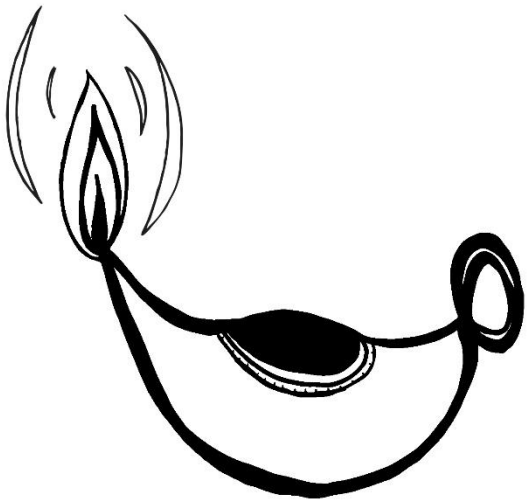
St. Stephens Church
and
Bethany Lutheran Church
Celebrate
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026
11:00 AM



THE Episcopal CHURCH

"All are welcome here"

St. Stephens Episcopal Church
109 S. Barry St. Olean, NY 14760
716-372-5628
e-mail: ststephensolean@gmail.com

"A Reconciling in Christ Congregation"

Bethany Lutheran Church
6 Leo Moss Drive, Olean, NY 14760
716-372-1914
e-mail: **bethany1706@gmail.com**

Prelude
Announcements
Opening Hymn-ELW-893 (Please Stand if you are able)

Before You, Lord, We Bow



Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779–1843, alt.
Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.** ***Amen***

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***

S 280 "Glory to God"





Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen***

(You may be seated)

First Reading: Amos 5:18-24
A Reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord:
Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light;
as if someone fled from a lion,
and was met by a bear;
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,
and was bitten by a snake.
Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 70 (said responsively at the half verse)

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; *
O Lord, make haste to help me.

2 Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dismayed; *
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, *
because they are ashamed.

4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; *
let those who love your salvation say for ever, "Great is the Lord!"

5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; *
come to me speedily, O God.

6 You are my helper and my deliverer; *
O Lord, do not tarry.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.
We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn-ELW-435 *(Please stand if you are able)*

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13 *(Please remain standing if you are able)*

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**
(You may be seated)

Sermon – Rev. Rebecca Harris

The Nicene Creed *(Please stand if you are able)*

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(You may be seated)*

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation. *Brief silence*

You enlighten the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. We pray for those from **St. Stephen's**: Audrey Childs, Nancy Consedine, Amanda Piccirillo, Betty Linderman, Linda Giardini, Gail Olson, Gloria Preston, Dick Mulaski, Ethan Johnson, Steven, Colt Matz, Dave and Donna Briggs, Rev. Max Meyers, Millie Piccirillo, Martha Edwards, Jim and Kathy, Priscilla and Nelson Griffith, Denise, Helen Stritoff, Kienen Duggan, David Styles, Carol Snyder, Don Sosnowski, Dave Dorson, Mary Follett, Wendy Chapman, Robert and Judith Styles and those from **Bethany** Adam, Joanne Hitchcock, Kay Backhus, Kristen Clemens Keenan, Nancy Rebeyro, Ron Aaron, Steve, Louise Koenig, Barb Franklin, Marcia Wray, Merrill & Muriel Frable, Robert Keenan, Dorothy Porter, Sylvia Subject, Gail Cross, Heather Miller, Carl Zimmerman, Louise Koenig, Barb Franklin, Andy Carlson, Heather

Miller, Tim Johnson, Jamie Molyneayx, Frann Wilson, Lynne Smith, Bob Skudlarek and Kevin McClelland and those we name either silently or aloud. Hear us, O God. **hear our prayer.**

You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. ***Amen***

CONFESSION OF SIN
Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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. ***Amen***.

