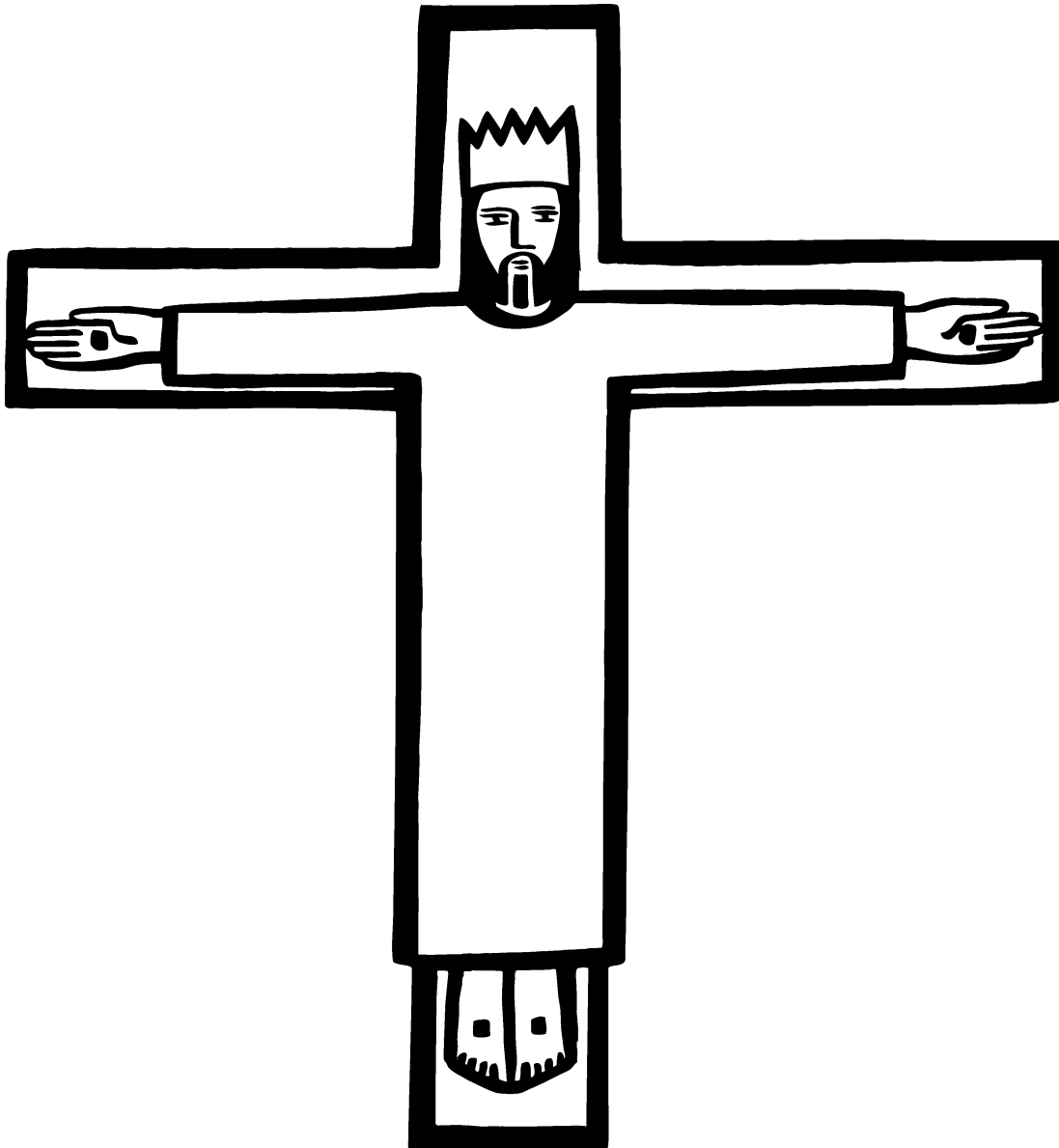


St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Christ the King
Last Sunday after Pentecost
November 23, 2025



*"Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom."
⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."
Luke 23:42-43*

We serve God through caring and compassionate service.

The Service

*The Congregation shall stand

The Prelude

*The Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness

L: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

L: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit, God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.
C: Amen.

***The Gathering Hymn “Crown Him With Many Crowns”**

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts 1-3,5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st 4
Music: George J Elvey, 1816-1893

DIADEMATA

- 1. Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav’nly anthem drowns all music by its
own. Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for
thee, and hail him as thy matchless king through all
eternity.**
- 2. Crown him the virgin’s Son, the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won which now his
brow adorn; fruit of the mystic rose, yet of that rose
the stem, the root whence mercy ever flows, the babe
of Bethlehem.**
- 3. Crown him the Lord of love—behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified. No
angels in the sky can fully bear that sight, but down-
ward bend their burning eyes at mysteries so bright.**
- 4. Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o’er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to
save. His glories now we sing, who died and rose on
high, who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that
death may die.**
- 5. Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime. All
hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me; thy
praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.**

***The Greeting**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***The Kyrie**

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord

C: Amen.

