

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH



APRIL 5, 2026

10 A.M.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

ssl@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

Rita Ford, Office Manager

All Members, Ministers

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.

“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.

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.

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.

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD
EASTER DAY
April 5, 2026

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Ich will dir mein Herze schenken” -J. S. Bach*
Jordi Banitt and Karl Barton, flutes

The assembly stands.

GATHERING HYMN 365 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (please see next page)*

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.**

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!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyræ Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyræ Davidica*, 1708

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: 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."

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ 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. ³⁹ 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, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ 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. ⁴² 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. ⁴³ 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.

PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader ¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for the | Lord is good;
God's mercy en- | dures forever.

C ² Let Israel | now declare,
“God's mercy en- | dures forever.”

L ¹⁴ The Lord is my strength | and my song,
and has become | my salvation.

C ¹⁵ Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents | of the righteous:
“The right hand of the | Lord acts valiantly!

L ¹⁶ The right hand of the Lord | is exalted!
The right hand of the | Lord acts valiantly!”

C ¹⁷ I shall not | die, but live,
and declare the works | of the Lord.

L ¹⁸ The Lord indeed pun- | ished me sorely,
but did not hand me o- | ver to death.

C ¹⁹ Open for me the | gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks | to the Lord.

L ²⁰ “This is the gate | of the Lord;
here the righ- | teous may enter.”

C ²¹ I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me
and you have become | my salvation.

L ²² The stone that the build- | ers rejected
has become the chief | cornerstone.

C ²³ By the Lord has | this been done;
it is marvelous | in our eyes.

L ²⁴ This is the day that the | Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.

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.

¹ If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ 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

of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joi - ce and say:

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!

The musical score consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The first system contains two verses of text. The second system continues the text. The third system features the 'Alleluia' refrain repeated three times with varying melodic lines.

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.

¹ After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² 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. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ 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.” ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters 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)* 

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

can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lit - tled 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: GELORT SEI GOTTE, Melchior Vulpius, 1570-1615

The assembly is seated.

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

Quiet reflection.

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY 449 *We Know That Christ Is Raised*



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

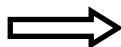
A Let us confess our faith.

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: Merciful God ,

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

(A brief silence)

Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates to everlasting life. Dispel doubts and fears and renew us to hope in you. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Life-giving God, creation rejoices in resurrection life. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus. Lead humanity to be faithful caregivers to trees, animals, streams and deserts. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Sovereign God, let the nations and leaders acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Root our systems of oppression and corruption from all governing bodies. Bring an end to war in Iran, Sudan, and Ukraine. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid today. Draw near all who suffer from illness, pain, and loneliness. Especially those we name now...

(Pause for people to speak petitions.)

Reveal yourself as the Risen One. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give to us. Continue to bless St. Stephen to be a safe place to share fear and joy. We pray for all people to meet Jesus and live. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

AMEN!

The assembly is seated.



+ MEAL +

Stephen Saint
@Stephen-Saint



venmo

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including caring for those in need. We welcome you to place your gift in the offering plate near the baptismal font, mail it to the church, or by using the Venmo QR Code to the right.

Use this QR Code to connect to Venmo for a donation to St. Stephen. Code 5469.

ANTHEM

Alleluia Round” - William Boyce

HE IS
Risen

OFFERING HYMN ELW 870 (verses 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 a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff contains 'heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -'. The third staff contains 'san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who'. The fourth staff contains 'comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.' The music consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests and slurs. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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 new life. Receive the risen Lord.

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

- 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.

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

+ SENDING +

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

P God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

The assembly stands.

SENDING HYMN **367** *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds (please see next page)*

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. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

+ + +



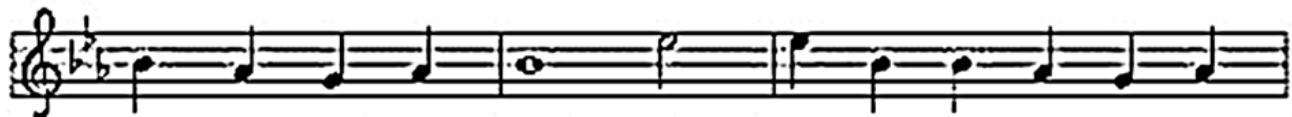
1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



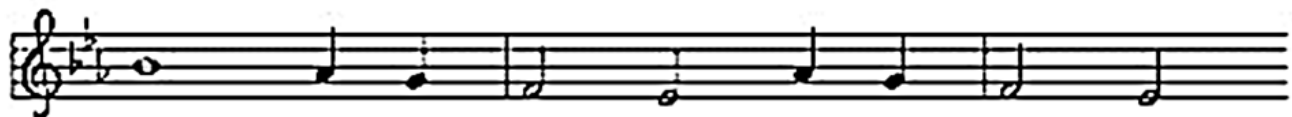
in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



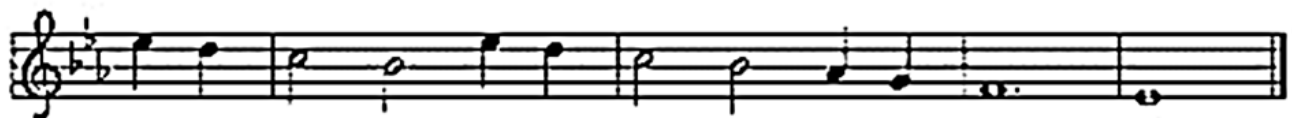
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



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!