THE PEACE *(Please stand if you are able)*
Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

Celebrant: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

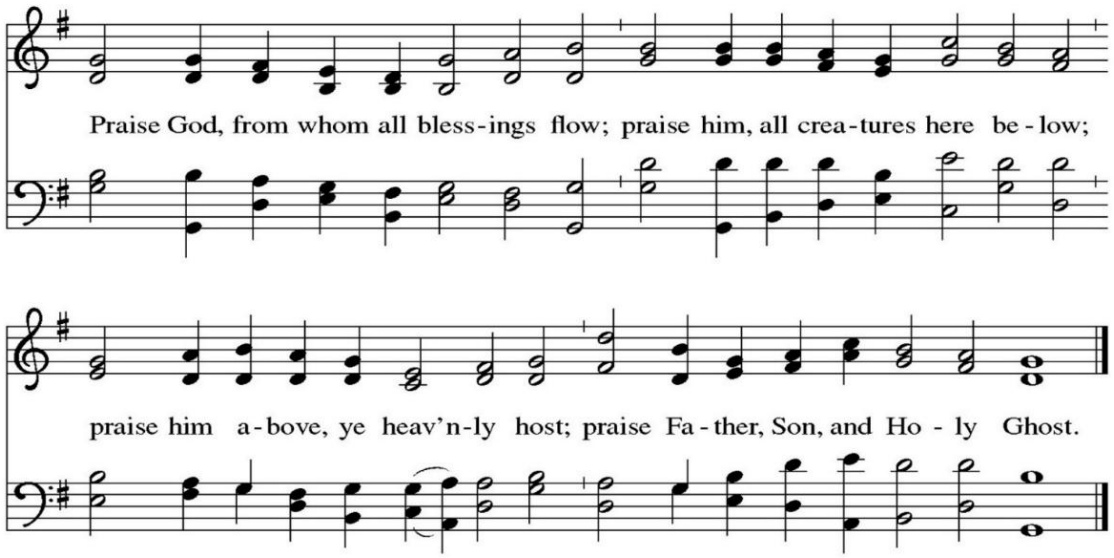
Offertory Hymn 436 – "Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates"



Words: Georg Weissel (1590-1635); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878). Music: *Truro*, melody from *Psalmodia Evangelica, Part II*, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt.

Doxology – Presentation of the Gifts

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

The Canon of the Eucharist

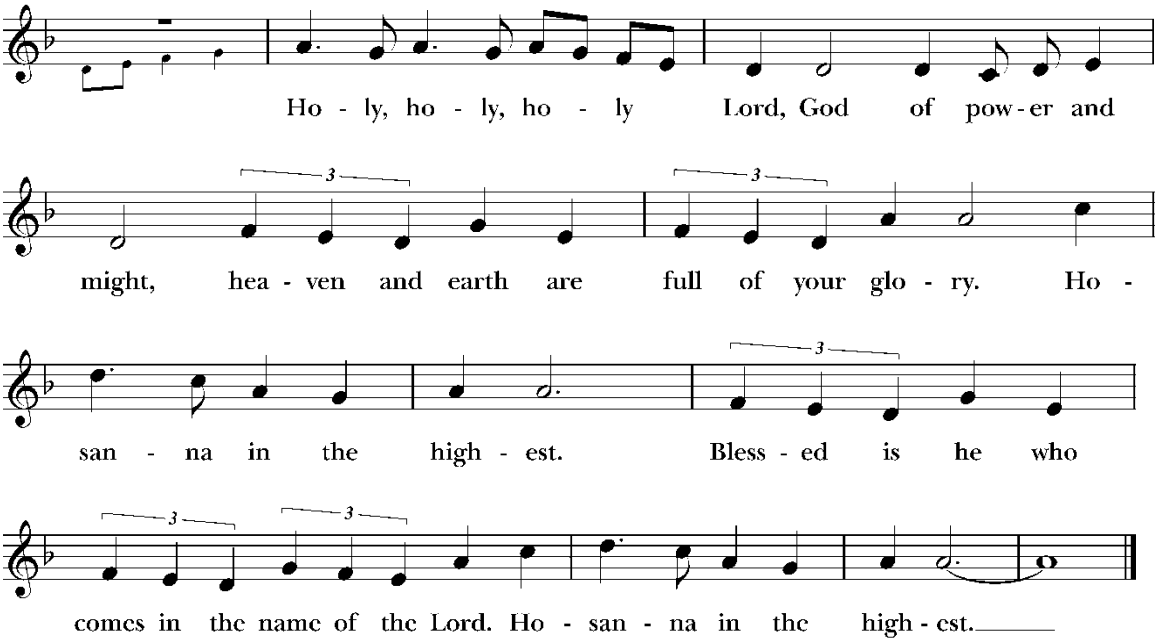
Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
***People*: And also with you.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
***People:* We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
***People:* It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord: *Sanctus* 129



Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

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.

