

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY



APRIL 13, 2025

10 A.M.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

(850) 385-2728, Office

sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com, Email <http://www.ststephenlutherantally.com>

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor

Katharine Gossman, Music Director

Lori Zengel, Office Manager

All Members, Ministers

Welcome, Everyone!

We are glad to have you with us this morning. If you need assistance in finding anything, one of our ushers will be glad to help you.

Restrooms are found in the fellowship hall and office building to the right as you exit the sanctuary. Proceed up the stairs and through the glass door. Unisex bathrooms are available through the kitchen in the office area. Please do not leave children under 12 unattended.

“Let the Little Children Come” Matthew 19:14 - In accordance with St. Stephen’s mission “to be a welcoming community . . .” we encourage all ages to worship on Sundays. We also believe that children learn to welcome others by how they have been welcomed. If you are a parent of a young child, know that this community supports your efforts to engage your child in worship and understands that it can be a stressful process. Having children in worship is a joy that we treasure, so please know that we welcome you and your children as they learn to become active members in Christ’s body. A nursery is available if parent or guardian desires. See usher for details.

Please remember to turn off your cell phone during the liturgy.

All the hymns for the worship service are in the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship book and numbered by hymn, not page.

For safety we no longer pass the offering plate. Financial gifts can be placed in the plate by the baptismal font.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church (ELCA) is a Reconciling in Christ congregation that explicitly welcomes people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. St. Stephen is equally committed to anti-racism. We welcome people without regard to race, ethnicity, age, family status, economic status, or differing abilities.

All are invited to receive the sacrament. Lutherans believe that Jesus Christ is present in, with and under the consecrated bread and wine of Holy Communion. Those not wishing to commune are welcome to the altar to receive a blessing. To indicate this, please cross your arms over your chest. If you are not able to come forward, please inform the ushers and the meal will be brought to you.

INTRODUCTION

Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

PRELUDE

The assembly stands.



+ GATHERING +

The assembly gathers on the lawn at the side of the church so that all may enter in procession.

Pastor Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Congregation **Hosanna in the highest!**

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL Luke 19:28-40

Entrance into the final days

P The holy gospel according to Luke, the nineteenth chapter

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁸ After he had said this, [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'"³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was now approaching the path

down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, “Blessed is the king

who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!”

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” ⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

We process into the church following the cross, worship leaders and choir.

BLESSING OF PALMS

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and Loving God, it is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through Christ Jesus our Savior. The Hebrews acclaimed Jesus as the Messiah and King with palm branches in their hands, carrying them forth from the place and crying out “Hosanna in the Highest” and “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.” God, help us acclaim Jesus as our Messiah and King and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life.

C Amen.

P Let us go forth in peace.

C In the name of Christ. Amen.

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re-deem - er, king,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The com - pu - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring.

Refrain

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One,
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
 To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Thendulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: VALEF WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Jeschner, 1584–1605

P Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER OF THE DAY



P Let us pray.

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME



+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

This text, the third of the four Servant Songs in Isaiah, speaks of the servant's obedience amid persecution. Though the servant has been variously understood as the prophet himself or a remnant of faithful Israel, Christians have often recognized the figure of Christ in these poems.

⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Reader The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

We sing the psalm responsively.

We sing the psalm responsively.



Leader ¹⁹ Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I ¹ am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat ¹ and my belly.

C ¹⁰ For my life is wasted with grief, and my ¹ years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones ¹ are
consumed.

L ¹¹ I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to ¹ my acquaintances; when they see me in the street ¹ they avoid me.

C ¹²Like the dead I am forgotten, ¹ out of mind;
I am as useless as a ¹ broken pot.

L ¹³ For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is ¹ all around;
 they put their heads together against me; they plot to ¹ take my life.

C ¹⁴ But as for me, I have trusted in ¹ you, O Lord.
I have said, “You ¹ are my God.

L ¹⁵ My times are ^l in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who ^l persecute
me.

C ¹⁶Let your face shine up- | on your servant;
save me in your | steadfast love.”

Spoken after the psalm is sung:

Amen.

SECOND READING: **Philippians 2:5-11**

Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn that describes Jesus' humble obedience in his incarnation as a human being, even to death, and his exaltation and glory as Lord of all.

