

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

+ Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 11, 2025



You are welcome here! As a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the ELCA, we believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, shared unconditionally and without regard to race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic or family status, age, physical or mental abilities, outward appearance, or religious affiliation. We seek racial equality and justice. In this way, we live into the truth (Ephesians 2:14)—that Christ breaks down the dividing walls between us and makes us one.

Gathering

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

Prelude

Welcome

Joys & Concerns

**** Thanksgiving for Baptism**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of ☩ the One
who was, who is, and who is to come.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,
and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God,
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that make a people your own,
that restore to wholeness,
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;
waters that extend your boundless love
and cross barriers of our own making.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that open the hearts of believers
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;
waters that set your people on a new path,
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,
that our every day is shaped by these waters
that give us our very lives in you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.
Amen.

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

** Gathering Hymn

O God of Light

ELW 507



1 O God of light, your word, a lamp un - fail - ing,
2 From days of old, through blind and will - ful a - ges,
3 Un - dimmed by time, those words are still re - veal - ing
4 To all the world your sum - mons you are send - ing,



shall pierce the dark - ness of our earth - bound way
though we re - belled, you gent - ly sought a - gain,
to sin - ful hearts your jus - tice and your grace;
through all the earth, to ev - 'ry land and race,



and show your grace, your plan for us un - veil - ing,
and spoke through saints, a - pos - tles, proph - ets, sa - ges,
and quest - ing spir - its, long - ing for your heal - ing,
that myr - iad tongues, in one great an - them blend - ing,



and guide our foot - steps to the per - fect day.
who wrote with ea - ger or re - luc - tant pen.
see your com - pas - sion in the Sav - ior's face.
may praise and cel - e - brate your gift of grace.

Text: Sarah E. Taylor, 1883–1954, alt.

Music: ATKINSON, H. Barrie Cabena, b. 1933

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Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

**** Greeting**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

The grace of our Risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

** Hymn of Praise

Daniel Howe

A - rise and shine for your light has come,
high voices low voices

(All) the glo - ry of the Lord is ri-sen up on you! -
A - rise and shine for
your light has come;

rise your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; show
rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pri - son doors; pro -
rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born; bind
rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song! Rise

forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to day.
claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor. A -
up the bro - ken heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

D.C. al Fine

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

**** Prayer of the Day**

The Risen Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

First Reading

Acts 9:36-43

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²**He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;**

³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴**Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff — they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.**

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

Second Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

** Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Verse

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
4 ia. My word will ne - ver come back to me emp - ty,
7 but will ac - com - plish my will says the Lord - and the word be - came
10 flesh and dwelt a - mong us, Al - le - lu - ia,
13 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

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** Gospel

John 10:22-30

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

** Gospel Acclamation

Please see gospel acclamation above.