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.

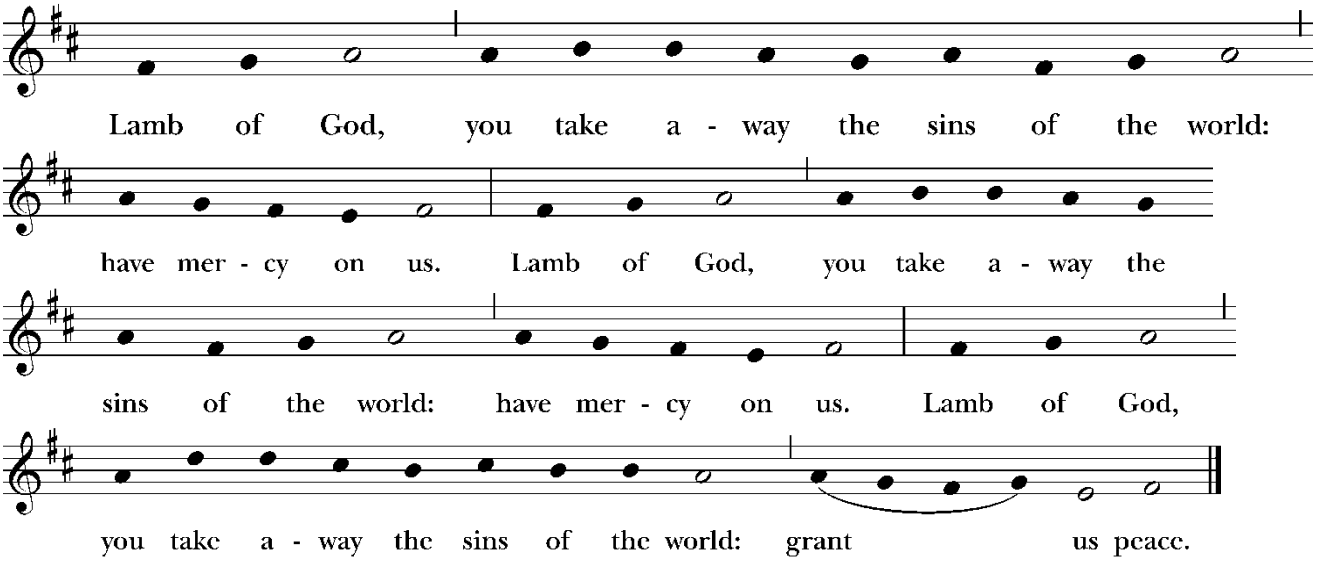
Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your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

THE LORD'S PRAYER -As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now 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,
for ever and ever. Amen

