

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Easter Sunday



**SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023**

**10 A.M.**

*A special thanks to guest musicians*

*Karl Barton and Tom Buchanan.*

## 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!

## GREETING

Pastor Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Congregation Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*  
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.

*Refrain*  
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.

*Refrain*  
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: Acts 10:34-43**

*Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receives forgiveness of sins through his name."*

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Reader        The word of the Lord.

**C                Thanks be to God.**

**EASTER PROCESSION** *Jonas Holdcraft (Violin)*

**EASTER PROCLAMATION**        *St. Stephen Children*

Children        Alleluia! Christ Is Risen.

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

**INTERPRETIVE DANCE**        **379**        *Now the Green Blade Rises*

*Vocalist: Hector Quinones*

*Dancers: Ceilia, Violet, Colleen and Rita*

## SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4

*Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.*

<sup>1</sup>If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

R The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

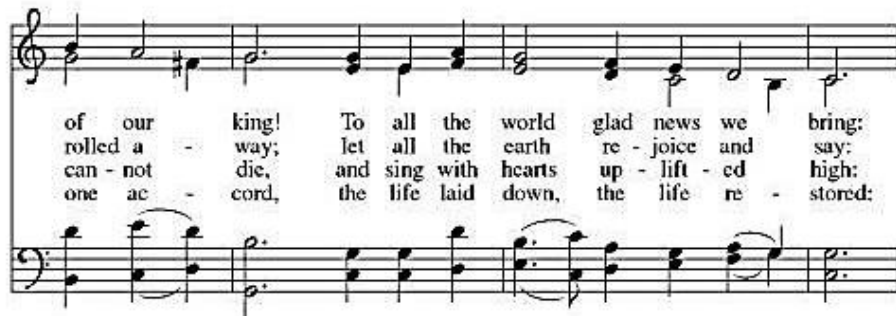
*The assembly stands.*

## 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:



Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.  
 Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615  
 Text © 1952, ren. 1980 *Hymus Anticus & Moderni*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.  
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**GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10**

*Sorrow gives way to “fear and great joy” when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!*

**P** The holy gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” <sup>8</sup>So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

**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)*

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice 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 - joice 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 GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570-1615  
Text © 1952, ren. 1980 *Hymus Anticus & Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.  
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*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: Risen Lord, in your mercy,*

*Congregational response: bear our prayer.*

## PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*The people greet one another with the sign of Christ's peace.*

*The assembly stands.*



## OFFERING

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

**ANTHEM** "Alleluia : All The Ages" arr. Bonasso

(in 3 part round)

(Part 1)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Cantate Jesu Christe.

(repeat)

(Part 2)

Alleluia! sing to Jesus!

His the scepter, his the throne.

Alleluia! His the triumph,

His the victory alone;

Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion

Thunder like a mighty flood;

Jesus out of ev'ry nation

Has redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Glory be to God on high!

Alleluia! to the Savior

who has won the victory.

Alleluia to the Spirit, font of love and sanctity.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

(Part 3)

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his Name.

**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 musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: "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 Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

*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.

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

**C** **Amen.**

## + SENDING +

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

**P** The God of all, who raised ☩ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

**C** **Amen.**

**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!

Text: Paul Z. Strudach, 1876-1947, alt.  
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchen Gesänge*, Köln, 1623  
 Text © 1958 *Servant Book and Hymnal*, adrian, Augsburg Fortress.

## 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. Serve the Risen One.

C **Thanks be to God!**

+ + +



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

**Judi Duffy**, dedicated to the memory of Karl, Harriet and David Vetter,  
father, mother and brother and to Charles Thomas Holdcraft,  
my former husband.

**Bob & Linda Eshleman**, dedicated to the glory of God for our many  
blessings.

**Jan Harrison**, in memory of loved ones.

**Marilyn Larson**, dedicated to God's glory.

**Martha Marky**, dedicated to the glory of God.

**Audrey Post**, in gratitude for my St. Stephen family.

**Billie Reardon**, in honor and in memory of all those inurned in our  
columbarium.

**Sharon Simmons**, dedicated to the glory of God in thanks for His many  
blessings.

**Barbara Sullivan**, in memory of Jack Sullivan.

**Susan Warren**, dedicated in loving memory of Agnes, Grayce, Harriet and  
Edita for all the years of service to St. Stephen.

**Calendar for April 9 - 16**

April 9	Sun.	8:45 am	Easter breakfast
		9:15 am	Easter Egg Hunt
		10:00 am	Worship, Easter Sunday
12	Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir practice
16	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
		9:30 am	Choir practice
		10:00 am	Worship, Second Sunday of Easter

*\*The office will be closed Monday, April 10, for Easter Monday.*

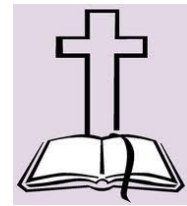
**Next Sunday, Second Sunday of Easter:**

[Acts 2:14a, 22-32](#)

[Psalm 16](#)

[1 Peter 1:3-9](#)

[John 20:19-31](#)



**SERVING TABLE**

Serving	April 9	April 16
<b>Presiding</b>	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
<b>Preaching</b>	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Jennifer Dritt	Audrey Post
<b>Cup Minister</b>	Susan Warren	Rob Schiffer
<b>Lector</b>	Stephanie Leitch	Astrid van der mark
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Rita Ford Susan Warren	Judi Duffy Linda Eshleman
<b>Counters</b>	Janet Barber Susan Warren	Kirsten Ebbesen Rob Schiffer
<b>Announcements</b>	Denise Bookwalter	Denise Bookwalter

## PRAYER REQUESTS

***New concerns:*** Judy Kent (mother of Mike Martinez), in hospice care; Angela Locke (friend of Audrey Post), for patience and strength; Becky Button (cousin of Audrey Post), as she continues to recuperate; Isaac (son of Terri Schmitt), for physical and emotional healing.

***For the sick:*** Val Sullivan; Audrey Post; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Don Dowd; 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).

***In treatment for cancer:*** Gordon Fleischer; Stephanie Barber; Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Chris Dickman (synod council member); Craig Timm (friend of Cheryl & Steve).

***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.

***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; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; 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 2023:** 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 2023 Flower Chart located in the narthex. The cost is \$35, 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>.