

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2022

10 A.M.

*WE WELCOME DYLAN GLENN, GUEST MUSICIAN.*

## INTRODUCTION

*The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.*

## PRELUDE

*The assembly stands.*



+ GATHERING +

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Congregation (C) Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing. You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through. In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation. Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear. To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

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

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

spring to life this morn - ing, now.  
 wake the dead in num - ber.  
 pass - ing soul de - liv - er.

*Ad lib.*

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

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

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

## 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. | Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*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.

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON



+ **WORD** +

### **FIRST READING: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]**

*Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.*

<sup>1</sup>Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>3</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” <sup>4</sup>He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>5</sup>But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” <sup>6</sup>[The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>7</sup>Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>8</sup>For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup>Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision,

“Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” <sup>11</sup>The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup>and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” <sup>13</sup>But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup>and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” <sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; <sup>16</sup>I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” <sup>17</sup>So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>18</sup>And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup>and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, <sup>20</sup>and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”]

Reader           The word of the Lord.

**C                Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm**           *We pray the Psalm in response to the first reading..*

Leader <sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

**C            <sup>2</sup>O LORD my God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health.**

L           <sup>3</sup>You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

**C            <sup>4</sup>Sing praise to the LORD, all you faithful; give thanks in holy remembrance.**

L           <sup>5</sup>God’s wrath is short; God’s favor lasts a lifetime. Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.

**C            <sup>6</sup>While I felt secure, I said, “I shall never be disturbed.**

L <sup>7</sup>You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains.” Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.

**C <sup>8</sup>I cried to you, O LORD; I pleaded with my Lord, saying,**

L <sup>9</sup>“What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

**C <sup>10</sup>Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me; O LORD, be my helper.”**

L <sup>11</sup>You have turned my wailing into dancing; you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

**C <sup>12</sup>Therefore my heart sings to you | without ceasing; O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever. Amen.**

## **SECOND READING: Revelation 5:11-14**

*The vision of John recorded in Revelation offers a glimpse of cosmic worship around the throne. At its center is “the Lamb who was slain.”*

<sup>11</sup>Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup>singing with full voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

<sup>13</sup>Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, “To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” <sup>14</sup>And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Reader           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 21:1-19

*The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.*

**P** The holy gospel according to John, the twenty-first chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup>Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup>Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup>That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup>But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup>When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread.

<sup>10</sup>Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." <sup>11</sup>So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup>Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast."



Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup>This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” <sup>16</sup>A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup>Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” <sup>19</sup>(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

**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.*



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by  
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims  
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing the  
 4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the  
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its  
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for  
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's  
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to  
 be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.  
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.  
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.  
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.  
 out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698-1768

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## **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: God, in your mercy,*

*Congregational response: hear our prayer.*

## **PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

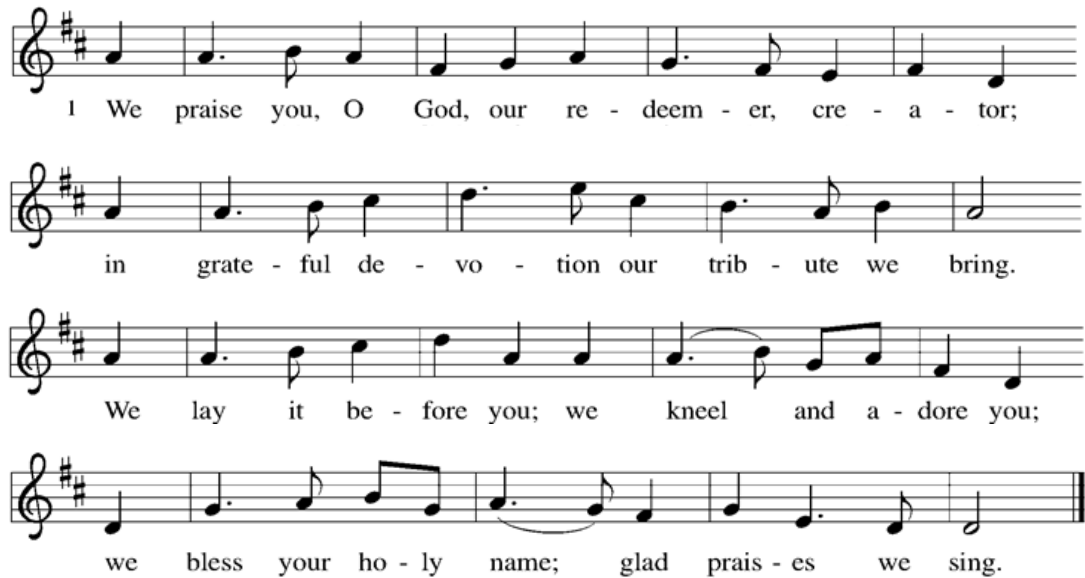
**C** And also with you.

