

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.**

** Gathering Hymn

Before the Ancient One, Christ Stands

ACS 953



1 Be - fore the An-cient One, Christ stands, en - robed in cloud and
2 Who was, who is, and is to come as ser - vant lived in
3 Now in the lat - ter days you call, O Christ, and plead the



bright as snow, five wounds im - print his side, feet, hands, and
hu - man sphere; com - pas - sion was his di - a - dem; his
prem - ise clear, that pow - er grasped is none at all, and



thorns, the gar - land on his brow. Yet thrones and
glo - ry was the gen - tle tear; hu - mil - i -
serv - ing shows your Spir - it near. As na - tions



pow'rs fall to the knee and weave a song of maj - es - ty,
ty, his pur - ple garb; the heal - ing hand, his roy - al orb.
clash and wis - dom wanes, as glo - ries tempt and greed sus - tains,



for what the world ad - mires as gain is not the es - sence
Such love drew ire and ire drew death, but God has proved the
you bid us choose in ev - 'ry hour the pow'r of love, the



of Christ's reign, and strength is his, and name and
tru - er strength, and through all space the host pro -
great - est pow'r, that love may her - ald God's do -

** 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**

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.**

** Hymn of Praise

Daniel Howe

A - rise and shine for your light has come,

high voices

low voices

A - rise and shine for

(All) the glo - ry of the Lord is ri-sen up on you! -

your light has come;

FINE

rise your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; show

rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pri - son doors; pro -

rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born; bind

rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song! Rise

forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to day.

claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor. A -

up the bro - ken heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.

up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

To the beginning

D.C. al Fine

** 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

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.**

Second Reading

Revelation 1:4-8

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

** Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Verse

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,

4 ia. My word will ne - ver come back to me emp - ty,

7 but will ac - com - plish my will says the Lord - and the word be - came

10 flesh and dwelt a - mong us, Al - le - lu - ia,

13 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

© 1995 by Howell Lipson

** Gospel

John 20:19-31

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. Barbara Melosh

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

** Hymn of the Day

The Risen Christ

ELW 390



1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound-ed feet
 2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound-ed side,
 3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound-ed hand
 4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and stand



from gar - den tomb through dark - ened cit - y street,
 breathes out his Spir - it on them to a - bide
 the bread for those who fail to un - der - stand,
 with those op - pressed in this and ev - 'ry land,



un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear,
 whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve;
 re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - g'ring tears,
 till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be,



and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
 new grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.
 en - flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.
 re - stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

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,
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.**

** Offering Song

Christ Is Living

ACS 934

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp). It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are in Spanish, English, and Spanish again. The first system has three verses of English lyrics. The second system has two verses of English lyrics. The third system has one verse of English lyrics. The piano accompaniment is simple, using chords and moving lines to support the vocal melody.

1 ¡Cris - to vi - ve, fue - ra el llan - to, los la - men - tos y el pe - sar!
1 Christ is liv - ing! Gone with sor - row! Tears and ter - ror, be no more.
2 For if Christ is not a - ris - en there is noth - ing to be - lieve.
3 Death is swal - lowed up in vic - t'ry; sin has lost its poi - son sting.

Ni la muer - te ni el se - pul - cro lo han po - di - do su - je - tar.
Death and grave, you now are noth - ing; Christ is free of ev - 'ry pow'r.
Je - sus' prom - ise is ac - comp - lished: "Since I live, you too shall live."
Life will blos - som from the grain sown, Christ the first fruits of the spring.

No bus - quéis en - tre los muer - tos al que siem - pre ha de vi - vir.
Why then seek the liv - ing Sav - ior in the haunts of death and fear?
Dust we are, to dust re - turn - ing, but in Christ we are re - stored.
For the sure - ness of sal - va - tion let us sing, "Thanks be to God!"

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



Text: Nicolás Martínez, 1917–1972; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951
 Music: CENTRAL, Pablo D. Sosa, 1933–2020; arr. Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
 Spanish text © 1962 Blanca Staude de Martínez
 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

Daniel D. Howe

1
Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly,

3
Lord God of pow - er and might,

5
Heav - en and earth are full of your

7
glo - ry, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the

9
high - est. Blest is the one who

11
comes in the name of the Lord! Ho - san - na, Ho -

13
san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na!

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** 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

Howe/Lipson

high voices Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

low voices Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world.

world. high voices Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

low voices Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world.

All world. Have mer - cy on us, Have mer - cy on us.

Have mer - cy on us. high voices Lamb of

low voices Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world.

God, you take a - way the sin of the world. high voices Lamb of

low voices Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world.

God, you take a - way the sin of the world. *All* Grant us peace. A - men.

© 1995 by Howe/Lipson

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

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

Communion Hymn

Dona Nobis Pacem

ELW 753

1 *Canon*



Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa-cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

2



Do - na no - bis pa-cem. Do-na no-bis pa - cem.

3



Do - na no - bis pa-cem. Do-na no-bis pa - cem.

Text: Traditional
Music: DONA NOBIS PACEM, traditional

** 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.**

** Sending Hymn

The Peace of the Lord

ELW 646



1 *La paz del Se - ñor, la paz del Se - ñor, la*
 1 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the
 2 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the
 3 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the



paz del Re - su - ci - ta - do: la paz del Se -
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the



ñor a ti y_a mí, a to - dos al - can - za -
 Lord is for you and for me, and al - so for all of God's
 Lord is a - mong us right now, so o - pen your - selves to re -
 Lord kept with - in can - not live, so o - pen your - selves now to



rá; la paz del Se - ñor a ti y_a
 chil - dren. The peace of the Lord is for you and for
 ceive it. The peace of the Lord is a - mong us right
 share it. The peace of the Lord kept with - in can - not



mí, a to - dos al - can - za - rá.
 me, and al - so for all of God's chil - dren.
 now, so o - pen your - selves to re - ceive it.
 live, so o - pen your - selves now to share it.

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

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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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