



# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

## HOLY COMMUNION

Third Sunday of Easter  
April 23, 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,...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.

**\*\* Gathering Hymn**

*Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

ELW 363



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!  
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,  
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,  
4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,  
5 Al - le - lu - ia! now we cry to our Lord im - mor - tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,  
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en.  
with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;  
nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold you as a mor - tal:  
who tri - um - phant burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal;



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;  
All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing  
comes to glad Jer - u - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion  
but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing  
Al - le - lu - ia! with the Son God the Fa - ther prais - ing;

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



led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
from the Light to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
wel - comes in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!  
your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.  
Al - le - lu - ia! yet a - gain to the Spir - it rais - ing.

**\*\* 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 2:14a, 36-41 (p. 992, 993)

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm**

Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,

<sup>2</sup>**for the LORD has given ear to me  
whenever I called.**

<sup>3</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;  
I came to grief and sorrow.

<sup>4</sup>**Then I called upon the name of the LORD:  
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**

<sup>12</sup>How shall I repay the LORD  
for all the good things God has done for me?

<sup>13</sup>**I will lift the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD.**

<sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God's people.

<sup>15</sup>**Precious in your sight, O LORD,  
is the death of your servants.**

<sup>16</sup>O LORD, truly I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

<sup>17</sup>**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

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

<sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God's people,

<sup>19</sup>**in the courts of the LORD's house,**  
**in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

**Second Reading**

1 Peter 1:17-23 (p. 1107-1108)

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**

Luke 24:13-35 (p. 964-965)

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.  
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

### *Day of Arising*

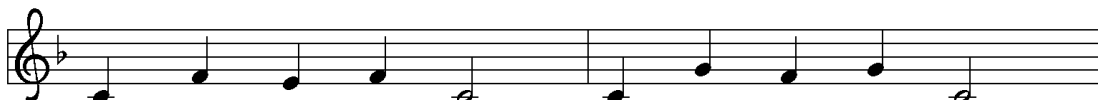
ELW 374



1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way,  
2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing,  
3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken.  
4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney,



un - known com - pan - ion walks with his own.  
blind - ed by sad - ness, slow - ness of heart,  
This is Christ's prom - ise, this is Christ's sign:  
bread of com - pas - sion, o - pen our eyes.



When they in - vite him, as fades the first day,  
yet Christ walks with us, ev - er a - wait - ing,  
when the church gath - ers, when bread is bro - ken,  
Grant us your vi - sion, set all hearts burn - ing



and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.  
our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.  
there Christ is with us in bread and wine.  
that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

\*\* 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

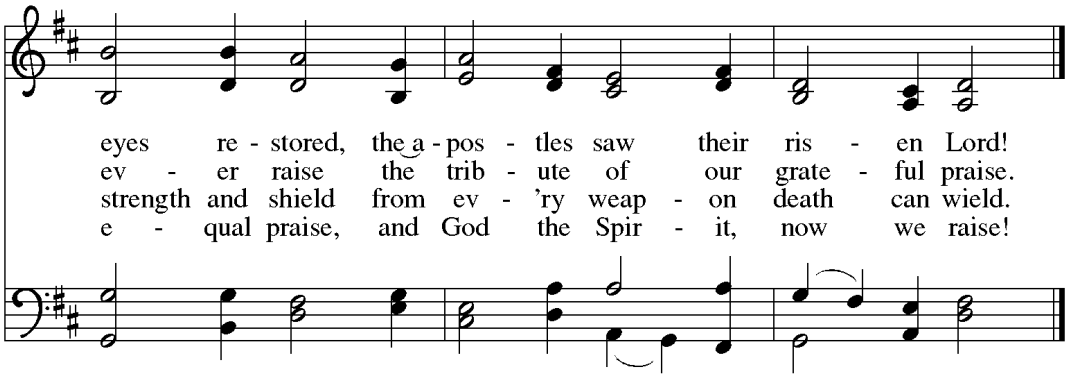
ELW 384

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

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has four vocal parts (1-4) and a piano accompaniment. The second system continues the vocal parts and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

\*\* 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.*

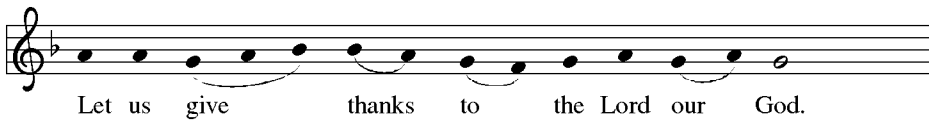
**\*\* Dialogue**



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.