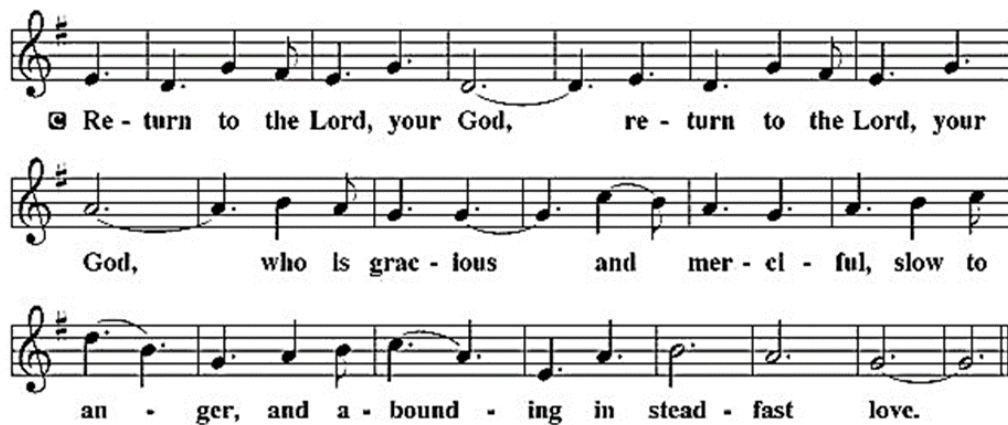
⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should end, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

R The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

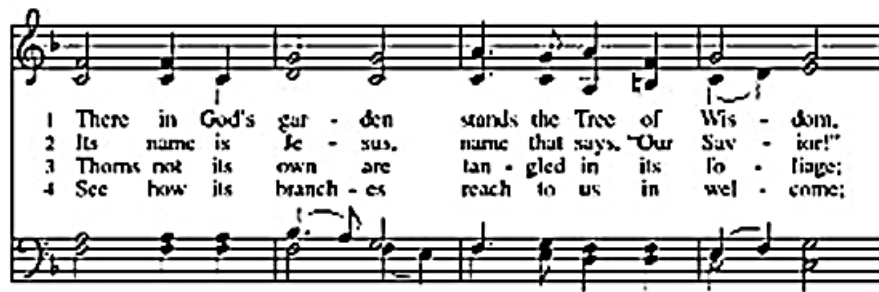


GOSPEL: THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO LUKE

Readers: Narrator - Rudy Hehn; Jesus - ; Peter - ; People - Congregation; Centurion - ; Servant - ; Witness - ; Pilate - ; First Criminal - ; Second Criminal -

SERMON *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*

The assembly stands.



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its lo - liage;
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions;
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - fering;
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it,
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drills of our hu - man
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty,
 self - hood feed on its life blood,
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it,
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending,
 this my resurrection;
 into your hands, Lord,
 I commit my spirit.
 This have I searched for;
 now I can possess it.
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion
 offers in mercy
 healing, strength, and pardon.
 Peoples and nations,
 take it, take it freely!"
 Amen! My Master!

Text: Kindly Free von Rasseb. c. 1590-c. 1641, in *Erk Rostky*, 1917-1952

Mus.: K. Lee Scott, c. 1950

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NICENE CREED

A Let us confess our faith.

C 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends: God, in your mercy,

Congregational response: receive our prayer.

PEACE

A The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

The assembly is seated.



OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

ANTHEM

"Forgive Them, Forgive Us" - Giomo

Forgive them, oh, my Father.
Forgive them, oh, my Lord.
For they don't know just what they're doin'.
'They're hurtin' the Son of God.

.Forgive them, oh, my Father.
Forgive them, oh, my Lord.
For they don't know just what they're doin'.
'They're hurtin' the Son of God.
'They're killin' the Son of God.

Forgive us, oh, our Father.
Forgive us, oh, our Lord.
For we don't know just what we're doin'.
We're hurtin' the Son of God.

Forgive us, oh, our Father.
Forgive us, oh, our Lord.
For we don't know just what we're doin'.
We're hurtin' the Son of God.
We're killin' the Son of God.

OFFERING HYMN

The assembly stands to sing the offering hymn as the collection and the gifts are brought forward.



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The presiding minister continues to give thanks.

P In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

C **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

P All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

As the ushers direct you, come to the altar using the side aisles and return to your seat via the central aisle. The assisting ministers offer both wine and grape juice from pouring cups; take a communion glass from the tray as you approach the rail. Leave the empty glass on the lower level of the rail. Wheat-free wafers are available- — simply tell the pastor you prefer them.

COMMUNION HYMNS

- | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 353 | <i>Were You There</i> |
| 345 | <i>Jesus, I Will Ponder Now</i> |
| 351 | <i>O Sacred Head, Now Wounded</i> |

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

+ SENDING +

BLESSING *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*

P God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✝ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and
pray. Watch and pray.

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in a key with one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the Treble clef, and the bass line is in the Bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system covers the first two lines of the hymn, and the second system covers the next two lines. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: STAY WITH ME, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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DISMISSAL

- A We believe out loud that God's mission for us is:
- C to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God's call.
- A Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
- C Thanks be to God!

