



# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

## HOLY COMMUNION

Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 7, 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.**

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

## \*\* Gathering Hymn

*At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing (verses 1-4)*

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!

## \*\* 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.

*Refrain*



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.

*Final refrain*



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 7:55-60 (p. 999)

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm**

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;  
deliver me in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup>**Incline your ear to me;  
make haste to deliver me.**

<sup>3</sup>Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;  
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup>**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,  
for you are my tower of strength.**

<sup>5</sup>Into your hands I commend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

<sup>15</sup>**My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

<sup>16</sup>Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love.”

## **Second Reading**

1 Peter 2:2-10 (p. 1104)

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**\*\* 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 14:1-14 (p. 982-983)

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**

Pastor

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

\*\* Hymn of the Day

*Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life*

ELW 816



1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a  
 2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a  
 3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all  
 light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in  
 joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.  
 length; such a strength as makes his guest.  
 part; such a heart as joys in love.

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



## **\*\* 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

\*\* 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**

**\*\* Preface**

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

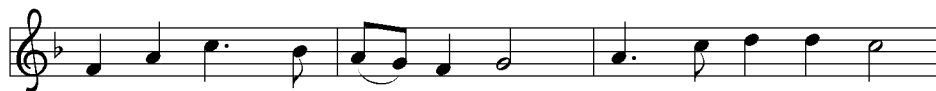
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**\*\* 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.

\*\* 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.**

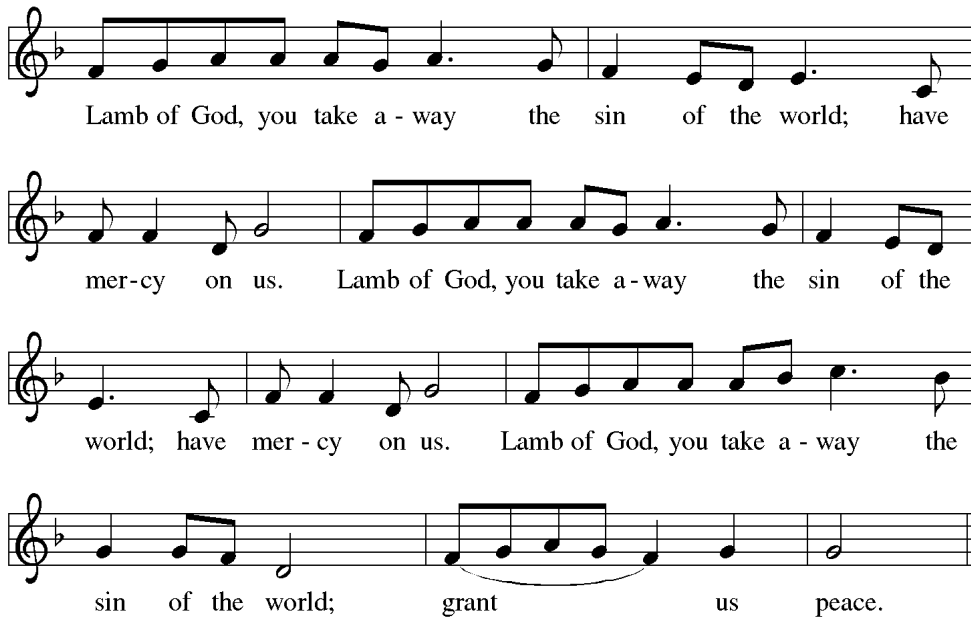
## **\*\* Lord's Prayer**

*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.**



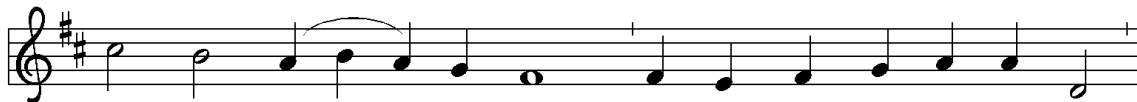
## \*\* Sending Hymn

*At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing (verses 5-8)*

ELW 362



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2 Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his  
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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.

**\*\* Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God!

**Postlude**

*Chancel flowers are given by Bob Linderman  
in honor of Sue Linderman'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:**

Our Candidate

**Music Director:**

Claudio Espejo

**Assisting Minister/Lector:**

Bob Linderman

**Usher:**

John Gordon

**Altar Guild:**

Michele Torchia

**Camera:**

Ann Warner

**Ministers:**

The people of St. Stephen's

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

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