belong to Christ.

In our day of thanksgiving offers gratitude for the faithful generations who have gone before us. Set to Richard Strutt's gentle tune *St. Catherine's Court* (1928), the hymn celebrates the communion of saints while calling us to continue their work of faith and service.

Ye watchers and ye holy ones, written by Athelstan Riley in 1906, summons angels, apostles, martyrs, and all the saints to a joyful chorus of praise. Its exuberant seventeenth-century German melody, *Lasst uns erfreuen*, adapted by Vaughan Williams, brings our All Saints' celebration to a triumphant conclusion.

Why We Sing the Ordinary of the Mass in the Music of Mozart

The Ordinary of the Mass—*Kyrie*, *Gloria*, *Credo*, *Sanctus*, and *Agnus Dei*—has united Christian worship for centuries. In Mozart's *Missa brevis in C major*, K. 220, affectionately known as the *Sparrow Mass*, these ancient prayers come alive with extraordinary vitality and joy.

Composed around 1775–1776, when Mozart was just nineteen or twenty, the Mass reflects the Archbishop of Salzburg's insistence upon brevity in worship. Yet Mozart transforms these restrictions into music of festive brilliance, with trumpets, timpani, strings, and organ accompanying choir and soloists. Its nickname comes from the chirping violin figures in the *Hosanna*, suggesting the calls of sparrows. Particularly beautiful is Mozart's return to the opening *Kyrie* music in the concluding *Dona nobis pacem*: the plea for mercy becomes a prayer for peace.

Why do we offer such elaborate music in worship? The choir does not perform *for* the congregation, but offers its music *on behalf of* the entire parish. Participation in worship need not always mean singing every note; attentive listening, contemplation, and shared prayer are themselves meaningful acts of devotion. Our choir's preparation and artistry become gifts offered to God by the whole community.

Mozart's *Sparrow Mass* reminds us that sacred music need not be solemn to be profound, nor lengthy to be meaningful. Its irresistible joy invites us to experience worship not only as an act of reverence, but also as one of delight.

Why Baptism? Why St. Stephen's? *from the Candidates and their Families*

I wasn't raised going to church, nor was there an expectation upon me to connect with or learn about any religion in my youth, but I cannot emphasize enough how valuable it has been to explore Christianity on my own terms. When my sister invited me to attend a Sunday service here, I expected to feel apprehensive, as it was my first time in an active church, yet it could not have felt more right. Coming to St. Stephen's every Sunday is not only a family and community gathering, but it is the peaceful and reassuring start to my week. I was going through a difficult point in my life earlier this year, but had made the conscious decision that regardless of my outlook on the future, I would make the same choices that led me here time and time again. Attending Sunday services and beginning to practice my faith in God almost instantaneously made me feel like an integral part of my life and being was finally moved into place. It has felt as though God had been patiently waiting for me to have faith and receive him, and in return he could begin to show his love for me. Every day my faith grows stronger as I not only feel his presence in my life, but feel the rightness of my place in this church. Mother Whitney has given countless sermons which have spoken to me on such a personal level, I know that they can be no coincidence, which has only reaffirmed my belief that I am right where I am supposed to be. I am so grateful to be able to choose baptism for myself today because it feels as though my life has always been leading up to this point, and it was merely a matter of time until I found myself here, today. By accepting God into my life, I can only pray that he will guide me to see and experience all the beauty this gift of life has to offer, because if the past few years have taught me anything, it's that God always has a plan. —Leah

We are choosing baptism because we believe in the sacredness of ritual. To me, personally, baptism is a welcome party from Jesus to my child. It is Christ's love and Christ's joy through the gentle arms of the church community saying, "Welcome, little one. We will be here to guide your sweet soul." There is also something mystical in the performance of the baptism ritual that always brings tears to my eyes, whether it be taking place for my children or the children of others. When I see Mother Whitney placing her hands upon these little ones and saying a prayer, something in me is so deeply moved. It feels like accessing something briefly divine amongst the sea of ordinary day-to-day mundane things. A cloudburst of magic. It feels like God's love is being summoned to protect and guide the child and is being worked through her hands. I think baptism is so beautiful and important, and I want my children to know that it was important to us to have them at the center of this unique moment of love. —The Marshall Family

Laura Kent and Joe Dowdell are so excited for the baptism of their daughter, Eliza, at St. Stephen's. Laura grew up attending St. Stephen's, and being part of the community was a huge part of her childhood and adolescence—from the nursery school to Sunday School to Christmas pageants to Vacation Bible School to choir to Confirmation (and more), there are not many church activities she did not participate in. Joe did not grow up in Ridgefield but also has fond memories of participating in his own faith communities in Texas and Minnesota. Laura and Joe want Eliza to have these same opportunities, and they know that St. Stephen's is a warm, welcoming, and nurturing environment for learning both about faith and what it means to be a community member. Laura and Joe feel privileged and grateful to the congregation of St. Stephen's for welcoming them and Eliza! —The Kent-Dowdell Family