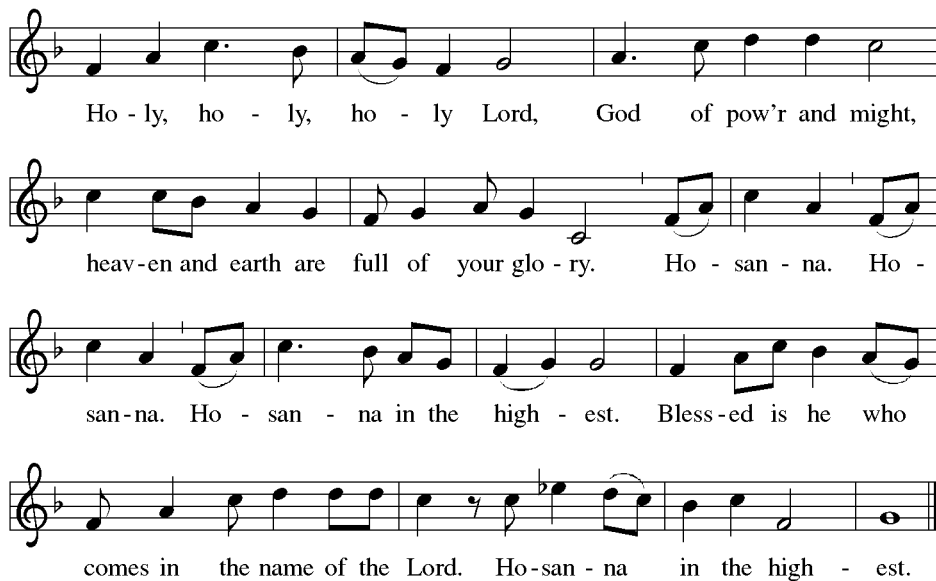


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**\*\* Preface**

**\*\* 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.**

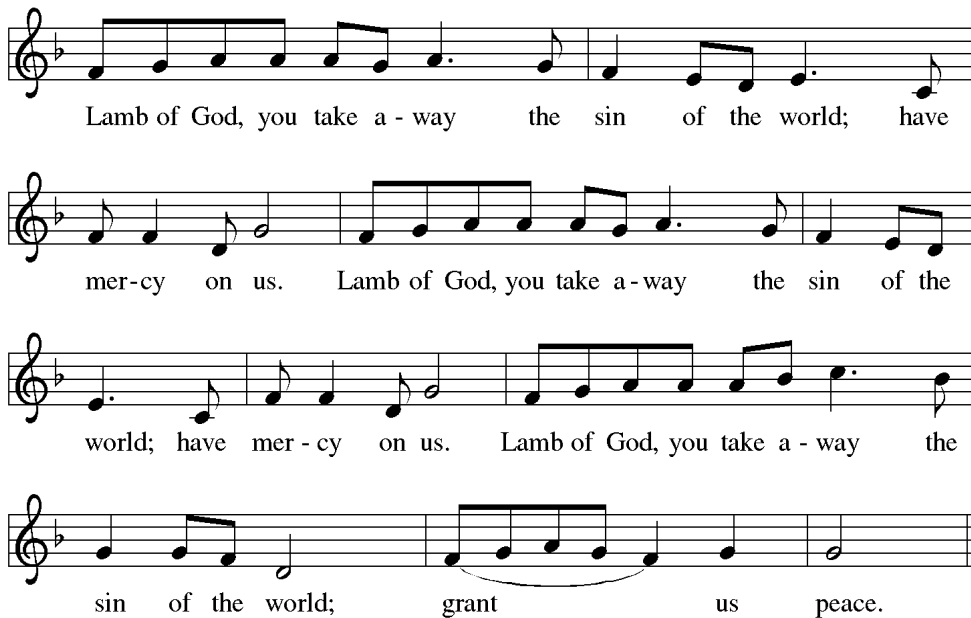
## **\*\* Lord's Prayer**

*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

*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!