*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.*

**OFFERING HYMN****870***We Praise You, O God (vs. 1)*

1 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.

**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.**

**+ SENDING +**

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

**P** God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✠ bless you now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The assembly stands.

SENDING 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

**DISMISSAL**

**P** 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! Christ is risen.


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

**A** Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

**P** **Thanks be to God.**

+ + +

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	<p><b>TODAYS ALTAR FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN GRATEFUL THANKSGIVING FOR MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO SUPPORTED ME, ESPECIALLY IN THE PAST YEAR. BY JUDI DUFFY</b></p>
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<u>Calendar for May 1 - 8</u>				
May	1	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			10:00 am	Worship, Third Sunday of Easter
	10	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			10:00 am	Worship, Fourth Sunday of Easter

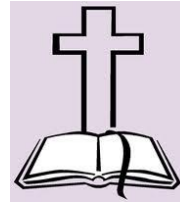
Next Sunday's Readings, Fourth Sunday of Easter:

[Acts 9:36-43](#)

[Psalm 23](#)

[Revelation 7:9-17](#)

[John 10:22-30](#)



Serving	May 01	May 08
Presiding	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
Preaching	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
Assisting Minister	Beth Alexander	Judi Duffy
Cup Minister	N/A	N/A
Lector	Colleen Holdcraft	Stephanie Leitch
Altar Guild	Judi Duffy Linda Eshleman	Erin Kenney Billie Reardon
Counters	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy	Bob Eshleman Linda Eshleman
Announcements	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom

## PRAYER REQUESTS

***New concerns:*** Debbie Suggs (friend of Audrey Post), in treatment for breast cancer; Angela Locke (friend of Audrey Post), prayers for patience and strength; Cindy Bowling (sister of Judi Duffy and Vicki Guttenplan), recovering from being hit by a car; Beth Cully (friend of Judi Duffy), recovering from heart surgery; Family and friends of Barbara Varchol (friend of Jennifer Buchanan) mourning her passing;; Paul Rowell, Board treasurer for LSSNF, recovering from lung surgery and complications; Jon; Becky Button (cousin of Audrey Post), in critical condition after a car accident; Isaac (son of Terri Schmitt) for healing (both physical and emotional).

***For the sick:*** Val Sullivan; 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; Cathie Nitti (niece of Sharon Simmons); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Isabell Cintron (friend of Sharon Simmons); Sarah Lucas (friend of Cassandra White); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Chris Dickman (synod council member), child of Pr. Katrina Foster (friend of Cheryl).

***For health and protection:*** For all affected by coronavirus: those experiencing mental health difficulties due to isolation; those with the disease struggling to recover; 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 US, including those “unaccounted for”.

***For prisoners:*** Femi and Eddie; all those on death row.

***Other concerns:*** Karen Olson; Blanche White (Melissa Barton).

***Church concerns:*** St. Stephen’s Congregational 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 recovering in the Florida Panhandle from Hurricane Michael, including Messiah Lutheran Church; the people of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands continuing to recover from hurricanes; migrants fleeing violence in Central America; all those migrants and asylum seekers imprisoned by the US government; the people of Venezuela (birthplace of Bp. Suarez) and Hong Kong; the people in the Sudan, especially in Darfur; for the Supreme Court as it considers cases involving the LGBTQ community.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FLOWER CHART FOR 2022:** Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you would like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service and signing up for the 2022 Flower Chart located on the bulletin board in the narthex. The cost is \$35, and you can place that in the offering plate.