

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 14, 2023 • 9:30 am

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 written in Ephesians (2:14)—that Christ breaks down the dividing walls between us and makes us one.

Masks are not required for those who are fully vaccinated and boosted. If you are wearing a mask, you may lower it to receive communion.

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome

Joys & Concerns

**** Thanksgiving for Baptism**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful...the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.

Empower our witness to your resurrection.

Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need...and the Spirit reigns forever.

Amen.

**** Gathering 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, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

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

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,

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!

**** Greeting**

Arise, shine; for your light has come.
 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 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



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

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



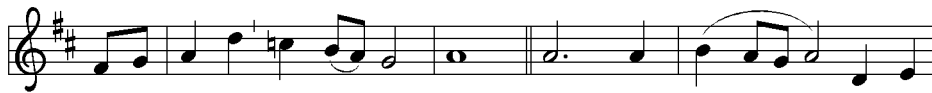
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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

**** Prayer of the Day**

Assisting Minister leads the prayer of the day and the assembly responds: Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

** 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

Acts 17:22-31 (p. 1010-1011)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 66:8-20

⁸Bless our God, you peoples;
let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us into the net;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³**I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows—**

¹⁴those that I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.**

¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;

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

¹⁹but in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22 (p. 1105-1106)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

**** Gospel Acclamation**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**** Gospel**

John 14:15-21 (p. 983)

The Holy Gospel according to John.
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. Mark Walters

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

** Hymn of the Day

Come Down, O Love Divine

ELW 804

1 Come down, O Love di - vine; seek thou this soul of mine
2 Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn
3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,
4 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—
shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear
and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,
no soul can guess Love's grace till it be - come the place

The musical score consists of three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

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

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

**** Apostles' Creed**

Let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess the Holy Trinity, one in essence and undivided.

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.	or	Your mercy is great!
	Bless we the Lord.		Thanks be to God.

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

Meal

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Offering

Each week we give thanks to God for things that God has given us: our selves, our time, and our possessions. A financial donation to the church is never a requirement, but is freely given to support the work of the congregation in the community. For your convenience, St. Stephen's offers the opportunity to give on-line through text message. Type "Funds" to 302-257-6155 to make any donations.

** Offering Song

That Easter Day with Joy was Bright

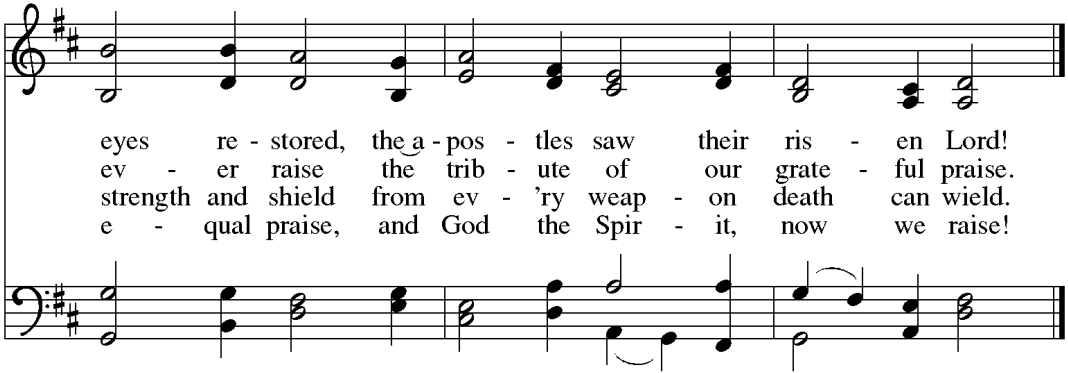
ELW 384

1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the
2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with
3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in
4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to

sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will
this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our
you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has four vocal parts (1-4) and a piano accompaniment. The second system continues the vocal parts and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

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



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!
 ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
 strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.
 e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

**** Offering Prayer**

Assisting Minister leads the offering prayer and the assembly responds: Amen.

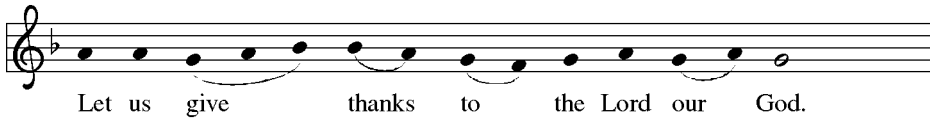
**** Dialogue**



The Lord be with you. **And al - so 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**

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

** 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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of four staves of music in a single system, written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,". The second staff continues with "heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -". The third staff continues with "san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who". The fourth staff concludes with "comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est." The music features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some notes beamed together. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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

**** Thanksgiving at the Table**

You are indeed holy....Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son; his human birth and the covenant he made with us.

