

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Sunday



**SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024**

**10 A.M.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**PRELUDE**

*The assembly stands.*

**GATHERING HYMN**

**365** *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

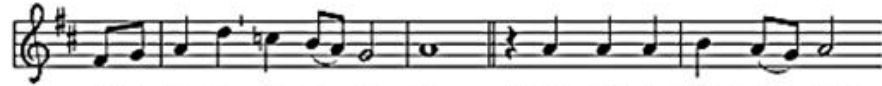
suf - fer to re - deem our loss, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin caed. 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Cyru Davidson*, 1706, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1786, st. 4  
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Cyru Davidson*, 1706

# 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,



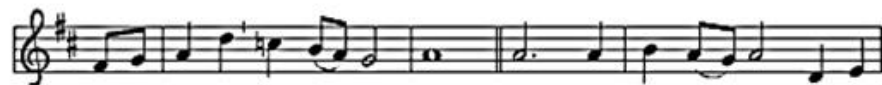
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 2 Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and



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



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**



**P** Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 25:6-9**

*More than 700 years before Christ, the prophet Isaiah proclaims the good news of God's salvation and calls all people to rejoice! God will make a rich feast for all people. God will wipe the tears from their eyes. And most importantly, God will destroy death itself.*

¶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

¶And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ¶he will swallow up death forever.

¶Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

¶It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Reader     The Word of the Lord.

**C           Thanks be to God.**

**INTERPRETIVE DANCE**           *"Easter Hallelujah" - lyrics by Kelley Mooney*

*Musicians: Chris Reece, Jen Reece*

*Dancers: Rita Ford, Ceilia Greeley, Violet Greeley, Colleen Holdcraft*

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

*The core of the Christian faith and Paul's preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the Risen One in the preaching of this faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

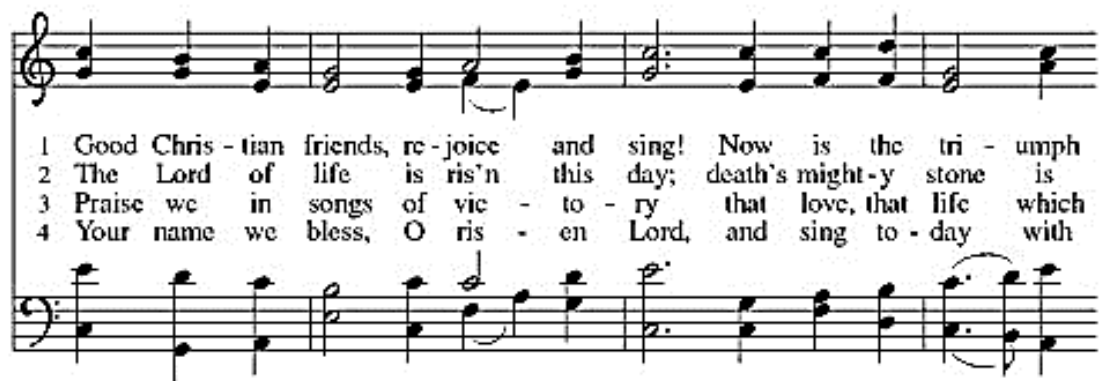
**R** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**ELW 385** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing! (v. 1 & 2)*



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joi - ce and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might - y stone is  
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which  
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
 rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joi - ce and say:  
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
 one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



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, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955, alt.  
 Music: GELOBT SEI GOTTE Melchior Vulpius, 1570-1615  
 Text © 1952, ren. 1980 *Janus Ancorae & Moderni*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.  
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**GOSPEL: Mark 16:1-8**

*The resurrection of Jesus is announced, and the response is one of terror and amazement.*

P The holy gospel according to Mark, the sixteenth chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." <sup>8</sup>So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

P The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**ELW 385** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing! (v. 3 & 4)*

*The assembly is seated.*

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

*The assembly stands.*



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em-braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
 Re-born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932  
 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924  
 Text © John B. Geyer.

## 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 of grace,*

***Congregational response: hear our prayer.***

## PEACE

P 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** "Resurrection Dance" text- Neale (1800s), music- Schulz-Widmar

Give ear, give ear, good Christians all, our song is worth a hearing;  
We tell how grief has ended woe and fear has finished fearing;  
The pain that lasted for a day has brought eternal cheering.

Was ever battle won like this- where he that lost was gaining;  
And he that fell was triumphing, and he that died was reigning;  
And he that held the Reed of Scorn a Sceptre was obtaining?

The winner then had such a fall as crushed him down forever;  
The wise was taken in his craft, the strong in his endeavor,  
And he, the Slain, was Victor still, and he that slew him never!

Give ear, give ear, good Christians all, the riddle is expounded;  
From north to south, from east to west its meaning shall be sounded:  
On Easter Day was won the fight and Life has Death confounded.

**OFFERING HYMN** ELW 870 (*versus 1 & 3*)

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

**We Praise You, O God**

1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;  
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer  
in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.  
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.  
We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;  
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.  
we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.  
To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882–1963  
Music: KREMSER, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626

**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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'HOLY, HOLY, HOLY'. It consists of four staves of music in a single system, all written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff continues with 'heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -'. The third staff continues with 'san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who'. The fourth and final staff concludes with 'comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.'

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.