Sermon

The Rev. Barbara Melosh

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

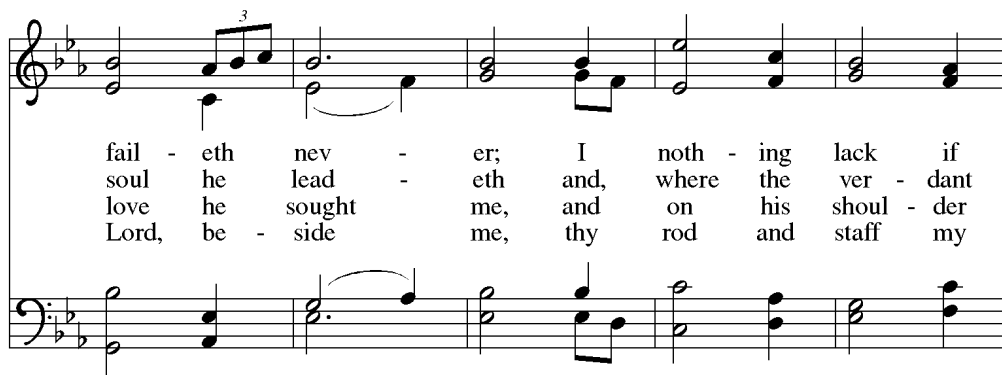
** Hymn of the Day

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

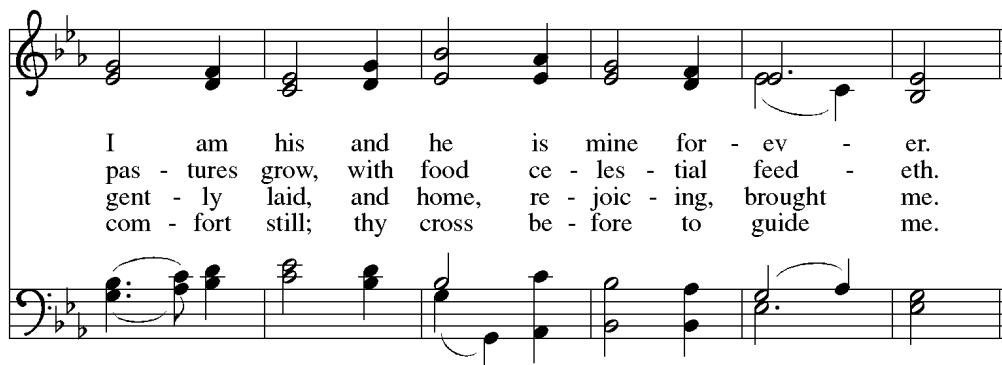
ELW 502



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
 love he sought me, and, on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877
 Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish tune

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

**** Apostles' Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**** Prayers of the People**

Each portion of the prayer ends with:

Response: Hear us, O God, Your mercy is great.

Meal

God feeds us at the table of mercy and grace.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering

Each week we give thanks to God for what God has given us: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. A financial gift to St. Stephen's supports the work of the congregation in our community.

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

** Offering Song

Christ Is Living

ACS 934



1 ¡Cris - to vi - ve, fue - ra el llan - to, los la - men - tos y el pe - sar!
1 Christ is liv - ing! Gone with sor - row! Tears and ter - ror, be no more.
2 For if Christ is not a - ris - en there is noth - ing to be - lieve.
3 Death is swal - lowed up in vic - t'ry; sin has lost its poi - son sting.

Ni la muer - te ni el se - pul - cro lo han po - di - do su - je - tar.
Death and grave, you now are noth - ing; Christ is free of ev - 'ry pow'r.
Je - sus' prom - ise is ac - comp - lished: "Since I live, you too shall live."
Life will blos - som from the grain sown, Christ the first fruits of the spring.

No bus - quéis en - tre los muer - tos al que siem - pre ha de vi - vir.
Why then seek the liv - ing Sav - ior in the haunts of death and fear?
Dust we are, to dust re - turn - ing, but in Christ we are re - stored.
For the sure - ness of sal - va - tion let us sing, "Thanks be to God!"

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.



Text: Nicolás Martínez, 1917–1972; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951
 Music: CENTRAL, Pablo D. Sosa, 1933–2020; arr. Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
 Spanish text © 1962 Blanca Staude de Martínez
 Tune © 1962 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.
 English text and arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

**** Offering Prayer**

Risen One,
 you have gathered us around your table of grace
 along with these gifts we bring.
 Come among us again,
 breathe your life into us,
 and enliven us with this meal,
 that we may live as your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

**** Dialogue**

The Lord be with you.
 Lift up your hearts.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.
We lift them to the Lord.
It is right to give our thanks and
praise.

**** Preface**

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

** Holy, Holy, Holy

Daniel D. Howe

1
Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly,

3
Lord God of pow - er and might,

5
Heav - en and earth are full of your

7
glo - ry, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the

9
high - est. Blest is the one who

11
comes in the name of the Lord! Ho - san - na, Ho -

13
san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na!

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** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

**** Thanksgiving at the Table**

We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

**** Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

**** Invitation to Communion**

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

Lamb of God

Howe/Lipson

high voices Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

low voices Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world.

world. high voices Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

low voices Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world.