<u>The Breaking of the Bread</u> **"Lamb of God" (HY S-161)**

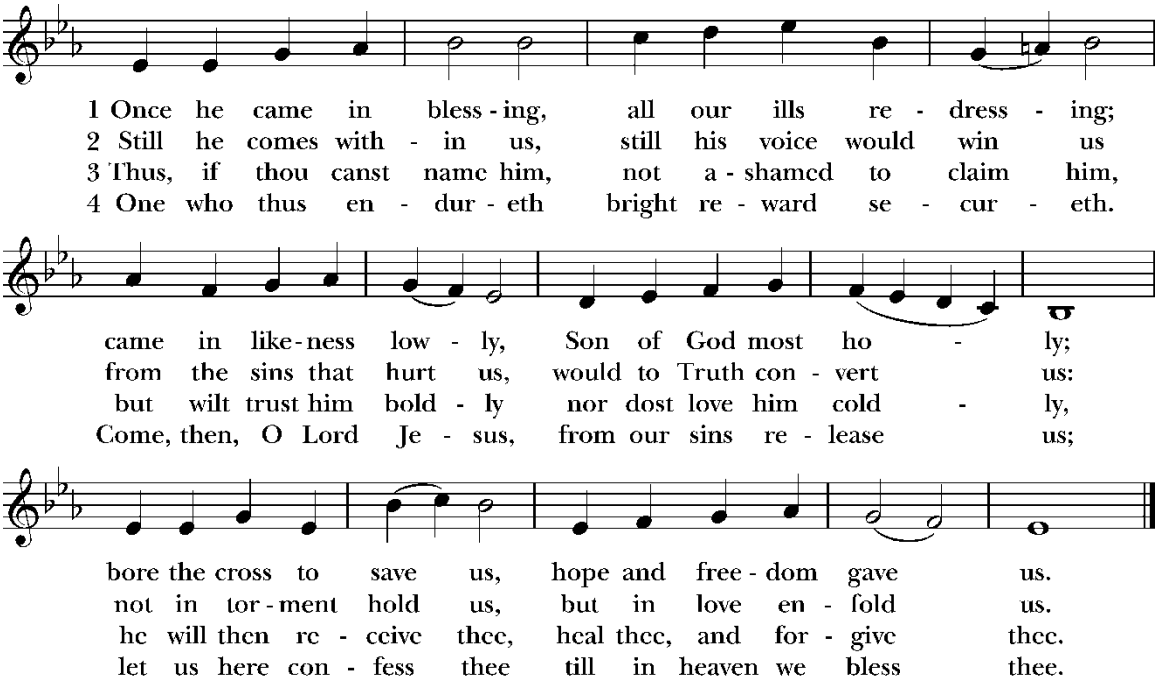


Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Celebrant: The Gift 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.

<u>All persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us.</u> Some people, for various reasons, prefer to receive the Host only and some may wish to come to forward for a blessing. If you wish to receive a blessing, please come forward and cross your hands across your chest.

Communion Hymn-53 *"Once He came in Blessing"*



Words: Jan Roh (1485?-1547); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Gottes Sohn ist kommen*, melody Michael Weisse (d. 1534); harm. Jack W. Burnam (b. 1946).

AFTER-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.
Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Post-Communion Hymn ELW 244

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Serving today:

Celebrant: Rev. Rebecca Harris
Lector: Ann Fox
Intercessor: Melanie Nichols
Eucharistic Ministers: Jeni Olson and Teresa Piccirillo
Organist: Ray Sprout and Jack Bollman

Join us Following Service for Coffee Hour

Upcoming Events:

- ***Service Sunday, November 8th at St. Stephen's at 11 am-PICK UP SUBS SALE***
- ***Pet Food Pantry, November 13th at Bethany Lutheran***
- ***Service Sunday, November 15th at Bethany Lutheran 11 am***
- ***Service Sunday, November 22nd at St. Stephen's Episcopal at 11 am***
- ***Monday, November 23rd Final Day to order Thanksgiving Meal***
- ***COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER, Thursday, November 26th***
- ***Service Sunday, November 29th at Bethany at 11am***

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Olean, New York

****

The Right Reverend Stephen T. Lane
Bishop Provisional of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York
Rector: Vacant

Church Office Phone: 716-372-5628 Church Office Email: ststephensolean@gmail.com
Office Mailing Address: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 446, Olean, NY 14760
Website: www.ststephensolean.net

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Darrin Cowher, Parish Administrator, Jack Bollman, Organist
Robert Styles and Laurie Hobler, Treasurers, Darrin Cowher, Crucifer
Millie Piccirillo, Laurie Hobler, Yvonne Morris and Ann Carleson, Christian Education
Caleb Miller, Financial Clerk

****

The Vestry

Teresa Piccirillo, Sr. Warden 716-597-5406 Mary Plonka, Jr. Warden 716-373-6735
Tyler Cowher, Sue Groves, Millie Piccirillo, Melanie Nichols and Suzanne Soltysik