

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

+ Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter
April 20, 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: Etude op.25 no.5 in e minor

F. Chopin

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.

** 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.

Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.

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.

** 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 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.

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.

**** Welcome**

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

**** Gathering Hymn**

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

ELW 365

During the hymn, the assembly is sprinkled with water as a remembrance of the gift of baptism.

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

The musical score consists of three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords and moving lines in the right hand. There are some circled notes in the piano part, possibly indicating specific performance techniques or accents.

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

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

**** 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**

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

ELW 367



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
set heart and will on things a - bove that we
and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly

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



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



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

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

** Prayer of the Day

The Risen Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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

Word

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

First Reading

Isaiah 65:17-25

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

²Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

¹⁵**There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:
“The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;**

¹⁶the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.”

¹⁷**I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

¹⁹**Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹**I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.**

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

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

²³**This is the LORD's doing;**
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

**** Gospel Acclamation**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
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**** Gospel**

Luke 24:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.
The Gospel of the Lord.

Glory to you O 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

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

ELW 385

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with

of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:

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

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.
Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615
Text © 1952, ren. 1980 *Hymns Ancient & Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

** Offering Song

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

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

** Offering Prayer

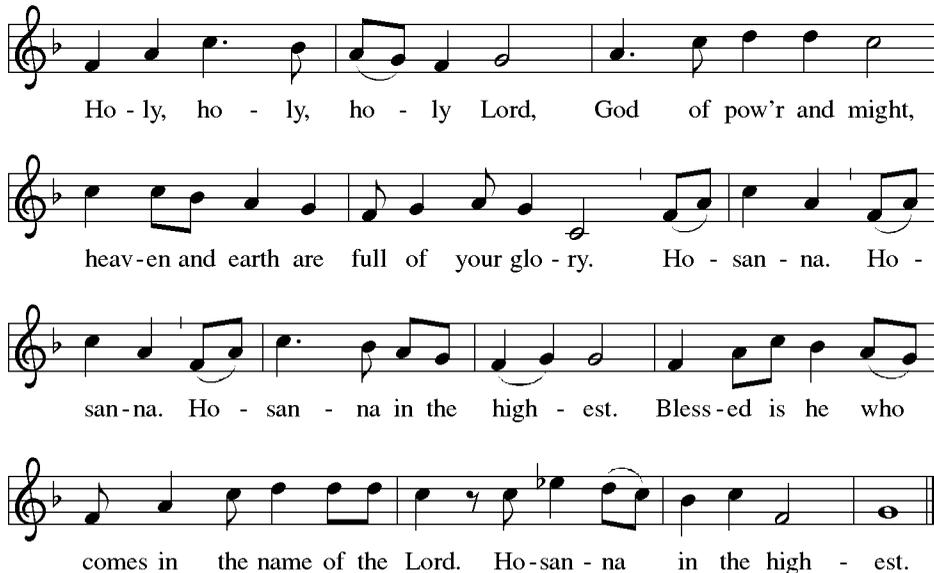
Risen One,
you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

** Dialogue

| | |
|---|---|
| The Lord be with you. | And also with you. |
| Lift up your hearts. | We lift them to the Lord. |
| Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. | It is right to give our thanks and praise. |

** Preface

** Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

** 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

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 from the table, then kneel or stand along the Communion rail. If you require GF wafers, please tell the minister. Our chalices contain red wine and amber-colored juice. 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

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

ELW 263



| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|-----|------------|-------|-------|-----------|------------|--------|----|
| 1 | At | the | Lamb's | high | feast | we | sing | praise | to |
| 2 | Praise | we | Christ, | whose | love | di - vine | gives | his | |
| 3 | Where | the | pas - chal | blood | | is poured | death's | dread | |
| 4 | Praise | we | Christ, | whose | blood | was shed, | pas - chal | | |

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



our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty victim from the sky,
hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie;
you have conquered in the fight,
you have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,
now no more the grave enthrall;
you have opened paradise,
and your saints in you shall rise.
Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
newborn souls in you to be.
Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, your name we praise.
Alleluia!