All world. Have mer - cy on us, Have mer - cy on us.

low voices Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world.

Have mer - cy on us. high voices Lamb of

low voices Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world.

God, you take a - way the sin of the world. high voices Lamb of

low voices Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world.

God, you take a - way the sin of the world. *All* Grant us peace. A - men.

low voices Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world.

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** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

Communion

Holy Communion is a free gift of God's grace and love. Everyone is welcome to share in this meal. Come forward, take an empty cup, and receive a wafer from the pastor and red wine or amber-colored juice from a communion assistant. If you require GF wafers, please tell the minister. As you return to your seat, place your used cup in the receptacle at the end of the first row of pews. If you wish to receive words of blessing, simply tell the minister.

Communion Hymn

Dona Nobis Pacem

ELW 753

1 *Canon*



Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa-cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

2



Do - na no - bis pa-cem. Do-na no-bis pa - cem.

3



Do - na no - bis pa-cem. Do-na no-bis pa - cem.

Text: Traditional

Music: DONA NOBIS PACEM, traditional

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

**** Communion Blessing**

**** Post Communion Prayer**

Together, let us pray.

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.
Amen.

Announcements

Sending

We are sent into the world to serve.

**** Blessing**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

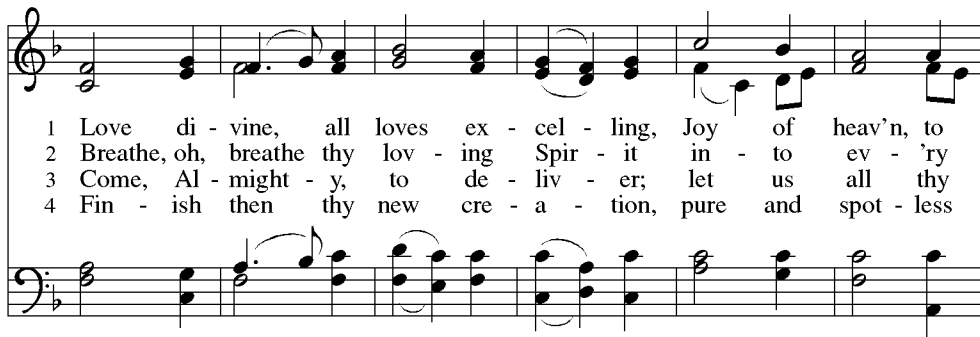
The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.
Amen.

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

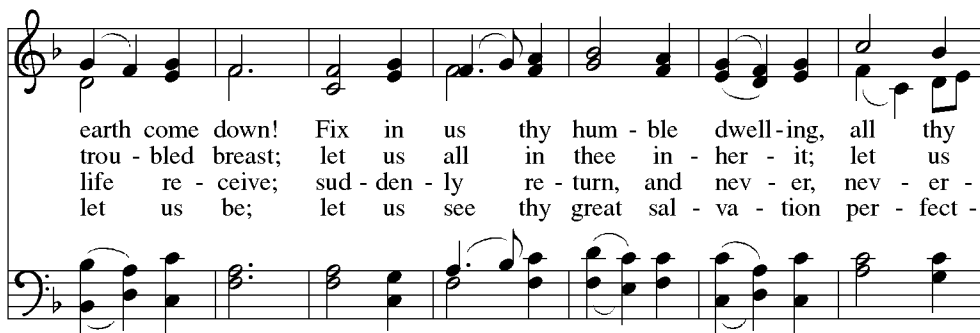
** Sending Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

** Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
 Go in peace.
To Love, To Invite, To Serve.
 Thanks be to God.
 Alleluia!

Postlude

*Chancel flowers are given by Chuck & Carol Landry
 in honor of Kelly & Kathleen's birthdays.*

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister:

The Rev. Barbara Melosh

Music Director:

Dr. Claudio Espejo

Assisting Minister/Lector:

Michele Torchia

Altar Guild:

Karleen Strayer

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

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Text the word "welcome" to 855-965-5200 to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

May God go with you today and every day.

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