St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

+ Second Sunday of Easter April 27, 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: "Come Away to the Skies" Michael Larkin

Welcome

Joys & Concerns

** 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.

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.

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.

^{**} 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 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.

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

Before the Ancient One, Christ Stands



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



Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: CHRIST CHURCH, MINNEAPOLIS, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950

Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress Music © 2008 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress

** Greeting

Allelluia! 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



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

** Prayer of the Day

The Risen Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

First Reading Acts 5:27-32

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 150

¹Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!

²Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

³Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

⁴Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!

⁵Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

⁶Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

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

Revelation 1:4-8

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

** Gospel Acclamation



** Gospel

John 20:19-31

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.

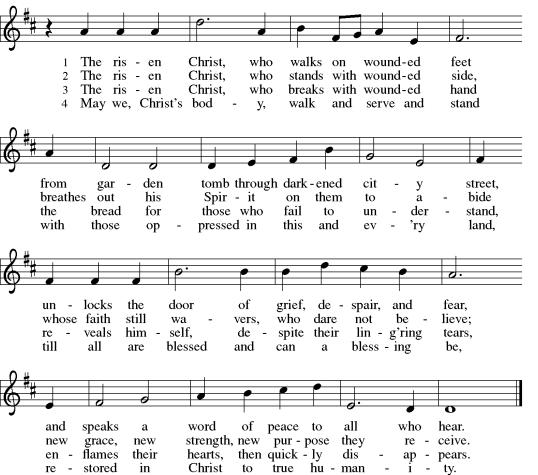
Sermon

The Rev. Barbara Melosh

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

Hymn of the Day





Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952 Music: WOODLANDS, Walter Greatorex, 1877–1949 Text © 1993 Nigel Weaver.

Music @ Oxford University Press. Used by permission.

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

** Apostles' Creed

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

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: God in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Meal

God feeds us at the table of mercy and grace.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

Each week we give thanks to God for what God has given us: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. A financial gift to St. Stephen's supports the work of the congregation in our community.

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

ACS 934



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



Music: CENTRAL, Pablo D. Sosa, 1933-2020; arr. Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950

Spanish text © 1962 Blanca Staude de Martinez

Tune © 1962 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

English text and arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

** 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.

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



^{**} 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

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

Lamb of God



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

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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 receptable at the end of the first row of pews. If you wish to receive words of blessing, simply tell the minister.

Communion Hymn



Do-na

no-bis

pa

cem.

Text: Traditional

Do - na

Music: DONA NOBIS PACEM, traditional

no - bis

pa-cem.

^{**} 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.

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

Sending

We are sent into the world to serve.

** Blessing

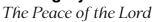
Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.

ELW 646





Text: Anders Ruuth; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923

Music: LA PAZ DEL SEÑOR, Anders Ruuth

Spanish text and tune @ Anders Ruuth, admin. Augsburg Fortress. English text @ Lutheran World Federation.

^{**} 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: "I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

David Cherwien

Chancel flowers are given by the Strayer family to the Glory of God.

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

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister:

The Rev. Barbara Melosh

Guest Musician:

Steve Schmidt

Assisting Minister/Lector:

Bob Linderman

Altar Guild:

Michele Torchia

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.

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