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!

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!

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!

## 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**

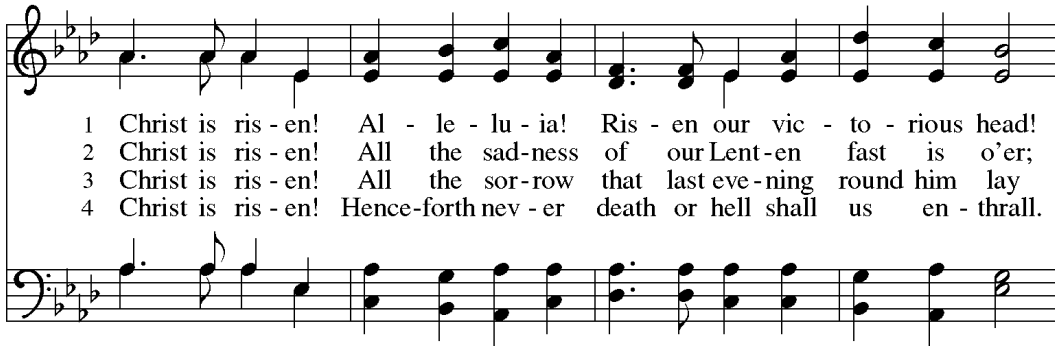
**\*\* Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**



\*\* Sending Hymn

*Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!*

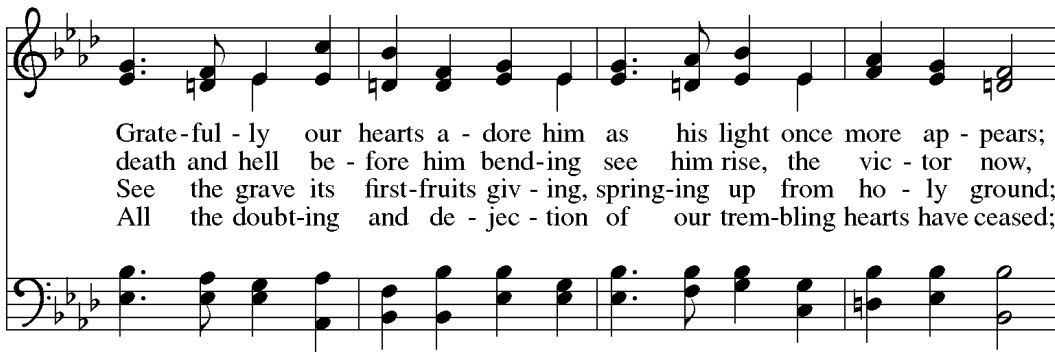
ELW 382



1 Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!  
2 Christ is ris - en! All the sad - ness of our Lent - en fast is o'er;  
3 Christ is ris - en! All the sor - row that last eve - ning round him lay  
4 Christ is ris - en! Hence - forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!  
through the o - pen gates of glad - ness he re - turns to life once more;  
now has found a glo - rious mor - row in the ris - ing of to - day.  
We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri - umphed o - ver all.



Grate - ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;  
death and hell be - fore him bend - ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,  
See the grave its first - fruits giv - ing, spring - ing up from ho - ly ground;  
All the doubt - ing and de - jec - tion of our trem - bling hearts have ceased;

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

bow - ing down in joy be - fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.  
 an - gels on his steps at - tend - ing, glo - ry round his wound - ed brow.  
 Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.  
 hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

*Refrain*

Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!

Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

**\*\* Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God!

**Postlude**

*Chancel flowers are given by Bob & Sue Linderman  
 in honor of our son Christopher's 50th 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:**

Bob Linderman

**Usher:**

John Rodammer

**Altar Guild:**

Sally Dudderar

**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

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