

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022

10 A.M.

INTRODUCTION

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

PRELUDE

The assembly stands.



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 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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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.

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 Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, 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 11:1-18

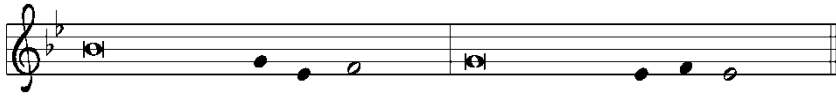
In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

¹Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Reader The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 148 *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader ¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD¹ from the heavens;
praise God ¹ in the heights.

C ²Praise the LORD, ¹ all you angels;
sing praise, all you ¹ hosts of heaven.

L ³Praise the LORD, ¹ sun and moon;
sing praise, all you ¹ shining stars.

C ⁴Praise the LORD, heav- ¹ en of heavens,
and you waters a- ¹ bove the heavens.

L ⁵Let them praise the name ¹ of the LORD,
who commanded, and they ¹ were created,

C ⁶who made them stand fast forev- ¹ er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not ¹ pass away.

L ⁷Praise the LORD¹ from the earth,
you sea monsters ¹ and all deeps;

C ⁸fire and hail, ¹ snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- ¹ ing God's will;

L ⁹mountains ¹ and all hills,
fruit trees ¹ and all cedars;

C ¹⁰wild beasts ¹ and all cattle,
creeping things and ¹ flying birds;

L ¹¹sovereigns of the earth ¹ and all peoples,
princes and all rulers ¹ of the world;

C ¹²young ¹ men and maidens,
old and ¹ young together.

L ¹³Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
 whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

C ¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful
servants,
 the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah!**

Spoken after the psalm is sung:

Amen.

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

¹I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

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 13:31-35

After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

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

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

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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.

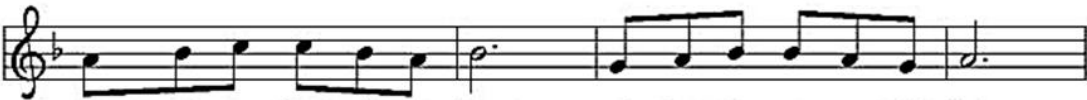
Refrain



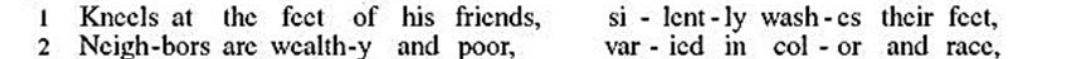
Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



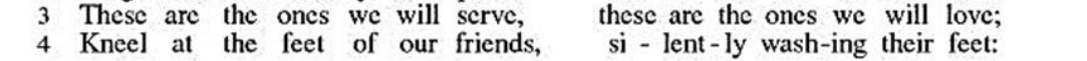
us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



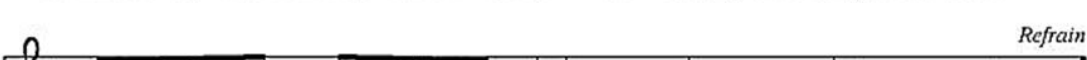
1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,



2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,



3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;



4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:

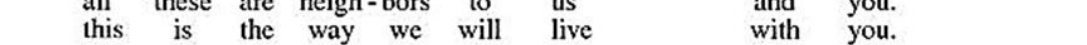


Refrain


mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.



neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.



all these are neigh - bors to us and you.



this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.
 Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin
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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.



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, he gone; sor - row, he si - lent;
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Refrain
 Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.




Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

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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**TODAY’S ALTAR FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED
TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND TO JAKE HARTUNG, (ALMOST)
BIRTHDAY BOY, WHO EVERY DAY APPRECIATES
THE WONDERS OF GOD’S CREATION.**

Calendar for May 15 - 22

| | | | | |
|-----|----|------|----------|---------------------------------|
| May | 15 | Sun. | 9:00 am | Book study |
| | | | 10:00 am | Worship, Fifth Sunday of Easter |
| | | | 11:30 am | Council meeting |
| | 22 | Sun. | 9:00 am | Book study |
| | | | 10:00 am | Worship, Sixth Sunday of Easter |

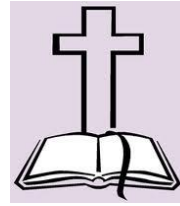
Next Sunday's Readings, Sixth Sunday of Easter:

[Acts 11:1-18](#)

[Psalm 148](#)

[Revelation 21:1-6](#)

[John 13:31-35](#)



| Serving | May 15 | May 22 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Presiding | Pastor Tom | Pastor Tom |
| Preaching | Pastor Tom | Pastor Tom |
| Assisting Minister | Beth Alexander | Jennifer Dritt |
| Cup Minister | N/A | |
| Lector | Jonas Holdcraft | Rob Schiffer |
| Altar Guild | Caroline Collins Andrea Notley | Rita Ford Susan Warren |
| Counters | Kirsten Ebbesen Rob Schiffer | Janet Barber Susan Warren |
| 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; 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; Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Sarah Lucas (friend of Cassandra White); Bruce Blubbaum (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

RECENT AND UPCOMING GRADUATES: Please submit any upcoming or recent graduates to Lori via email: sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com. We will honor them in an upcoming newsletter. Deadline is May 31.

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>.

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 in the narthex. The cost is \$35, and you can place that in the offering plate.