

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

+ Third Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2026



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**

**** 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!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb! **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.

Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

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

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever. **Amen.**

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

**** Gathering Hymn**

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen

ELW 377



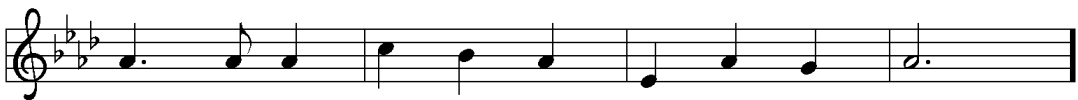
1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent;
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

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

Refrain

Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.

Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
 Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987
 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
 Music © 1969 *Contemporary Worship 1*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**** 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.**

Have mer - cy on us Lord, and hear our sol - emn

6
prayer We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair... Have

11
mer - cy on us Lord, and wash a - way our sin... Pour out your grace and

16
make us whole that new life may be - gin... Have mer - cy on us Lord, make

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

21

sin and shame de - part. Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r, cre -

25

- ate in us new hearts.

**** Hymn of Praise**

Dr. Claudio Espejo

Glo - ry be to God in hea - ven; and
 Glo - ry be to Christ for - e - ver, the
 Ho - ly One we now a - dclaim you; Oh,
 peace, good - will to all the earth. Migh - ty God of
 Lamb of God and Lord of love. Son of God and
 Lord a - lone, to you we call; Ho - ly One in

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

all gra - - - cious Sa - - - vior, and Fa - ther of sur -
 faith we name you, to God who've come from most high, yet

-pa - ssing worth - we ex - alt you,
 heav'n a - bove; - On the cross you,
 near to all: - Je - sus Christ, with

we a - dore you we lift high our thanks and praise
 died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
 God the Spi - rit, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.

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

19

Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; and here on earth our
Hear our prayer; res - tore, for - give us; it's in your pro - mise
For the peace that we in - he - rit, the glo - ry be to

23

song we raise.
that we stand.
God on high!

**** Prayer of the Day**

The Risen Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, 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

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalm

Psalm 34:1-10

- ¹ **I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.**
- ² **My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.**
- ³ O magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
- ⁴ **I sought the LORD, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.**
- ⁵ Look to him, and be radiant,
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
- ⁶ **This poor soul cried and was heard by the LORD
and was saved from every trouble.**
- ⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him and delivers them.
- ⁸ **O taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.**
- ⁹ O fear the LORD, you his holy ones,
for those who fear him have no want.
- ¹⁰ **The young lions suffer want and hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.**

Second Reading

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

1 Peter 1:17-23

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

**** Gospel Acclamation**

Dr. Claudio Espejo

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of four systems of music. The first system (measures 1-4) has the lyrics: "All - e - lu - ia Lord, to whom shall we go?". The second system (measures 5-7) has the lyrics: "you have the words of e - ter - nal life. A - lle - lu -". The third system (measures 8-10) has the lyrics: "- ia, a - lle - lu - ia a - lle -". The fourth system (measures 11-14) has the lyrics: "- lu - ia, a - lle - lu - ia a - lle - lu - ia". The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature (C). The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and a more melodic treble line.

**** Gospel**

Luke 24:13-35

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. David Mueller

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

**** Hymn of the Day**

Day of Arising

ELW 374



1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way,
2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing,
3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken.
4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney,



un - known com - pan - ion walks with his own.
blind - ed by sad - ness, slow - ness of heart,
This is Christ's prom - ise, this is Christ's sign:
bread of com - pas - sion, o - pen our eyes.



When they in - vite him, as fades the first day,
yet Christ walks with us, ev - er a - wait - ing
when the church gath - ers, when bread is bro - ken,
Grant us your vi - sion, set all hearts burn - ing



and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.
our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.
there Christ is with us in bread and wine.
that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
Music: RAABE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929
Text © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

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

**** Nicene Creed**

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

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



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.

** Offering Prayer

Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus, **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**

Dr. Claudio Espejo

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of po - wer and Might, hea - ven and earth are filled with your Glo - ry Ho - sa - nna in the high - est Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - sa - nna". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand. There are some performance markings like 'p' and 'f'.

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord,

5
God of po - wer and Might, hea - ven and earth are filled with your

9
Glo - ry Ho - sa - nna in the high - est

13
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - sa - nna

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

18

Ho - sa - nna Ho - sa - nna in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for piano accompaniment. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The music is in 4/4 time. The first measure of the treble staff has a whole rest, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note chord (F4, A4, C5), a quarter note chord (F4, A4, C5), and a quarter note chord (F4, A4, C5). The bass staff has a whole note chord (F3, A3, C4) with a fermata. The second measure of the treble staff has a whole rest, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note chord (F4, A4, C5), a quarter note chord (F4, A4, C5), a quarter note chord (F4, A4, C5), and a quarter note chord (F4, A4, C5). The bass staff has a whole note chord (F3, A3, C4) with a fermata. The third measure of the treble staff has a whole note chord (F4, A4, C5), a whole note chord (F4, A4, C5), and a whole note chord (F4, A4, C5). The bass staff has a whole note chord (F3, A3, C4). The fourth measure of the treble staff has a whole note chord (F4, A4, C5) and a whole note chord (F4, A4, C5). The bass staff has a whole note chord (F3, A3, C4).

**** Thanksgiving at the Table**

**** 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

Dr. Claudio Espejo

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; Grant us".

7
Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a -

14
- way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of

21
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; Grant us

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

27

peace, Grant us peace

Communion

Holy Communion is a free gift of God's grace and love. Everyone is welcome to share in this meal. If you wish to receive words of blessing, simply tell the minister.

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

Communion Hymn

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

ELW 383



- 1 Christ is ris-en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!
- 2 Christ is ris-en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.
- 3 Christ is ris-en! Earth and heav-en nev - er - more shall be the same.



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.
Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.
Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.
Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.
Tell its grim, de - mon - ic chor - us: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"



Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.
Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na, ev - 'ry - one!

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TURNBULL, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962

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Music © 2006 Thomas Pavlechko, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

** 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.

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Announcements

Sending

We are sent into the world to serve.

**** Blessing**

God Almighty,
who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✚ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

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

**** Sending Hymn**

This Joyful Eastertide

ELW 391

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son
3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the

sor - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has
slum - - ber till trump from east to west shall
riv - - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my

sprung to life this mor - - row.
wake the dead in num - - ber.
pass - ing soul de - liv - - er.

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

Refrain

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our

faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -

ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934
 Music: Dutch folk tune, 17th cent.; arr. hymnal version
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

**** Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
 Go in peace.
 Praise the Lord!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
To Love, To Invite, To Serve.
Alleluia!

Postlude

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

Participants in Today's Service

Presiding Minister:
The Rev. David Mueller

Music Director:
Dr. Claudio Espejo

Assisting Minister/Lector:
Bob Linderman

Altar Guild:
Sally Dudderar

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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