We remember the sacrifice of his life; his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death.

But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.

We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Amen.

**** Lord's Prayer**

As we pray the Lord's Prayer together, we invite you to choose which version and language in which to pray. Several versions are printed on the laminated card for you.

Invitation to Communion

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

Lamb of God

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 peace.

Communion

As Lutheran Christians we believe the words of Jesus, "This is my body, this is my blood given for you for the forgiveness of sin." If you desire to receive this gift, you are welcome to commune here. All who do not commune may come for a blessing. The ushers will invite the assembly from the front row to the back row to come to the chancel via the center aisle to receive communion from the pastor. Once you receive your communion, please use the side aisles to return to your pew. Please be sure to discard your cups in the trash bin on your way out of church. Please do not leave used communion cups in the pews or pew racks. If you prefer juice please let the assisting minister know.


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

Communion Hymn


I Received the Living God

ELW 477

Refrain




I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



- 1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;
- 2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
- 3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
- 4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,



Refrain

you who will par - take of me need not ev - er fear to die.
so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.
but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

Communion Blessing

** 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.

**** Post Communion Prayer**

Together, let us pray.

Gracious God,
in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace,
you have nourished our life together.
Strengthen us to show your love
and serve the world in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Announcements

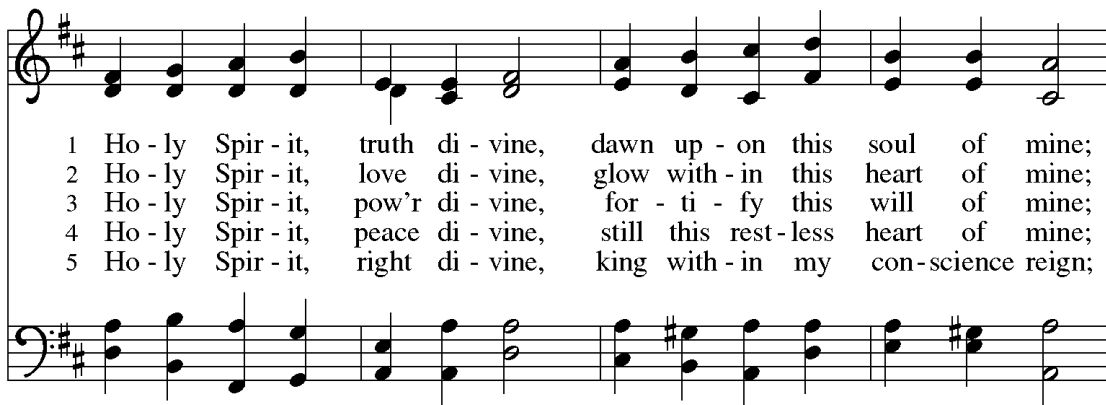
**** Blessing**

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

** Sending Hymn

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

ELW 398



1 Ho - ly Spir - it, truth di - vine, dawn up - on this soul of mine;
2 Ho - ly Spir - it, love di - vine, glow with - in this heart of mine;
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, pow'r di - vine, for - ti - fy this will of mine;
4 Ho - ly Spir - it, peace di - vine, still this rest - less heart of mine;
5 Ho - ly Spir - it, right di - vine, king with - in my con - science reign;



breath of God and in - ward light, wake my spir - it, clear my sight.
kin - dle ev - 'ry high de - sire; purge me with your ho - ly fire.
by your will I strong - ly live, brave - ly bear, and no - bly strive.
speak to calm this toss - ing sea, stayed in your tran - quil - i - ty.
be my guide, and I shall be firm - ly bound, for - ev - er free.

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

**** Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Chancel flowers are given by John Rodammer in memory of his dad's birthday

Enjoy today's service? Visit our Facebook page and invite a friend, comment, or leave a review. Please text the word "welcome" to 855-965-5200 to be added to our email list. May God go with you today and everyday.

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Participants in Today's Service

Pastor:

The Rev. Mark Walters

Music Director:

Claudio Espejo

Assisting Minister/Lector:

Ann Dransfield

Usher:

John Rodammer

Altar Guild:

Carol Landry

Camera:

Michael Lehm

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

Pastor F. Mark Walters(lvtheos@gmail.com 410-739-5365)

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

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Hunter Van Valkenburg
PIANIST

Performing works of:

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Tchaikovsky
Beethoven

Elton John
Queen
Journey

Piano Concert

Sunday, May 21 | 4 pm

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Free to the community
Donations appreciated