



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Third Sunday of Easter
April 14, 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

**** 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

This Joyful Eastertide

ELW 391

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son
3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the

sor - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has
slum - - ber till trump from east to west shall
riv - - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my

sprung to life this mor - - row.
wake the dead in num - - ber.
pass - ing soul de - liv - - er.

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

Refrain

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our

faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -

ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934
 Music: Dutch folk tune, 17th cent.; arr. hymnal version
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

**** 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.

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

** 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.



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

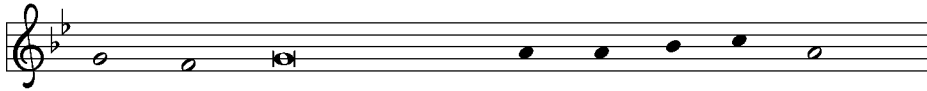
** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.



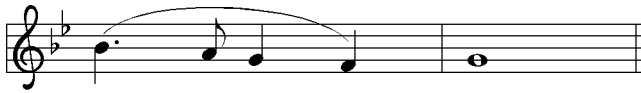
praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men.

** Hymn of Praise



Refrain

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.



Refrain

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

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



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.



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.



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

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

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

**** 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 3:1-13a, 16

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

**** 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.

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

**** Gospel**

Luke 24:36b-48

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

**** Gospel Acclamation**

Please see gospel acclamation on page 7.

Sermon

The Rev. Susan Loney

**** Hymn of the Day**

Touch that Soothes and Heal

ACS 939



1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurt - ing, hands that
 2 Feed the hun - gry, clothe the na - ked, vis - it
 3 Love and serve with - out dis - tinc - tion all earth's
 4 Hands that beck - on lit - tle chil - dren, bind a



break a loaf of bread; steps that walk be - side the
 ones in need of care, give the home - less warmth and
 peo - ple, first and least. Know with - in each act of
 wound, pre - pare a meal, feet that rush to share good



wea - ry, bear - ing bur - dens in their stead:
 shel - ter: Christ will find a wel - come there.
 kind - ness hope and whole - ness are in - creased.
 tid - ings, Christ a - ris - en, still re - veal.

Refrain



"See my hands and feet," said Je - sus, love a - ris - en from the

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

grave. "Be my hands and feet," said Je - sus, "live as
ones I died to save."

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
 Music: CIVILITY, Gregg DeMey, b. 1972
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 Music © 2008 Re:Create Music, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources

** 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.

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

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.

Chapel Talk

Ashley Mittelmeier and Saretta Jones from Mosaic DE

**** 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.

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

** 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,



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.

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

** Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

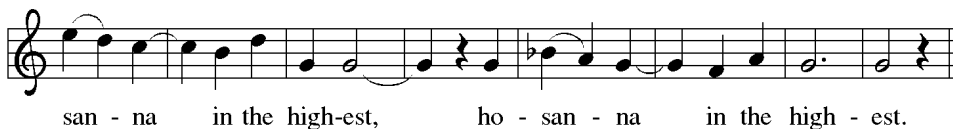
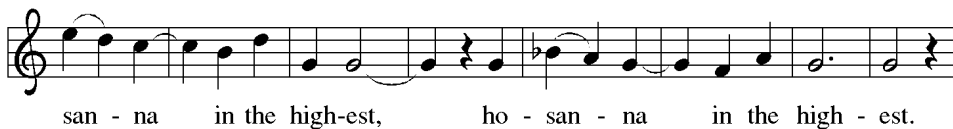
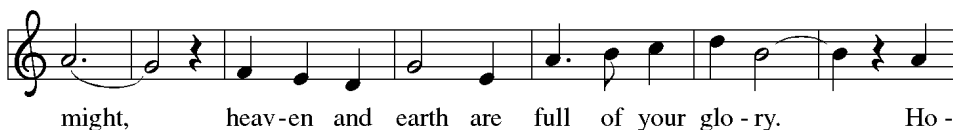
And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

** Preface

** Holy, Holy, Holy



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

**** Thanksgiving at the Table**

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed,.... we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God,the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit,....in your church without end. **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.**