***The Hymn of Praise**

L. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

C: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Prayer of the Day

Peg G

L: Let us pray,

C: O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The assembly shall be seated.

The Children's Meditation

The First Reading

Jeremiah 23:1-6(NRSVue)

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. ² Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

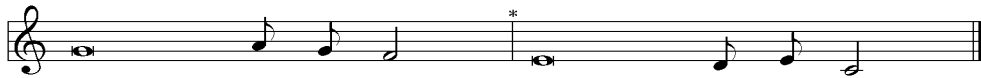
⁵ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46

intoned responsively



- ¹ God is our ref- | uge and strength,*
a very present | help in trouble.
- ² **Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,*
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the
sea;**
- ³ though its waters | rage and foam,*
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
- ⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of
God,*
the holy habitation of | the Most High.**
- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;*
God shall help it at the | break of day.
- ⁶ **The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;*
God speaks, and the earth | melts away.**
- ⁷ The Lord of | hosts is with us;*
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
- ⁸ **Come now, regard the works | of the Lord,*
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;**
- ⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;*
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the |
shields with fire.
- ¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;*
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted |
in the earth.”**
- ¹¹ The Lord of | hosts is with us;*
The God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

The Second Reading

Colossians 1:11-20(NRSVue)

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly shall stand.

*The Gospel Acclamation

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

*The Holy Gospel

Luke 23:33-43(NRSVue)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on

his left. [[³⁴ Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly shall be seated.

The Sermon

Jerry Land

The Hymn of the Day

"Beautiful Savior"

Text: Gesangbuch, Munster, 1677; tr Joseph A Seiss, 1823-1904

SCHONSTER HERR JESU

Music: Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

- 1. Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**
- 2. Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**

- 3. Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.**
- 4. Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forever-more be thine!**

The assembly shall stand.

***The Apostle's 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 into hell,
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**

Peg G

L: Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church in the world, its leaders, and its mission to share the good news of healing and restoration. Inspire us to embody the beloved community in ways that faithfully witness to the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the trembling mountains and glad streams of creation. Preserve and renew your coastlines, deep seas, forests, and grasslands. Guide all who tend flocks or care for creatures of all kinds. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for leaders and advocates in government, civic life, and public safety. Support equity across the globe, and heal division with accountability and truth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for any who are hungry, living in poverty or desperation, weary in body or spirit, or sick especially John's family, Scott's great aunt, Raynaud's family, Shukti's grandson, Joyce, Cathy H, Frank, Wendy, Tori, Yvonne, John, Donna, Peggy H, Tony, Deb, Stephanie, Anita, Michelle, Ann, Genie, Wally, Troy, Anne, Cathy, Chyrstal, Vivian. Comfort all in need of your tender care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this part of the body of Christ gathered around word and sacrament. Bring us into authentic community where all ages are valued and experience God's faithfulness together. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray, Loving God, for the leaders of the church. Guide the synod staff as they select possible candidates for our call process. Give us patience as we await a pastor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Great Provider, help your people in need. We pray for families struggling to provide basic needs, especially those who utilize our

food pantry. Give us the ability to serve others. God of Grace,
receive our prayer.

We give thanks for all who have died in faith. May we remember them faithfully until we are gathered with you in the paradise you promise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

***The Peace of the Lord**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.
The assembly shall be seated.*

The Offering

The assembly shall stand.

The Offertory

C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

***The Offertory Prayer**

L: Let us pray,

God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

***The Sending Hymn "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"**

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726-1792, sts 1-4; J Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, sts 5-6
Music: Oliver Holden, 1765-1844

CORONATION

- 1. All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate
fall; bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of
all. Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of
all.**
- 2. O seed of Israel's chosen race now ransomed from the
fall, hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him
Lord of all. Hail him who saves you by his grace and
crown him Lord of all.**
- 3. Hail him, you heirs of David's line, whom David Lord did
call—the God incarnate, man divine—and crown him
Lord of all. The God incarnate, man divine—and crown
him Lord of all.**
- 4. Sinner, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and
the gall, go spread your trophies at his feet and crown
him Lord of all. Go spread your trophies at his feet and
crown him Lord of all.**

- 5. Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe on this terrestrial ball to him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all. To him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.**
- 6. Oh, that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall! We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all. We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.**

The candles are extinguished.

The assembly shall be seated

The Announcements

The Assembly shall stand.

***The Benediction and Meal Blessing**

L: The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you,
God the Son save you,
and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.

The Holy Trinity bless you +
and grant you a faithful and courageous heart
now and forever.

C: Amen.

