

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Second Sunday of Easter



SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2023

10 A.M.

INTRODUCTION

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

PRELUDE

The assembly stands.



+ GATHERING +

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

Congregation (C) Amen.

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

C Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

P Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN 384 *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*

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

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion
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. 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.

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.

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, 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 2:14a, 22-32

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

¹⁴Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ²²“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,

or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 16

We sing the psalm in response to the first reading.



Leader ¹Protect me, O God, for I take ref- | uge in you;

I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good a- | bove all other.”

**C ²All my delight is in the godly that are | in the land,
upon those who are noble a- | mong the people.**

L ³But those who run after | other gods
shall have their troubles | multiplied.

**C ⁴I will not pour out drink offerings | to such gods,
never take their names up- | on my lips.**

L ⁵O LORD, you are my portion | and my cup;
it is you who up- | hold my lot.

C ⁶**My boundaries enclose a | pleasant land;
indeed, I have a | rich inheritance.**

L ⁷I will bless the LORD who | gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night | after night.

C ⁸**I have set the LORD al- | ways before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall | not be shaken.**

L ⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- | it rejoices;
my body also shall | rest in hope.

C ¹⁰**For you will not abandon me | to the grave,
nor let your holy one | see the pit.**

L ¹¹You will show me the | path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures
for- | evermore.

Spoken after the Psalm is sung:

C **Amen.**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who “have not seen and yet believe.”

P The holy gospel according to John, the twentieth chapter.

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

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them,

“Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

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

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY **386** *O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing*



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



1 O sons and daugh - ters, let us sing

2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day,

3 An an - gel clad in white they see,

4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear;

9 On this most ho - ly day of days,

Insert stanzas 5-8 if desired.



with heav'n - ly hosts to Christ our king:

the faith - ful wom - en went their way

who sits and speaks un - to the three,

a - mong them came their mas - ter dear,

be laud and ju - bi - lee and praise:



to - day the grave has lost its sting! Al - le - lu - ia!

to seek the tomb where Je - sus lay. Al - le - lu - ia!

"Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee." Al - le - lu - ia!

and said, "My peace be with you here." Al - le - lu - ia!

to God your hearts and voic - es raise. Al - le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza



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

- 5 When Thomas first the tidings heard,
that they had seen the risen Lord,
he doubted the disciples' word.
Alleluia!
- 6 "My pierced side, O Thomas, see,
and look upon my hands, my feet;
not faithless, but believing be."
Alleluia!
- 7 No longer Thomas then denied;
he saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried.
Alleluia!
- 8 How blest are they who have not seen,
and yet whose faith has constant been,
for they eternal life shall win.
Alleluia!

APOSTLES' CREED

A Let us confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends: Hear us, O God.

Congregational response: Your mercy is great.

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.



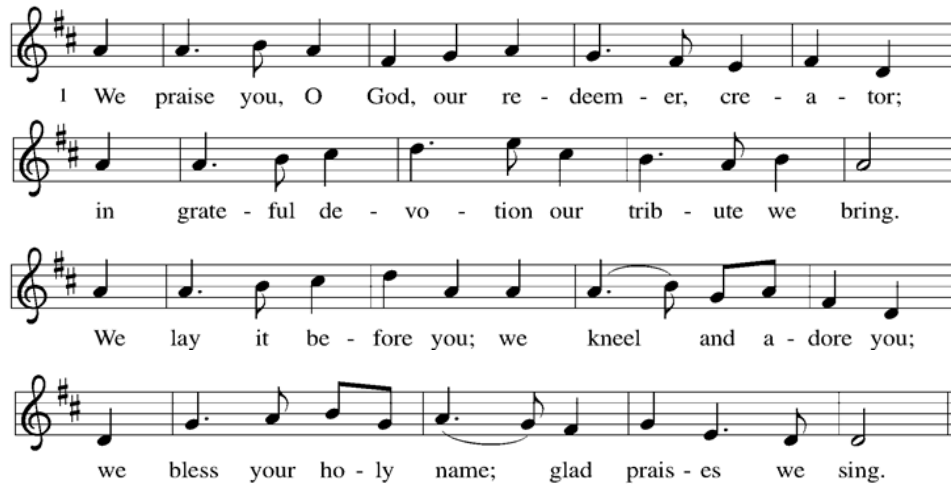
OFFERING

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

OFFERING HYMN **ELW 870** (*vs. 1*)

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

We Praise You, O God



I We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;
in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.

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

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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first staff ends with a semibreve note on 'have'. The second staff ends with a semibreve note on 'the'. The third staff ends with a semibreve note on 'the'. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line after the final note on '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.

COMMUNION HYMNS **379** *Now the Green Blade Rises*

635 *We Walk by Faith*

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 **376** *Thine Is the Glory*

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con - qu'ring Son; end - less is the
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con - qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain


where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con - qu'ring
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

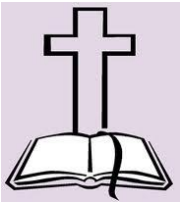
DISMISSAL

- 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!**

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	<p>ROB SCHIFFER DEDICATES THIS WEEK'S ALTAR FLOWERS TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN CELEBRATION OF DONNA'S BIRTHDAY.</p>
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<u>Calendar for April 16 - 23</u>				
April	16	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10:00 am	Worship, Second Sunday of Easter
	19	Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir practice
	21	Fri.-Sun.		Annual camping trip
	23	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10:00 am	Worship, Third Sunday of Easter

<p>Next Sunday, Third Sunday of Easter: <u>Acts 2:14a, 36-41</u> <u>Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19</u> <u>1 Peter 1:17-23</u> <u>Luke 24:13-35</u></p>	
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SERVING TABLE		
Serving	April 16	April 23
Presiding	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
Preaching	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
Assisting Minister	Audrey Post	Colleen Holdcraft
Cup Minister	Rob Schiffer	Rob Schiffer
Lector	Astrid van der mark	Colleen Holdcraft
Altar Guild	Judi Duffy Linda Eshleman Barbara Sullivan	
Counters	Kirsten Ebbesen Rob Schiffer	Patricia Handschy Debee Meyer
Announcements	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>.