St Stephen

Evangelical Lutheran Church



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

April 3, 2016

Second Sunday of Easter

10:15am

Rev. Tom Peterson

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

—WE GATHER—

INTRODUCTION

In spite of all we have heard and all that we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the Lord Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of the Holy Communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God:

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



Text: John of Damascus, c. 696-c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt. Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche, 1833

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THE GREETING

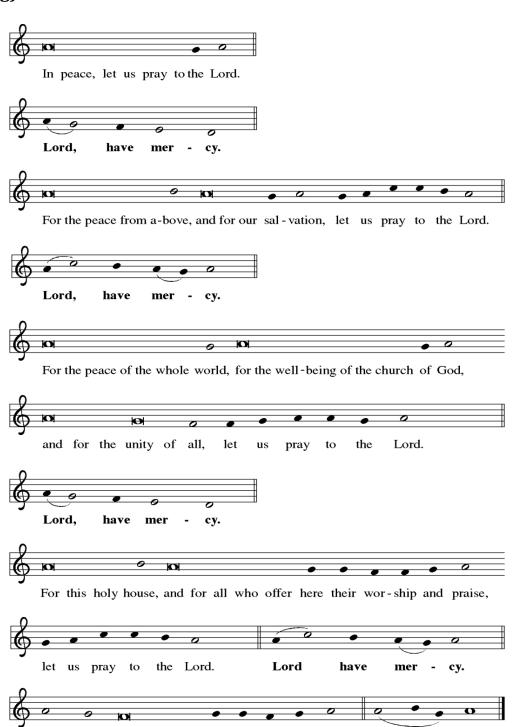
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

for

and

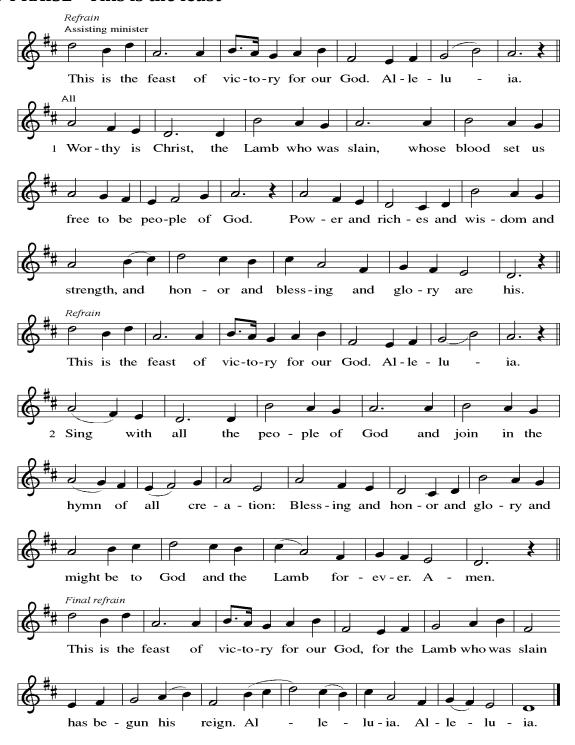
KYRIE (Sung)



men.

Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the feast"



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together:

C: 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. AMEN

Children's Message

—WE HEAR GOD'S WORD—

FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM (ELW): Psalm 118: 14-29

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the LORD does valiantly:

- the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."
- ¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.
- ¹⁸ The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.
- ¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.
- ²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.
- ²¹ I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.
- ²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
- ²³ This is the LORD's doing;

it is marvelous in our eyes.

- ²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- ²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!

O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

- ²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.
- ²⁷ The LORD is God,

and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

- ²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.
- ²⁹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

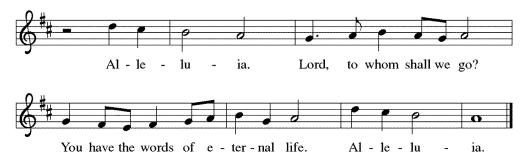
⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. ⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Please Rise for the Gospel Acclamation.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia"



P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

¹⁹ When 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." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So 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." ²⁶ A 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." ²⁷ Then 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." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But 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!

