



St Stephen

a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer, Pastor



Encouraging and
strengthening faith in Jesus,
and sharing the joy of God's love.

April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter

10:15am

Liturgy of the Word

Introduction to the Second Sunday of Easter

Easter continues for 50 days and Seven Sundays. In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.



Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept, then the presiding minister leads the prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The assembly sits.



Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

A reading from Acts.

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ²²“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ ²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

A reading from Peter.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is

revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

After a brief silence, the assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

P: † The Holy Gospel, according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

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

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer

NICENE CREED

**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

A: Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

Protect the church, O God,
for we take refuge in you.

P: With bold confidence in your love, almighty God,
we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

P: Almighty God,
you give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection.
Give us also the joys of life in your service,
and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.



Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord.
May Christ's rising lift your spirits and gladden your hearts.
C: Amen.

P: All those who believe in Christ will never perish.
May you pass with Christ from death to life.
C: Amen.

P: Christ has gone to prepare a place for us.
May his resurrection bring you all joy and peace in believing so that you may abound in hope.
C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit bless you, now and forever.
C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

IN OUR PRAYERS...

In our prayers today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: Cesar Vidaud & Melkis, Dolores Lauterberg, Jake Waldecki, Sera Butz, Harry Ambrose, George Arce, Laurel Blake, Dorothy Johnson, James Loggins, Don Schutt, Normagene Richardson, Mildred Grady, Carol Chmelynski, Jimmy Fennelli, Roy and Barbara Kaptain, Katie Paff, Bob Reinhold, and Shelley Amato.

Prayers for Friends of the Parish

✠ John, Alex, Diana, Adreina, Antonella, Guido, Guisepe, Missimo, Bruno, Vittoria, Mario, Cezore, Angelo, Susan, Esther, Dora, Ruedi, Christina, Carmen, Rosa, Anne, Alice, Nicole ✠ Jason, Melissa, Jonathan, Carolyne, James, Camille, Valerie, Carol, Greg, and Annie ✠ Deepa, Ravi, Julia, Iris, our family, our friends, loved ones, for all the residents in senior communities who are vulnerable to coronavirus and are locked down in their homes, those affected with coronavirus and those caring for them.

In a facility or homebound:

Barbara Kaptain – The Atrium Assistant Living at Boca Raton.
1080 NW 15TH Room 215 Boca Raton, Fl. 33486
Evelyn Braun – 6152 Verde Trail Room 106 Boca Raton, Fl. 33433
Jim Loggins - John Knox Village – Woodlands 700 SW 4th St, Pompano Beach, FL 33060
Bud Danker - 3020 N. Ridge Road Apartment W-316 Ellicott City, MD 21043.

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