L: Go in peace. Share the harvest, serve others with care and compassion.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Postlude

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November 23, 2025

Welcome to St. Stephen's! We are glad you have joined us for worship. **In case of emergency ministerial care, please contact Tom Stempson, Phone #317-374-8708, email: stempson@att.net.** We have been blessed to worship alongside you and hope to see you again soon!

This morning we welcome Tom Stempson presiding and Jerry Land giving the sermon. Thank you for sharing your time and talents with us.

Please have all announcements for the bulletin to Peg Graham by 5:00 pm on Thursday before worship on Sunday. Thank you. Email - peglgra@att.net; cell phone - 317-796-0424.

Prayer Requests...

Kay W – stepdaughter Joyce, ICU, Methodist Hosp.

Member of the Sewing Group – Cathy H, entering hospice.

Genie & Wally R – brother Frank, surgery; Genie, recovering; Wally, back pain.

John C and family – mother Shirley, called to the Church Triumphant.

Shukti S – grandson.

Wendy B – gainful employment.

Pastor Bob & Sally –Yvonne, broken ribs & hip.

Jim B – wife Donna, recovering from a liver transplant.

Tom & Shirley – Doug, terminal cancer; John; Peggy H, brain tumor.

Raynaud C – family in Haiti.

Jim & Dena T – Leroy, health.

Dave & Beth – Troy, broken back.

Lois B – son John, Ohio, recovery from hip surgery.

Scott C – great aunt, broken hip.

Tony – relief from pain and healing.

Patti W – sister Deb diagnosed with PSP.

Tori A – coworker Bill passed away; recovery surgery; Stephanie, heart surgery; Michelle, infection.

Holly E –Anita, bone cancer; Anne, kidney transplant; Deb, lung cancer.

Phyllis H – daughter Cathy, granddaughter Chrystal.

Izzy L – friend, Vivian, health.

The Sympathy of the Congregation is extended to John, Joseph Coy and family at the passing of John's mother, Shirley Overton, on October 31, 2025. Shirley was called home to her Lord surrounded by her family. Services were held at Plainfield United Methodist Church.

Up-coming Events:

Wed, Nov 26	9:00 am Pins & Needles Sewing
Thus, Nov 27	HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
Sun, Nov 30	Hanging of the Greens during Worship
Sat, Dec 13	9:00 – 12:00 NOON Santa Shop
Sun, Dec 14	Christmas Dinner after worship

We will have poinsettias to adorn the Chancel this Christmas Eve. If you would like to purchase one, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. Last day to purchase is Dec. 14.

Sunday, November 30 at 10:00 am will be the Hanging of the Greens, an Advent themed worship service and decorating of the sanctuary.

The Santa Shop this year will take place on Saturday, December 13 from 9 am to noon.

We need volunteers-- a sign up sheet is in the Narthex. New gifts or financial donations are welcome. We need nativity scenes for the sanctuary. Please see Trudy Land if you have one to display.

On Sunday, Dec. 14, there will be a catered Christmas Dinner sponsored by Ruth Circle.

A free-will offering will be taken. Please sign up!

We will have First Communion classes for those who are ready. Class will be held on 12.14.25 after the holiday meal.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14 - There are children activity bags in a basket in the Narthex for children, of various ages, to use during church. The children's bulletin follows the Lectionary for each week and the children can take it home. At the end of the service, please return the bags to the basket.

Volunteers are always needed to make our services a fellowship of community. Please take time to check the sign-up sheet posted on the black bulletin board for opportunities to serve. **Volunteers are needed to help with Fellowship.** If you can supply the food and snacks on a Sunday, please sign up on the list in the Fellowship Hall. Monetary donations are welcome, too. If you have questions, please see Gloria Kocher.

Current giving income received in the month of October was \$15,175.78. Amount needed each month per 2025 budget is \$9,083.00. If you'd like to make your offering online so you don't have to deal with checks and envelopes, go to ststephensplainfield.org and click on the Online Offering tab. Thank you.



Please fill out the yellow cards and place them in the offering plate. The cards allow us to track attendance and follow up with visitors. For members, your name and date, along with any prayer requests will suffice. For visitors, please provide your contact information so we can send you a follow-up email or text.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY: Next month our pantry is **Saturday, December 27**. Pantry set-up will be **Friday, December 26**. We know it's a lot to ask, but please consider giving some time to this important mission. Remember us when you shop or during your regular giving. We've been so successful with this mission only because of your loyalty. God Bless.

Preparing for Next Week: Monday Jeremiah 46:18-28 **Tuesday** Revelation 22:8-21 **Wednesday** Psalm 24 **Thursday** James 4:1-10 **Friday** Psalm 122 **Saturday** Genesis 6:11-22 **First Sunday of Advent:** Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 92:12-15; Isaiah 60:1-2, Matthew 24:36-44