SERMON Rev. Tom Peterson

—WE RESPOND—

P: Please stand as you are able for the Sermon Song.



Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.
Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

A: On this most holy day, let us pray to God for the church, the earth, and all in need, that the whole world may know the resurrection that God promises to give.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: O God, we praise your life. We bless your mercy. We honor your power. Transform all that is dying with the joy of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share with one another the peace of the Lord.

~WE COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE~

OFFERING



Text: Per Harling, b. 1945
Music: DU ÄR HELIG, Per Harling
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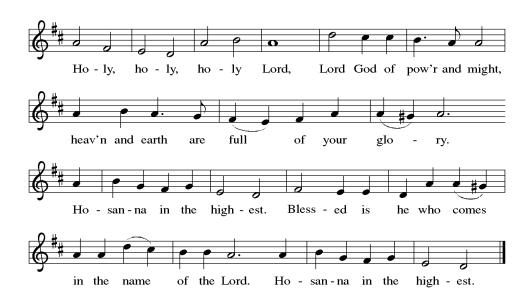
OFFERING PRAYER

A: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Dialogue (Sung) Lord be The with with you. And al - so you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. right It is to give our thanks and praise.

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 had 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 God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

P: And now, we come to You in prayer, as our Savior Jesus has taught us:

C: 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.

Invitation of Communion

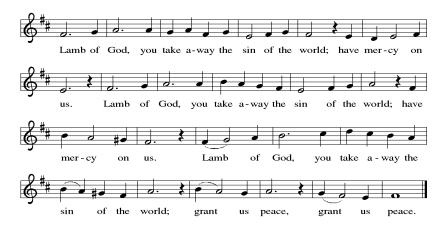
P: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

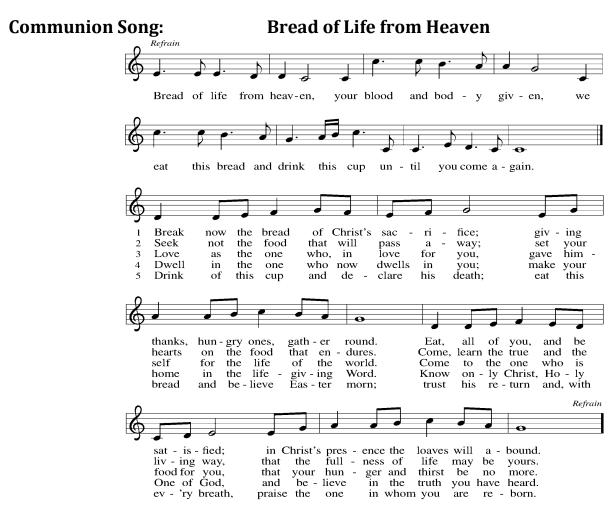
We believe Jesus Christ is present in the bread and wine by his Word of Promise. All baptized Christians are invited to participate in the celebration of God's forgiving love, strengthening faith, and grace-filled hope. Those who are not baptized and children not yet communing may come forward for a blessing (please cross your arms on your chest if you desire a blessing).

Reception of Communion

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.** Reception of Communion: Communion distribution today is at the Altar rail and received by intinction. Please come forward by the center aisle at the direction of an usher, and kneel or stand (as you are able) at the Altar rail. Receive the bread in your hands and dip it in the wine. The wine is alcohol free. There is no group dismissal. Please return to your seats by the center aisle. Please indicate if you need gluten-free elements.