+ + +

Sundays and Seasons v.20220805.1416
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Calendar for April 13 - 20

April	13	Sun.	9 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10 am	Worship, Palm Sunday
			11:30 am	Council meeting
	16	Wed.	5:30 pm	Finance Committee meeting
			7 pm	Choir practice
	17	Thu.	7 pm	Worship, Maundy Thursday
	18	Fri.	7 pm	Worship, Good Friday
	20	Sun.	8:15 am	Easter Breakfast Potluck
			9:15 am	Easter Egg Hunt
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10 am	Worship, Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Sunday

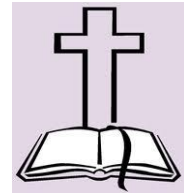
Next Sunday's Readings, Resurrection of Our Lord-Easter Sunday:

[Isaiah 50:4-9a](#)

[Psalms 31:9-16](#)

[Philippians 2:5-11](#)

[Luke 22:14—23:56](#)



SERVING EVERY SUNDAY

Pastor Tom, presiding and preaching

Katharine Gossman, piano

Karl Barton, flute

Denise Bookwalter, announcements

Choir: Karl Barton, Melissa Barton, Mark Canning, Kirsten Ebbesen, Rita Ford, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Olivia James, Sandy Ness, Simone Schuster, Dave Suhrweir, Cassandra White

SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY		
Serving	April 13	April 20
Assisting Minister	Colleen Holdcraft	Kirsten Ebbesen
Cup Minister	Kirsten Ebbesen	Colleen Holdcraft
Cantor	Kirsten Ebbesen	
Lector	Mark Bertolami	Reece Family
Acolyte	Ceilia Greeley or Graham Reece or Bastian Stover	
Tech Team	Colin Hackley Audrey Post	Sylvia Smith Cindy Suhrweir
Ushers	Jan Harrison Patrick Kennell	Jan Harrison Audrey Post
Altar Guild	Lawana Lamb-Daniels Sandy Lamb-Daniels	Rita Ford
Counters	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy	Kirsten Ebbesen Rob Schiffer

PRAYER REQUESTS

New concerns: Healing for Sue Canning, post-surgery; Family of Donna Schiffer as they grieve the passing of Amy Blount (Donna's sister); Margarete Deckert (mother of Caroline Collins), ongoing prayers for strength as she is recovering from illness; Donna Dickson Miller (friend of Audrey Post), facing health challenges; Gladys Kane for continued healing.

Prayer of thanks: Rob and Donna Schiffer give prayers of thanks to their new grandson, Caleb Gregory Schiffer.

For the sick: Sallie Robinson (wife of Erik Robinson); Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White); Laura McDuffie (sister of Rob Schiffer).

In treatment for cancer: Ann Hingst, Ruth Hartung; Scott Simmons (son of Sharon Simmons); Gordon Fleischer; Jim Saxman (uncle of Rob Schiffer); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Craig Timm (friend of Cheryl & Steve); Gil Johnson (friend of Judi Duffy); Amanda George (daughter-in-law of Rob Schiffer); David McManus (friend of Audrey Post); Shannon Miller (friend of Barb O'Donnell); Becky Graves (friend of Ridy Hofer); Timothy Stewart (son of Pepper Stewart).

Health and protection: For all affected by the coronavirus – especially those experiencing mental-health difficulties from isolation, those struggling to recover from the disease, those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personnel, EMTs), the millions of unemployed people, etc.; for the unaccompanied children entering the U.S., including those “unaccounted for.”

For prisoners: All those on Death Row.

Other concerns: For Karen Olson; Kevin Robinson (son of Erik Robinson), in need of encouragement; Isaac (son of Terri Schmitt), for physical and emotional healing; Steve Michael (cousin of Rob Schiffer), in rehab after a serious accident.

Church concerns: St. Stephen’s Church Council; the Florida-Bahamas Synod Council; all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

World concerns: For all people suffering and/or recovering from hurricanes; migrants and asylum seekers; civil rights for people around the world; a ceasefire in Ethiopia and in Ukraine; peace in Gaza and the Middle East.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER LILIES: We'll be using Easter lilies to adorn the chancel area for Easter Sunday. If you would like to dedicate one or more, complete the form in the narthex and drop in the offering plate. You can also email Lori the dedication. The cost is \$10 each and the deadline is TODAY.

FLOWER CHART FOR 2025: Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you would like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service by signing up for the 2025 Flower Chart located in the narthex. The cost is \$40, and you can place it in the offering plate.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER: Want to read a sermon you missed? Visit <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/sermons>. Want to read the latest newsletters? Go to <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>. Want to browse a collection of St. Stephen songs? They're at <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/songs-of-st-stephen>.

HOLY WEEK

Thursday, April 17: 7 p.m. - Worship: Maundy Thursday with Healing service

Friday, April 18: 7 p.m. - Worship: Good Friday

Sunday, April 20: 8:15 a.m. - Easter Breakfast Potluck
9:15 a.m. – Easter Egg Hunt
10 a.m. - Worship: Easter Sunday