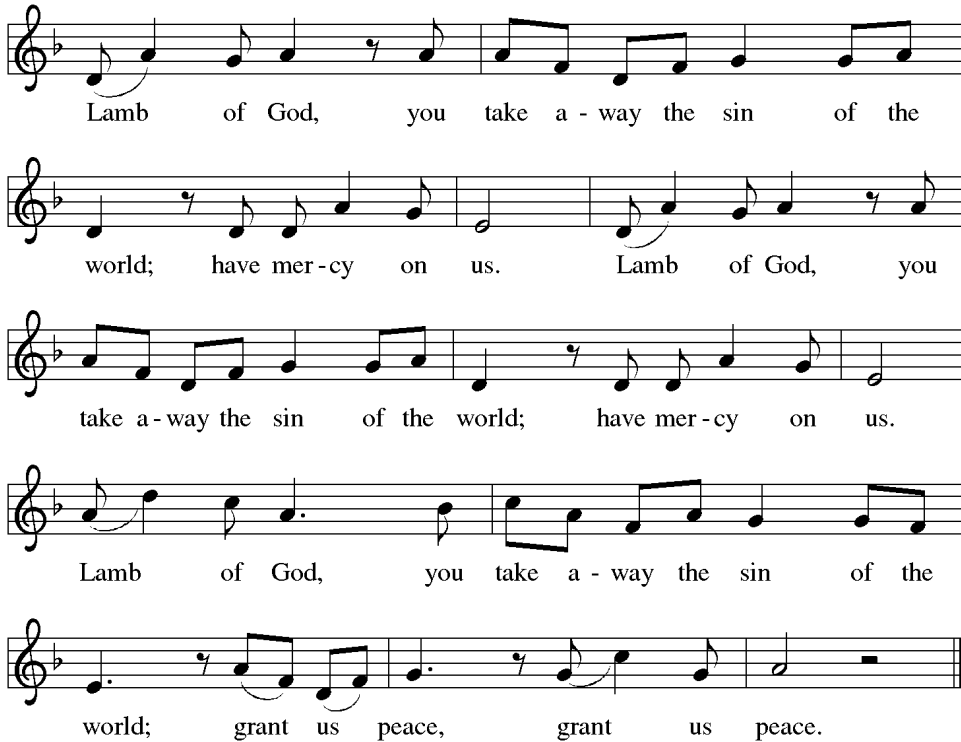
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**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

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

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

sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

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

** 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

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

Amen.

** Sending Hymn

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

ELW 364

M - fu - ra - hi - ni, ha - le - lu - ya,
1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.
2 For three long days the grave did its worst
3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear.

m - ko - mbo - zi a - me - fu - fu - ka.
Re - joice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.
un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.
You look for Je - sus who is not here.

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

A - me - fu - fu - ka, ha - le - lu - ya,
 For our re - deem - er burst from the tomb,
 He who gives life did death un - der - go,
 See for your - selves the tomb is all bare.

m - si - fu - ni sa - sa yu ha - i.
 e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
 and in its con - quest his might did show.
 On - ly the grave - clothes are ly - ing there.”

Refrain

Tu - mwi - mbi - e so - te kwa fu - ra - ha.
 Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.

Ye - su a - me - to - ka ka - bu - ri - ni.
 Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.

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

Ka - shi - nda ki - fo, ha - le - lu - ya;
 Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

ha - le - lu - ya, Ye - su yu ha - i.
 Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

- 4 “Go spread the news: he’s not in the grave. He has arisen this world to save. Jesus’ redeeming labors are done. Even the battle with sin is won.” *Refrain*
- 5 Christ has arisen to set us free. Alleluia, to him praises be. Jesus is living! Let us all sing; he reigns triumphant, heavenly king. *Refrain*

Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Music: Tanzanian traditional

Swahili text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress; English text © 1977 Howard S. Olson, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

** Dismissal

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

Christ is Risen!
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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.

Participants in Today's Service

Pastor:

The Rev. Susan Loney
pastor@ststeph.org

Music Director:

Claudio Espejo

Assisting Minister/Lector:

Ann Dransfield

Usher:

John Gordon

Altar Guild:

Karleen Strayer

Camera:

Ann Iona Warner

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

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