



# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

## HOLY COMMUNION

Second Sunday of Easter  
April 7, 2024

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.

## Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**Prelude:** Variations on *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*

M. Burkhardt

### \*\* Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,....entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John....in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

## \*\* Gathering Hymn

*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

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!

Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

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

## \*\* Greeting

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.

## \*\* Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord,** have mer - cy.



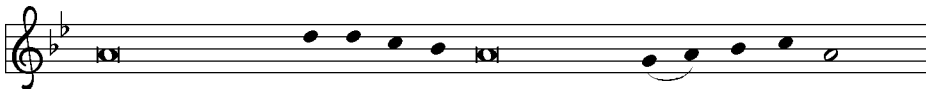
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord,** have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord,** have mer - cy.

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



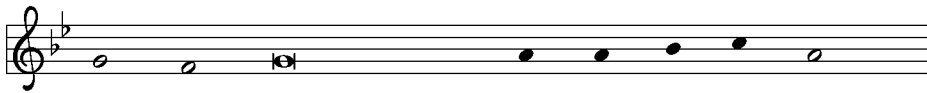
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

## \*\* Hymn of Praise



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav'n - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

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



*Refrain*  
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



*Refrain*  
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

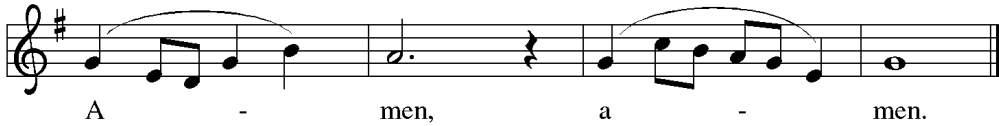


Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

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



**\*\* 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.

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.*

**First Reading**

Acts 4:32-35

Word of God, Word of Life.  
Thanks be to God.

**Psalm**

Psalm 133

<sup>1</sup>How very good and pleasant it is  
when kindred live together in unity!  
<sup>2</sup>**It is like the precious oil on the head,**  
**running down upon the beard,**  
**on the beard of Aaron,**  
**running down over the collar of his robes.**  
<sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion.  
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,  
life forevermore.

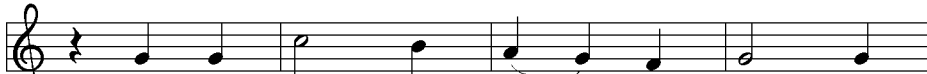
**Second Reading**

1 John 1:1-2:2


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, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



*Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

**\*\* 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. Susan Loney

\*\* 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.



## **\*\* 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.**

## \*\* Prayers of the People

*Each portion of the prayer ends with:*

Response:            God of grace,                            receive our prayer.

# 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 not 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

*Now the Green Blade Rises*

ELW 379



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,

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



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958  
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol  
Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

## **\*\* Offering Prayer**

*Assisting Minister leads the offering prayer and the assembly responds: Amen.*

## **\*\* Dialogue**

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

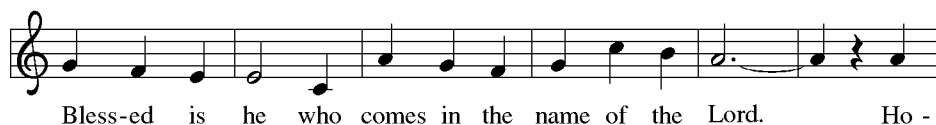
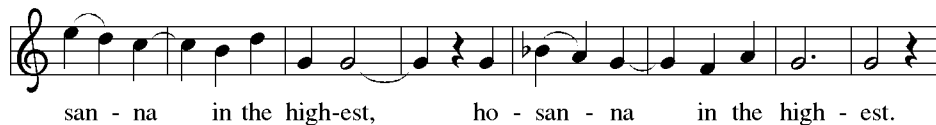
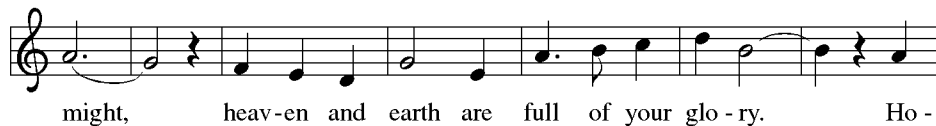
We lift them to the Lord.

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



## \*\* 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, ....the great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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

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**

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



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, 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, instead of or in addition to the Bread and Cup, simply tell the minister. Wheat and GF wafers are available as are red wine and amber juice.*

\*\* 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!

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!

Text: Latin hymn, 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–1868, alt.  
Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, *Kirchengeseng*, 1566

\*\* 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.

Shepherding God,  
you have prepared a table before us  
and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet  
to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

### **Announcements**

# Sending

*We are sent into the world to serve.*

### **\*\* Blessing**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
✚ bless you now and always.

Amen.

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



\*\* Sending Hymn

*Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen*

ELW 548



1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en,  
2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low  
3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture  
4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion;



from this meal of love and grace;  
af - ter Christ, though wound - ed, whole;  
God has called us to re - ceive;  
cour - age be our dai - ly breath;



may we through such love en - vi - sion  
bro - ken, shared, our lives are hal - lowed  
pres - ent by God's lov - ing nur - ture,  
mer - cy be our des - ti - na - tion



whose we are, and whose, our praise.  
to re - lease and to con - sole.  
Spir - it - ed then let us live.  
from this day and un - to death.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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



God, the won - der of our days.  
Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.  
Spir - it, grace by whom we live.  
Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953  
Music: SURGE ECCLESIA, Timothy J. Strand, b. 1958  
Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

**\*\* Dismissal**

Go in peace,  
**To Love, To Invite, To Serve.**

Christ is Risen!  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*

T. Gieschen

*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.*

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

## Participants in Today's Service

**Pastor:**

The Rev. Susan Loney  
pastor@ststeph.org

**Guest Musician:**

Steve Schmidt

**Assisting Minister/Lector:**

Michael Farthing

**Usher:**

John Rodammer

**Altar Guild:**

Sally Dudderar

**Camera:**

Kevin Loney

**Ministers:**

The people of St. Stephen's

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St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
1301 N Broom St. Wilmington, DE 19806 302-652-7623  
www.ststeph.org office@ststeph.org

