

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

EASTER SUNDAY



APRIL 20, 2025

10 A.M.

**St. Stephen Lutheran Church**

(850) 385-2728, Office

sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com, Email <http://www.ststephenlutherantally.com>

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor

Katharine Gossman, Music Director

Lori Zengel, Office Manager

All Members, Ministers

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**Welcome, Everyone!**

**We are glad to have you with us this morning.** If you need assistance in finding anything, one of our ushers will be glad to help you.

**Restrooms are found** in the fellowship hall and office building to the right as you exit the sanctuary. Proceed up the stairs and through the glass door. Unisex bathrooms are available through the kitchen in the office area. Please do not leave children under 12 unattended.

**“Let the Little Children Come” Matthew 19:14** - In accordance with St. Stephen’s mission “to be a welcoming community . . .” we encourage all ages to worship on Sundays. We also believe that children learn to welcome others by how they have been welcomed. If you are a parent of a young child, know that this community supports your efforts to engage your child in worship and understands that it can be a stressful process. Having children in worship is a joy that we treasure, so please know that we welcome you and your children as they learn to become active members in Christ’s body. A nursery is available if parent or guardian desires. See usher for details.

**Please remember** to turn off your cell phone during the liturgy.

**All the hymns** for the worship service are in the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship book and numbered by hymn, not page.

**For safety** we no longer pass the offering plate. Financial gifts can be placed in the plate by the baptismal font.

**St. Stephen Lutheran Church (ELCA) is a Reconciling in Christ congregation that explicitly welcomes people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. St. Stephen is equally committed to anti-racism. We welcome people without regard to race, ethnicity, age, family status, economic status, or differing abilities.**

**All are invited to receive the sacrament. Lutherans believe that Jesus Christ is present in, with and under the consecrated bread and wine of Holy Communion. Those not wishing to commune are welcome to the altar to receive a blessing. To indicate this, please cross your arms over your chest. If you are not able to come forward, please inform the ushers and the meal will be brought to you.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

*The assembly stands.*

## GATHERING HYMN      365      *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

The musical score is written for a four-part vocal choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is a simple, hymn-like tune with a clear cadence at the end of each system. The piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines in the left hand.

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 Carol, 14th c., st. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Cyranus*, 1706, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1786, st. 4  
Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lumen Domini*, 1708

## 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*



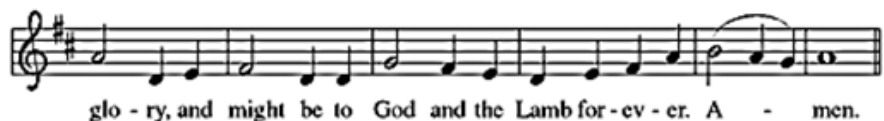
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



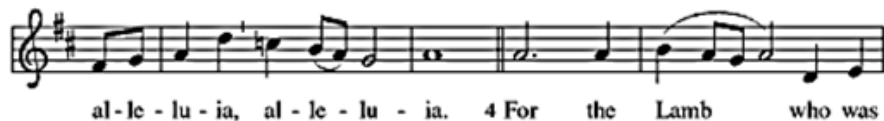
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



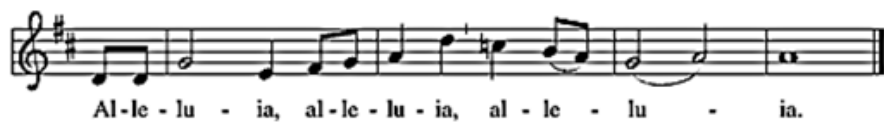
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



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.**

## PERFORMANCE

*"Because He Lives"* - Bill & Gloria Gaither

***Singers:*** Ceilia Greeley, Violet Greeley, Colleen Holdcraft, Elliot Reece, Graham Reece, Simone Schuster, Arman Stover, and Bastian Stover

***Interpretive Dance:*** Rita Ford

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26**

*Paul describes the consequences of the resurrection, including the promise of new life in Christ to a world that has been in bondage to death. He celebrates the destruction of evil and the establishment of God's victorious rule over all.*

<sup>19</sup> If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. <sup>21</sup> For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; <sup>22</sup> for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

<sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup> Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

**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 - 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

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**GOSPEL: Luke 24:1-12**

*Evidently expecting to find Jesus' corpse, some of the women among his followers go to the tomb with embalming spices. After a perplexing encounter with the empty tomb and angelic visitors, the women become the first to proclaim the amazing news of resurrection.*

P The holy gospel according to Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup> On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they went in, they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. <sup>5</sup> The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. <sup>6</sup> Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." <sup>8</sup> Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup> and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup> Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup> But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup> But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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

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**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, in your mercy,*

***Congregational response: receive our prayer.***

## PEACE

A 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**

**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



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.**

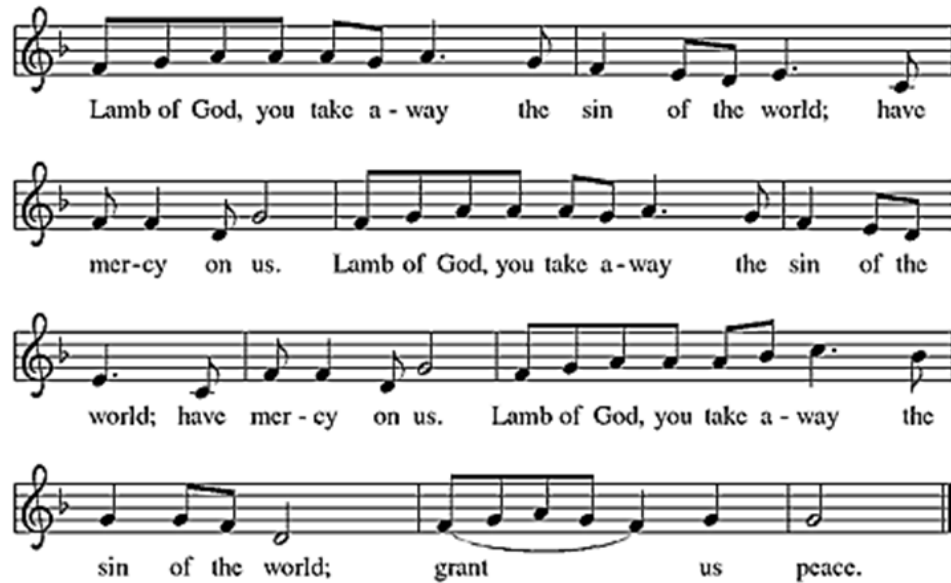
## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

*The assembly is seated.*



## LAMB OF GOD



## 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 wine and grape juice from pouring cups; take a communion glass from the tray as you approach the rail. Leave the empty glass on the lower level of the rail. Wheat-free wafers are available- — simply tell the pastor you prefer them.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

*“Promised Land” – Samuel Stennett  
Sung by Ceilia & Violet Greely*

- 373** *Christ the Lord is Risen Today!*
- 389** *Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing*
- 366** *The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done*
- 482** *I Come with Joy*

*The assembly stands.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

C Amen.

+ SENDING +

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

P The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✙ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

C Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly stands.*

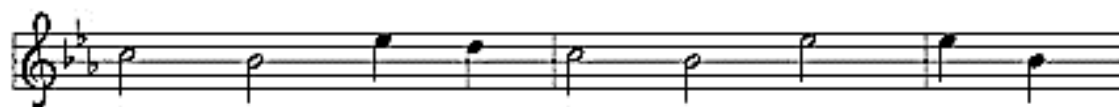
**SENDING HYMN**      **367**      *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*



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



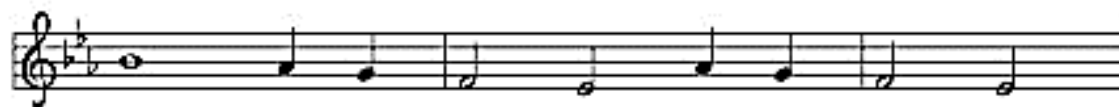
in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has  
there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has  
set heart and will on things a - bove that we  
and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



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! Christ is risen.

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

A Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**C Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

+ + +

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

Janet Barber (1), dedicated to my mother, Sophie Campbell.

