



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Resurrection of Our Lord
April 9, 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.

Theme

What does it mean for our lives that Jesus has been raised from the dead? Today's Bible readings say: Forgiveness, Hope, and that we are called by name.

Gathering

We gather this morning just as we departed on Good Friday – in silence with the lights dimmed.

** Easter Proclamation

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

The light no darkness can overcome.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

We thank and praise you, O God, now and forever.

Amen.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds. The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

Alleluia! Christ has risen!

Yes! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**** Processional Hymn**

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

ELW 365

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!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system contains four lines of lyrics, and the second system contains four lines. The music is in a 4/4 time signature and features a simple, melodic tune with a steady accompaniment. There are some decorative flourishes in the piano part, such as slurs and ties.

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

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!

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!

**** 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**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

O God, you gave your only Son 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

Acts 10:34-43 (p. 1002-1003)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (p. 554)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."**

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter."

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you 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.

²³By the LORD has this been done;
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

Colossians 3:1-4 (p. 1073)

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 20:1-18 (p. 1049)

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

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

ELW 385

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joyce 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 - joyce 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!

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

**** Prayers of the People**

Each portion of the prayer ends with:

Response: Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer!

or

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great!

or

Bless we the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

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

**** 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

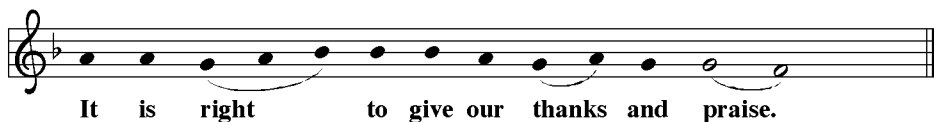
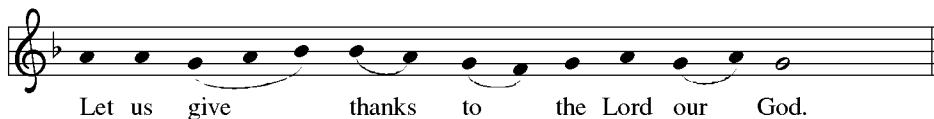
eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!
 ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
 strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.
 e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

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

** Offering Prayer

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

** Dialogue



** Preface

** Holy, Holy, Holy



** 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 you 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**

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 to receive communion from the pastor via the central aisle. 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

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

ELW 362



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



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!

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!

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!

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!

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

Communion Hymn

Awake, My Heart with Gladness

ELW 378



- 1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, see what to - day is done;
- 2 Now hell, its prince, the dev - il, of all their pow'r are shorn;
- 3 This is a sight that glad - dens—what peace it does im - part!
- 4 Now I will cling for - ev - er to Christ, my Sav - ior true;
- 5 Christ brings me to the por - tal that leads to bliss un - told,



now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, comes forth the glo - rious sun.
now I am safe from e - vil, and sin I laugh to scorn.
Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens the joy with - in my heart.
my Lord will leave me nev - er, what - e'er he pass - es through.
where - on this rhyme im - mor - tal is found in script of gold:



My Sav - ior there was laid where our bed must be made
For Christ a - gain is free; in glo - rious vic - to - ry
No gloom shall ev - er shake, no foe shall ev - er take,
He rends death's i - ron chain; he breaks through sin and pain;
“Who there my cross has shared finds here a crown pre - pared;



when, as on wings in flight, we soar to realms of light.
he who is strong to save has tri - umphed o'er the grave.
the hope which God's own Son in love for me has won.
he shat - ters hell's grim thrall; I fol - low him through all.
who there with me has died shall here be glo - ri - fied.”

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.

** Go in Prayer

Together, let us pray.

Mighty and compassionate God,

you have brought us over from death to life through your Son, our risen Savior, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

** Blessing

** Sending Hymn

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

ELW 366

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

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the treble staff. The music is a simple, hymn-like setting with a steady rhythm.

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

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor's
 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Je - sus their le - gions
 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious
 4 Christ closed the yawn - ing gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high
 5 Lord, by the stripes which wound-ed you, from death's sting free your

tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza

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

** 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 Michael Farthing
in honor of his father Mike Farthing'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 Iona Warner

Usher:

John Rodammer

Altar Guild:

Karleen Strayer

Camera:

John Gordon

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

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

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

1301 N Broom St. Wilmington, DE 19806 302-652-7623

www.saintstephenslutheranchurch.org office@ststeph.org

Easter Flower Dedications

Sally & Mark Dudderar: To the Glory of God.

Michael Farthing and Todd Gockley: In honor of Shannon & Gerber de Koker, sister and brother-in-law and in memory of Judy & Robert Brown, grandparents of Michael Farthing and Ruth Ann Gockley, mother of Todd Gockley.

Sue & Gary Gooden: In memory of Betty Gooden and Susie Gooden.

John Gordon: In memory of Fred Gordon, James Pacileo and Wallace Stack.

Carol Landry: In memory of departed loved ones.

John Rodammer: In memory of Leona Rodammer

The Strayer Family: In memory of Edsel & Delores Carlson and Gerald Strayer