"LAMB OF GOD"





Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, BREAK NOW THE BREAD; Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas Text and music © 2001 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com 800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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Instrumental Music

Cesar Vidaud

ELW #474

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God, we give you thanks for nourishing us with the bread of heaven and the wine of love, Jesus our risen Savior. As you send us into the world, guard us from the power of evil, keep us in unity with all your people, and by your Spirit move us to testify to your grace in our words and actions; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

~WE ARE SENT FORTH~

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's faces shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ⊕ give you peace. **Amen.**



Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God.**

DISMISSAL

IN OUR PRAYERS

In our prayers today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: Cynthia Langbauer. We also need to pray for: Marie Koach, Carmen Crespo, Roy Kaptain, Jimmy Fennelli, Bob & Jane Rinehold, Larry and Beverly Sheehan, Chico E., Paul Hanzlik, C.C., and for Marsha Kibler and Maria Kelly as they mourn the loss of their mother Nancy Reaver.

Prayers for Friends of the Church: Dennis VanCour, Lucille Capece, Marty Shram, Lexie Sachlis, George F., David Spall, Joan Coletti, Giacomo Dresseno, Jeannie Rogers, Adam Rubino, Berna, Braemen Weiner, Chandler Weiner, Debbie Fiore, Debbie Seckel, Elaine Brustad, Elizabeth Kraus, Hazel Quire, Juan Tavarez, Kenneth Smith, Mary Taylor, Norma Duckworth, Cynthia, Tim Tyler, Richard H., Antonio C., Mireya D., Laurie Engelhardt, Cynthia McCormick, Lemmuel Knowles Sr., John Palamar and Belanger and Papagno families at the death of Joe Papagno.

We are always updating our prayer list. If you would like your name added or removed, please notify Pat Belanger or the office.

Announcements

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY: New members will be received at the 10:15 a.m. service.

COUNCIL RETREAT: On Saturday, April 15 and Sunday, April 16 the church council will have a retreat to work on our Strategic Missional Plan.

APPLAUDING IN WORSHIP: Although it might be flattering for the choir to receive an applause and we know some of you do it because you have felt moved by the singing, the choir members would appreciate much more a comment after worship. After all, they are not performing; they are leading us in worshiping Christ. Thanks for understanding and abstaining from applauding them during worship!

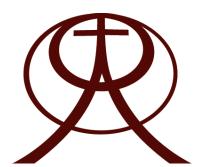
COUNCIL MEETING: This next Tuesday, April 26 at 7:00p.m. the church council will meet at the choir room for their monthly meeting.

Service Assistants for April

10:15 AM	<u>April 3</u>	April 10	April 17	<u>April 24</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Pat Belanger	Aura Suarez	Sera Butz	Carol Jacobson
ACOLYTE	Madison Kibler	Carol Jacobson	Katie Paff	Rick Brustad
LECTOR	Judi Dooge	Rita Sharley	Kevin Otterson	Natalie Prego
USHERS – Need 4 to Serve Head Usher – Rosie	Jeanne Pettit Marsha & Drew Kibler Head Usher –	Joanne Brustad Kim Hanzlik Lynda & Zac Smith Head Usher –	Carol Jacobson Head Usher –	Head Usher –
Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli	Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to serve	Caroline Smith, Rose Jones	ТВА	ТВА	ТВА
SOUND	ТВА	ТВА	ТВА	Sera Butz
PROJECTION	Larry Jones	Larry Jones	ТВА	Larry Jones



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St. Stephen Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Sunday Worship Schedule

Praise and Faith formation 9:00 a.m. Traditional Blend Worship Service at 10:15 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated weekly

Church Staff

Rev. Pedro Suarez - Pastor pastor@ststephenlutheran.net Cesar Vidaud - Director of Music Clarence (Teddy) Rowe - Sexton Aidee Koach - Administrative Assistant sslcpompano@gmail.com

Congregation Council

Larry Jones, President: councilpresident@ststephenlutheran.net

Web Antill Christian Hecker Natalie Prego - Secretary

Eric Castaneda Lynda Smith Kathy Runk - Vice Pres.

Office hours: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 Mon-Fri

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