

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

+ Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2026



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

**** Welcome**

**** 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!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb! **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,
and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.

Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

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

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever. **Amen.**

**** Gathering Hymn**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

ELW 385

**** 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.**

Have mer - cy on us Lord, and hear our sol - emn

6
prayer We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair... Have

11
mer - cy on us Lord, and wash a - way our sin... Pour out your grace and

16
make us whole that new life may be - gin... Have mer - cy on us Lord, make

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

21

sin and shame de - part. Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r, cre -

25

- ate in us new hearts.

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

**** Hymn of Praise**

Dr. Claudio Espejo

Glo - ry be to God in hea - ven; and
Glo - ry be to Christ for - e - ver, the
Ho - ly One we now a - claim you; Oh,
peace, good - will to all the earth. Migh - ty God of
Lamb of God and Lord of love. Son of God and
Lord a - lone, to you we call; Ho - ly One in
all cre - a - tion, and Fa - ther of sur -
gra - - - - - cious Sa - vior; it's you who've come from
faith we name you, to God most high, yet

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

-pa - ssing worth -
heav'n a - bove; near to all: we ex - alt you,
On the cross you with
Je - sus Christ, with

13

we a - dore you we lift high our thanks and praise
died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
God the Spi - rit, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.

19

Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; and here on earth our
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; it's in your pro - mise
For the peace that we in - he - rit, the glo - ry be to

23

song we raise.
that we stand.
God on high!

** 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 our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through 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

Ezekiel 34:7-15

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 100

¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

² Serve the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

³ Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him; bless his name.

⁵ For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

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**

Dr. Claudio Espejo

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of four systems of music. The first system (measures 1-4) has the lyrics: "All - e - lu - ia Lord, to whom shall we go?". The second system (measures 5-7) has the lyrics: "you have the words of e - ter - nal life. A - lle - lu -". The third system (measures 8-10) has the lyrics: "- ia, a - lle - lu - ia a - lle -". The fourth system (measures 11-14) has the lyrics: "- lu - ia, a - lle - lu - ia a - lle - lu - ia". The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in both hands, while the voice part is a simple melody.

**** Gospel**

John 10:1-10

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**

The Lord's My Shepherd

ELW 778

**** Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

**** Holy, Holy, Holy**

Dr. Claudio Espejo

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of po - wer and Might, hea - ven and earth are filled with your Glo - ry Ho - sa - nna in the high - est Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - sa - nna". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand. There are some performance markings like *p* and *f* in the piano part.

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord,

God of po - wer and Might, hea - ven and earth are filled with your

Glo - ry Ho - sa - nna in the high - est

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - sa - nna

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

18

Ho - sa - nna in the high - est.

**** Thanksgiving at the Table**

**** 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

Dr. Claudio Espejo

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "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".

7
Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a -

14
- way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of

21
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; Grant us

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

27

peace, Grant us peace

Communion

Holy Communion is a free gift of God's grace and love. Everyone is welcome to share in this meal. If you wish to receive words of blessing, simply tell the minister.

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

Communion Hymn

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

ELW 383



- 1 Christ is ris-en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!
- 2 Christ is ris-en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.
- 3 Christ is ris-en! Earth and heav-en nev - er-more shall be the same.



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.
Walk with glad-ness in the morn-ing. See what love can do and dare.
Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.
Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.
Tell its grim, de - mon - ic chor - us: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"



Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.
Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na, ev - 'ry - one!

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TURNBULL, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962

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** 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.

Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.

Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,

and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Announcements

**** 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.

**** Blessing**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**** Sending Hymn**

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

ELW 544

**** Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Go in peace.
Praise the Lord!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
To Love, To Invite, To Serve.
Alleluia!

Postlude

Chancel flowers are given by Gary & Sue Gooden in memory of Betty Gooden

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

Participants in Today's Service

Presiding Minister:

The Rev. Barbara Melosh

Music Director:

Dr. Claudio Espejo

Assisting Minister/Lector:

Ann Dransfield

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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