EASTER LILIES ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY:

The Greeley/Bookwalter (2), dedicated to all grandmas and grandpas.

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

Rita Ford (1), dedicated to my parents.

Jan Harrison (2), in memory of our beloved son, Wayne.

Sandy and Lawana Lamb-Daniels (2), dedicated to our parents and Lawana's sisters Mathe and Barbara.

Martha Marky (1), for Joyful Blessings at Easter.

Monty Mortensen (3), dedicated to my parents Glenn and Virginia and my brother John.

Sandy Ness (2), dedicated to family and friends.

Rob and Donna Schiffer (2), dedicated to our loved ones who have passed. For the health and welfare of our children and grandchildren.

Calendar for April 5 - 12

April 5	Sun.	8:00 am	Easter Breakfast
		9:15 am	Easter Egg Hunt
		9:30 am	Choir practice
		10 am	Worship, Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Sunday
			Office will be closed April 6
8	Wed.	7 pm	Choir practice
12	Sun.	9:00 am	Bible study
		9:30 am	Choir practice
		10 am	Worship, Second Sunday of Easter

SERVING EVERY SUNDAY

Pastor Tom, presiding and preaching

Katharine Gossman, piano

Tom Buchanan, trumpet

Karl Barton, flute

Denise Bookwalter, announcements

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

SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY

Serving	April 5	April 12
Assisting Minister	Colleen Holdcraft	Kirsten Ebbesen
Cup Minister	Susan Warren	Colleen Holdcraft
Cantor	Simone Schuster	
Lector	Violet Greeley	Erik Robinson
Acolyte		
Tech Team	Ben Bush Cindy Suhrweir	Colin Hackley Mark Greeley
Ushers	Patrick Kennell Audrey Post	Ann DelRossi Jacob Nallapu
Altar Guild	Beth Alexander Rita Ford	Anita Sawh Rita Ford
Counters	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy	Billie Reardon Lorraine Sundberg

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

In treatment for cancer: Ruth Hartung; Scott Simmons (son of Sharon Simmons); Gordon Fleischer; Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Linda Bobbitt, (friend of Cheryl Stuart) diagnosed with metastasized breast cancer.; David McManus (friend of Audrey Post); Shannon Miller (friend of Barb O'Donnell); Pat Yeager (sister of Sue Canning); Roger Stombert (friend of Margaret Bowers).

Health and protection: For Frank “Ramy” Meyers following broken leg. For those encountering fear & uncertainty around government cuts and the future of Medicaid. For immigrants and refugees who are working and raising families in the United States to be safe and secure without unnecessary deportations.

For prisoners: All those on Death Row.

Other concerns: For Jan Harrison and family following the death of her son, Wayne Harrison; Jeanette Sickel and family following the death of her cousin, Elaine Harris; Rick Bobbitt (friend of Cheryl Stuart), our shared sympathy on his death; Sharon Simmons and family following the death of her sister, Sue Berent; Kevin Robinson (son of Erik Robinson), in need of encouragement; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Allana Lochan-Tekaram (sister of Anita Sawh and Rita Ford), for hormone imbalance; Walt Steinvorth (friend of Rob Schiffer), suffering from pericarditis and vestibular neuritis and learning to cope with dizziness and severe equilibrium problems; 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; Bishops Pedro Suarez and Yehiel Curry; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry.

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.

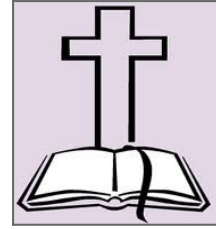
Next Sunday's Readings, Second Sunday of Easter:

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

[Psalm 16](#)

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

[John 20:19-31](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWER CHART FOR 2026: 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 2026 Flower Chart located on the sidewalk near 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://ststephenlutherantally.com/sermons*](https://ststephenlutherantally.com/sermons). Want to read the latest newsletters? Go to [*https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters*](https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters). Want to browse a collection of St. Stephen songs? They're at [*https://ststephenlutherantally.com/songs-of-st-stephen*](https://ststephenlutherantally.com/songs-of-st-stephen).

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