*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 The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

*The assembly is seated.*

## 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.

## 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 the common cup (wine) and a pouring cup (wine or grape juice). If you prefer to receive the wine or juice in an individual glass, take one from the tray as you approach the rail. Leave the empty glass on the rail. Wheat-free wafers are available--simply tell the pastor.*

<b>COMMUNION HYMNS</b>	<b>373</b>	<i>Christ the Lord is Risen Today!</i>
	<b>389</b>	<i>Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing</i>
	<b>366</b>	<i>The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done</i>
	<b>482</b>	<i>I Come with Joy</i>

*The assembly stands.*



## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A 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.

**C Amen.**

## **+ SENDING +**

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

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

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

**C Amen.**

*The assembly stands.*

**SENDING HYMN**

**367**

*Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*



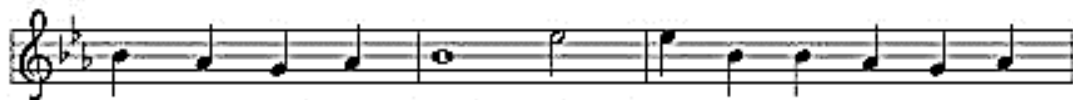
1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds  
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,  
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;  
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has  
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has  
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we  
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of  
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he  
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -  
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all  
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly  
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## 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 Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C Thanks be to God!

+ + +

*Sundays and Seasons v.20220805.1416*

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### EASTER LILIES ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY:

Caroline Collins (2), in dedication to my parents, Fred and Margarete Deckert.

Bob and Linda Eshleman (2), dedicated to the glory of God.

Rita Ford (2), dedicated to my parents, Leela and James Lochan

Ceilia Greeley (2), dedicated to our family praying for everybody who is hurt.

Jan Harrison (1), in memory of loved ones.

Colleen and Tom Holdcraft (2), dedicated to the St. Stephen Altar Guild and St. Stephen musicians.

Gladys Kane (2), to pray for peace in Gaza and Ukraine.

Lawana and Sandy Lamb-Daniels (2), dedicated to our parents, William & Mary Daniels, and Junior & Lila Lamb.

Martha Marky (1), dedicated to the glory of God.

Andrea Notley (1), dedicated to the Notley Family.

Audrey Post (3), dedicated to my family & friends, including my "fur babies," who helped me survive health challenges.

Barbara Sullivan (1), dedicated to Jack Sullivan.

Bert & Lorane Sundberg (1), dedicated to family and friends.

Susan Warren (1), dedicated to my family.

### Calendar for March 31 - April 7

March	31	Sun.	9:00 am	Easter Breakfast Potluck
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10:00 am	Worship, Easter Sunday service
April	3	Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir practice
	7	Sun.	9:00 am	Easter Breakfast Potluck
			10:00 am	Worship, Second Sunday of Easter

*\*The office will be closed Monday for Easter Monday.*

### **Next Sunday's Readings, Second Sunday of Easter:**

[Acts 4:32-35](#)

[Psalm 133](#)

[1 John 1:1--2:2](#)

[John 20:19-31](#)



### **SERVING EVERY SUNDAY**

Pastor Tom, presiding and preaching

Katharine Gossman, piano

Karl Barton, flute

Denise Bookwalter, announcements

Choir: Karl Barton, Melissa Barton, Mark Canning, Judi Duffy, Kirsten Ebbesen, Rita Ford, Martin Guttenplan, Vicki Guttenplan, Ron Hartung, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Sandy Ness, Dave Suhrweir, Cassandra White

<b>SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY</b>		
<b>Serving</b>	<b>March 31</b>	<b>April 7</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Colleen Holdcraft	Kirsten Ebbesen
<b>Cup Minister</b>	Beth Alexander	Colleen Holdcraft
<b>Cantor</b>	Rudy Hehn	Pr. Tom
<b>Lector</b>	Greta Scavone	Astrid van der Mark
<b>Acolyte</b>	Cup Minister - or Colton Allen or Graham Reece	
<b>Tech Team</b>	Mark Greeley Audrey Post	Caroline Collins Audrey Post
<b>Ushers</b>	Bob Eshleman Colin Hackley	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Rita Ford Susan Warren	Linda Eshleman Barbara Sullivan
<b>Counters</b>	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy	Kirsten Ebbesen Rob Schiffer

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

***New concerns:*** Sue Berent (sister of Sharon Simmons) for comfort and peace at end of life; Bob Eshleman, recovering from heart surgery; Gladys Kane for continued healing.

***For the sick:*** Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Sallie Robinson (wife of Erik Robinson); Isabelle Taylor (granddaughter of Bill & Connie Taylor), being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and Primary Immunodeficiency; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White); Laura McDuffie (sister of Rob Schiffer), diagnosed with primary immunodeficiency and Sjogren's syndrome.

***In treatment for cancer:*** Phil Williams; Gordon Fleischer; Stephanie Barber; Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Craig Timm (friend of Cheryl & Steve); Laura Ketchum-Jahn, (friend of Cheryl & Steve); Aubrey Thonvold (Reconciling Works Exec. Dir.); Judy Renwick (friend of Judi Duffy); Gil Johnson (friend of Judi Duffy); Amanda George (daughter-in-law of Rob Schiffer).

**Health and protection:** For all affected by the coronavirus – especially those experiencing mental-health difficulties due to 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; for rest and rejuvenation for Presiding Bishop Eaton as she takes a leave of absence for several months; Interim Presiding Bishop Michael Burk, providing leadership in Bp. Eaton's absence; 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 Afghanistan and the Middle East.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FLOWER CHART FOR 2024:** 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 2024 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/newsletters>. 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/newsletters>.