Text: Latin hymn, 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–1868, alt.
Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, *Kirchengeseng*, 1566

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

Communion Hymn

Christ Has Risen, Alleluia

ELW 364

M - fu - ra - hi - ni, ha - le - lu - ya,
1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.
2 For three long days the grave did its worst
3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear.

m - ko - mbo - zi a - me - fu - fu - ka,
Re - jice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.
un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.
You look for Je - sus who is not here.

A - me - fu - fu - ka, ha - le - lu - ya,
For our re - deem - er burst from the tomb,
He who gives life did death un - der - go,
See for your - selves the tomb is all bare.

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

m - si - fu - ni sa - sa yu ha - i.
 e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
 and in its con - quest his might did show.
 On - ly the grave - clothes are ly - ing there.”

Refrain

Tu - mwi - mbi - e so - te kwa fu - ra - ha.
 Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.

Ye - su a - me - to - ka ka - bu - ri - ni.
 Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.

Ka - shi - nda ki - fo, ha - le - lu - ya;
 Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

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

ha - le - lu - ya, Ye - su - yu ha - i.
Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

- 4 “Go spread the news: he’s not in the grave. He has arisen this world to save. Jesus’ redeeming labors are done. Even the battle with sin is won.” *Refrain*
- 5 Christ has arisen to set us free. Alleluia, to him praises be. Jesus is living! Let us all sing; he reigns triumphant, heavenly king. *Refrain*

Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922
 Music: Tanzanian traditional
 Swahili text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress; English text © 1977 Howard S. Olson, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

** 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

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

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**

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

ELW 382

1 Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!
2 Christ is ris - en! All the sad - ness of our Lent - en fast is o'er;
3 Christ is ris - en! All the sor - row that last eve - ning round him lay
4 Christ is ris - en! Hence - forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.

Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!
through the o - pen gates of glad - ness he re - turns to life once more;
now has found a glo - rious mor - row in the ris - ing of to - day.
We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri - umphed o - ver all.

Grate - ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;
death and hell be - fore him bend - ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,
See the grave its first - fruits giv - ing, spring - ing up from ho - ly ground;
All the doubt - ing and de - jec - tion of our trem - bling hearts have ceased;

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

bow - ing down in joy be - fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.
 an - gels on his steps at - tend - ing, glo - ry round his wound - ed brow.
 Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.
 hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

Refrain

Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!

Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.
 Music: MORGENLIED, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

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

**** 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: "Spiegel im Spiegel"

A. Pärt

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

Easter Flower Dedications

Michael Farthing and Todd Gockley: To the Glory of God

John Gordon: In honor of Judith Pacileo, Linda Gordon and Doris Stack and in memory of James Pacileo, Fred Gordon and Wallace Stack

Jerome O. & Mary Ann Herlihy: In memory of Thomas & Pearl Herlihy

Chuck & Carol Landry: In honor of family and loved ones

Ingrid LaPorte: In memory of Emmy Munson and Matilda LaPorte

Bob & Sue Linderman: In memory of of our parents, John & Janet Rowell, Martha & Robert Adams and Randolph Linderman and in memory of Sue's late husband, Charles Krick and Bob's late wife, Ann Linderman

John Rodammer: To the Glory of God

Bill & Betty Sperati: In honor of our children Jacob (Christa), Joshua (Gloriana) and Becky Sperati; Our grandchildren Aurora, Lydia, Roland and Lillith Sperati and Douglas, Francis and Athena; our St. Stephen's staff. In memory of our parents Horace & Betty Short and Carleton & Eloise Sperati and and sister Mary Ellen Short

The Strayer family: In memory of Delores & Edsel Carlson, Gerald Strayer and Shirleen Hoffman

Karen, Joy and Kathy Weber: in memory of Al Weber

Karen Weber: In memory of Elaine Jackson, Marge Griffith, and Mary Snyder, Karen's sisters

Participants in Today's Service

Presiding Minister:

The Rev. Barbara Melosh

Music Director:

Dr. Claudio Espejo

Assisting Minister/Lector:

Michael Farthing

Altar Guild:

Sally Dudderar, Carol Landry, Karleen Strayer, Michele Torchia

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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