

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024

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.

Gathering

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

Prelude: *Sheep May Safely Graze*

Bach/Petri

Welcome

Joys & Concerns

**** Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,...entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John...in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

**** Gathering Hymn**

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing

ELW 531



1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the
3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,
peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;
poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.
the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.

Refrain




Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.

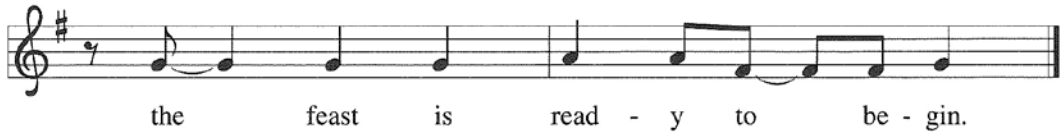
**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.



The feast is read - y to be - gin;



the feast is read - y to be - gin.

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Music: Graham Kendrick

Text and music © 1989 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

THE FEAST IS READY

LM and refrain

**** Greeting**

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.**

** Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



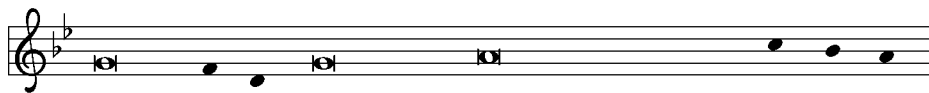
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and

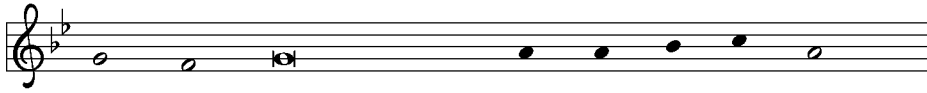
** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

** Hymn of Praise



Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Refrain
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



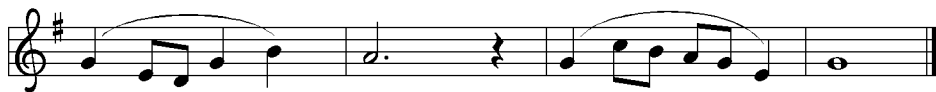
3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



A - men, a - men.

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

**** 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.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

First Reading

Acts 4:5-12

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

1 John 3:16-24


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.



Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

** Gospel

John 10:11-18

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. Susan Loney

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

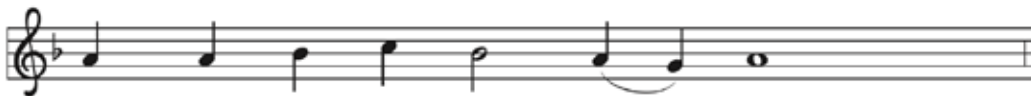
**** Hymn of the Day**

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

ACS 954



1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
stripped of might up - on the cross,
sit in pow - er at God's side,
Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;

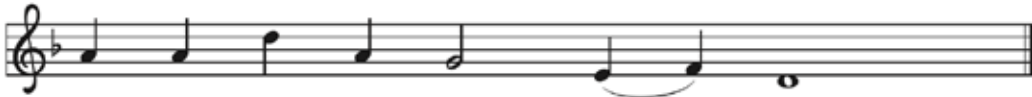


of the way you took and gave.
beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
have a love that reach - es wide.
wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;

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



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
you, who are both gift and cost.
you, who are our pil - grim and guide.
you, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

** 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.

** 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.

** Offering Prayer

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

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

** Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

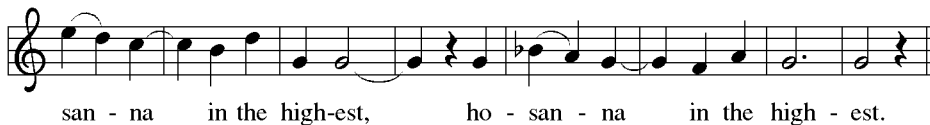
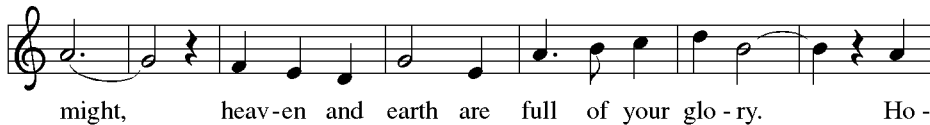
And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and
praise.

** Preface

** Holy, Holy, Holy



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

**** Thanksgiving at the Table**

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed,.... we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your spirit...in your church without end. **Amen.**