Nathan Basford (2), remembering Don especially during this Easter season.

Bob and Linda Eshleman (2), dedicated to the glory of God for His many Blessings.

Rita Ford (1), dedicated to her parents.

Mark, Ceilia & Violet Greeley and Denise Bookwalter (2), dedicated to our grandparents and Aunt Adriane.

Patricia Handschy (2)

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

Lawana and Sandy Lamb-Daniels (3), dedicated to Williams & Marilyn Daniels, Junior & Lula Lamb, and Barbara Maddox & Mathe' Harris, sisters of Lawana.

Marilyn Larson (2), in memory of my parents.

Martha Marky (1), in memory of Ray Marky.

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

### **Calendar for April 20 - 27**

April 20	Sun.	8:15 am	Easter Breakfast Potluck
		9:15 am	Easter Egg Hunt
		9:30 am	Choir practice
		10 am	Worship, Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Sunday
23	Wed.	7 pm	Choir practice
27	Sun.	9:30 am	Choir practice
		10 am	Worship, Second Sunday of Easter

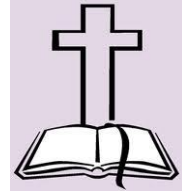
### **Next Sunday's Readings, Resurrection of Our Lord-Easter Sunday:**

[Isaiah 50:4-9a](#)

[Psalms 31:9-16](#)

[Philippians 2:5-11](#)

[Luke 22:14—23:56](#)



### **SERVING EVERY SUNDAY**

Pastor Tom, presiding and preaching

Katharine Gossman, piano

Karl Barton, flute

Denise Bookwalter, announcements

Choir: Karl Barton, Melissa Barton, Mark Canning, Kirsten Ebbesen, Rita Ford, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Olivia James, Sandy Ness, Simone Schuster, Dave Suhrweir, Cassandra White

SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY		
Serving	April 20	April 27
Assisting Minister	Kirsten Ebbesen	Audrey Post
Cup Minister	Colleen Holdcraft	Rita Ford
Cantor		
Lector	Reece Family	Erik Robinson
Acolyte	Celia Greeley or Graham Reece or Bastian Stover	
Tech Team	Sylvia Smith Cindy Suhrweir	Colleen Holdcraft Joans Holdcraft
Ushers	Colin Hackley Jan Harrison Patrick Kennell Audrey Post	
Altar Guild	Beth Alexander Rita Ford	
Counters	Kirsten Ebbesen Rob Schiffer	Billie Reardon Lorraine Sundberg

### PRAYER REQUESTS

***New concerns:*** Healing for Sue Canning, post-surgery; Family of Donna Schiffer as they grieve the passing of Amy Blount (Donna's sister); Margarete Deckert (mother of Caroline Collins), ongoing prayers for strength as she is recovering from illness; Donna Dickson Miller (friend of Audrey Post), facing health challenges; Gladys Kane for continued healing.

***Prayer of thanks:*** Rob and Donna Schiffer give prayers of thanks to their new grandson, Caleb Gregory Schiffer.

***For the sick:*** Sallie Robinson (wife of Erik Robinson); Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White); Laura McDuffie (sister of Rob Schiffer).

***In treatment for cancer:*** Ann Hingst, Ruth Hartung; Scott Simmons (son of Sharon Simmons); Gordon Fleischer; Jim Saxman (uncle of Rob Schiffer); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Craig Timm (friend of Cheryl & Steve); Gil Johnson (friend of Judi Duffy); Amanda George

(daughter-in-law of Rob Schiffer); David McManus (friend of Audrey Post); Shannon Miller (friend of Barb O'Donnell); Becky Graves (friend of Ridy Hofer); Timothy Stewart (son of Pepper Stewart).

***Health and protection:*** For all affected by the coronavirus – especially those experiencing mental-health difficulties from 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; 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 Gaza and the Middle East.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FLOWER CHART FOR 2025:** 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 2025 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://ststephenlutherantly.com/sermons>. Want to read the latest newsletters? Go to <https://ststephenlutherantly.com/newsletters>. Want to browse a collection of St. Stephen songs? They're at <https://ststephenlutherantly.com/songs-of-st-stephen>.