**** 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.

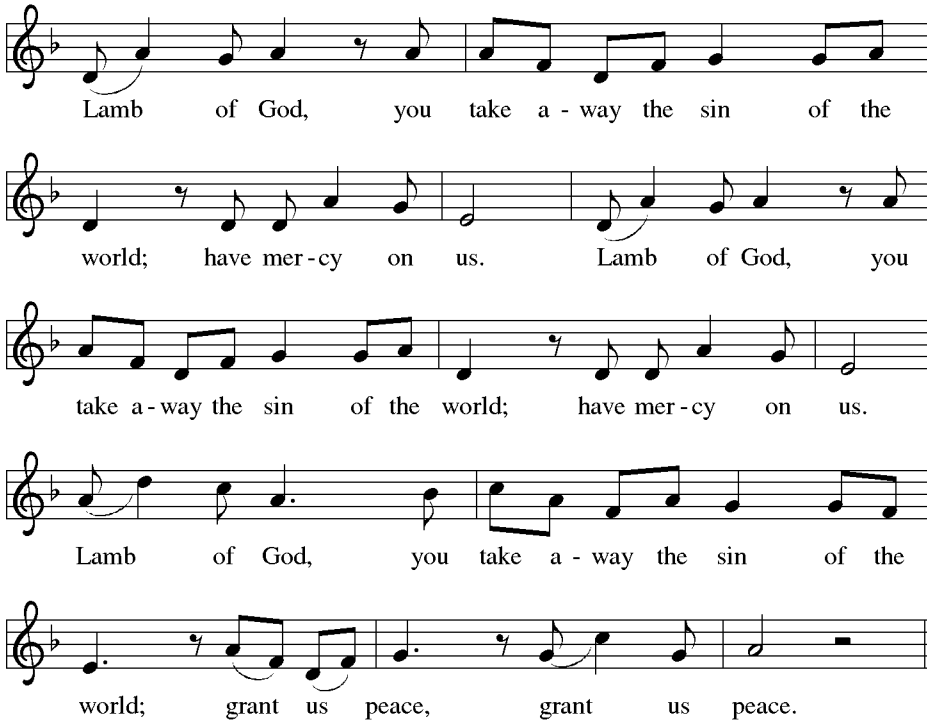
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

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



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, 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, instead of or in addition to the Bread and Cup, simply tell the minister. Wheat and GF wafers are available as are red wine and amber juice.

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

Communion Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

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

The image shows a musical score for two staves, treble and bass clef, in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: sun, O Lord, have mercy on me. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on a whole note chord.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

Communion Blessing

**** Post Communion Prayer**

Together, let us pray.

Shepherding God,
 you have prepared a table before us
 and nourished us with your love.
 Send us forth from this banquet
 to proclaim your goodness
 and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
 our redeemer and friend.
 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

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

** Sending Hymn

Commonwealth Is God's Commandment

ACS 1036

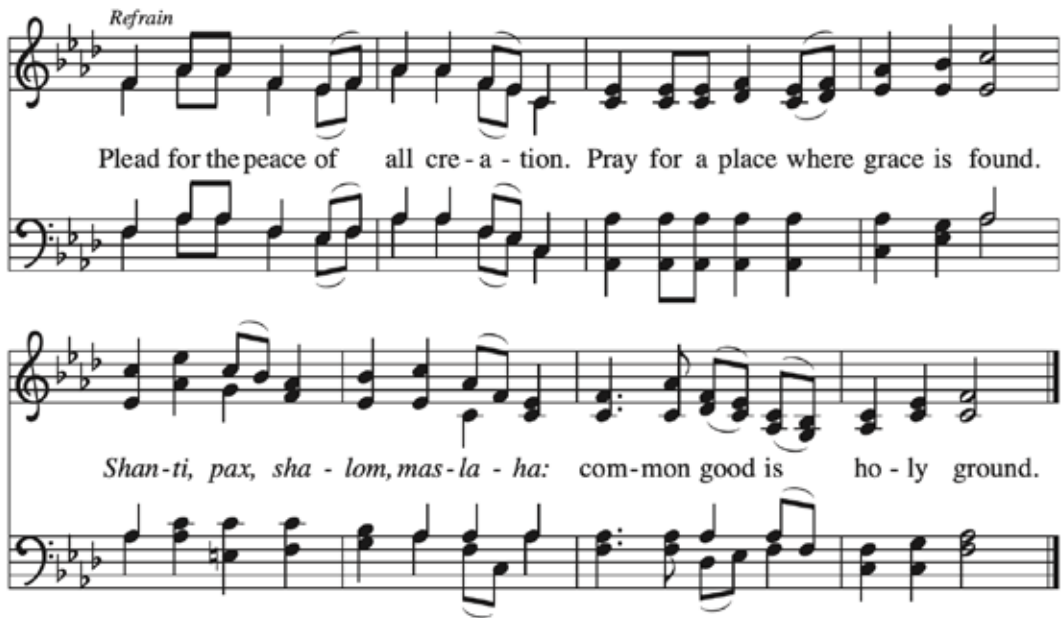
1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
2 Shar-ing lav-ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,

Ta-bles set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.
stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man-y folds.
bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Commonwealth Is God's Commandment'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The first system contains three lines of lyrics, and the second system contains three lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with clear note values and rests.

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

Refrain



Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.

Shan-ti, pax, sha-lom, mas-la-ha: com-mon good is ho-ly ground.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
 Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835
 Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

**** Dismissal**

Go in peace,
 To Love, To Invite, To Serve.

Christ is Risen!
 Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *All Blues*

Miles Davis

*Chancel flowers are given by Bob & Sue Linderman
 in honor of Claudio Espejo & Liz Riedman*

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

Participants in Today's Service

Pastor:

The Rev. Susan Loney
pastor@ststeph.org

Music Director:

Claudio Espejo

Assisting Minister/Lector:

Jared O'Brien

Usher:

John Rodammer

Altar Guild:

Carol Landry

Camera:

John Gordon

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Text the word "welcome" to 855-965-5200 to receive our weekly e-newsletter.
May God go with you today and every day.

Worship elements taken from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS004228.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council
of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress.
Used by permission.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
1301 N Broom St. Wilmington, DE 19806 302-652-7623
www.ststeph.org office@ststeph.org