St Stephen

Evangelical Lutheran Church



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

May 1, 2016

Sixth Sunday of Easter

10:15am

Pastor Pedro Suarez

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

-WE GATHER-

INTRODUCTION

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. The risen Lord Jesus provides visions of peace that passes human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

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.

P: 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.

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



THE GREETING

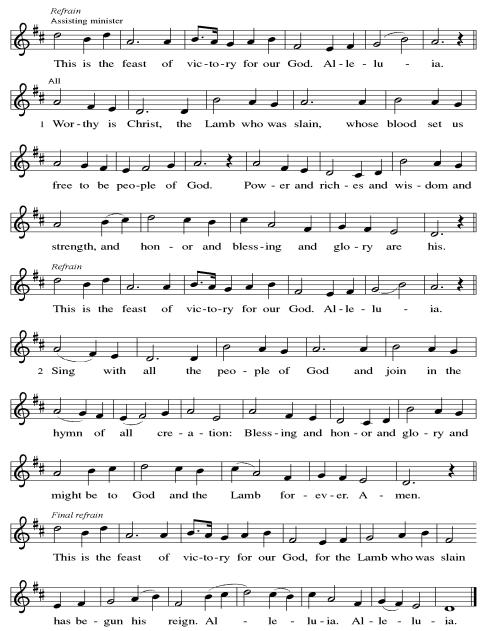
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE (Sung)



HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the feast"



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together:

C: Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN

Children's Message



FIRST READING:

⁹ During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. ¹¹ We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³ On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM (ELW): Psalm 67

¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,

² that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

- ³ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
- ⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.
- ⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
- ⁶ The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.
- ⁷ May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

¹⁰ And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

²² I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵ Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

²² Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him;

⁴ they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Please Rise for the Gospel Acclamation.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia" Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL: John 14:23-29

²³ Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. ²⁵ "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ!

You may be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Pedro Suarez

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



Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

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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: Rooted in the abundant life and love of Christ Jesus, we pray for the life of the church, the lives of people in need, and the life of all creation.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We deliver all this into your care, O God, trusting in the work of your Holy Spirit to bring all things into the risen life of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

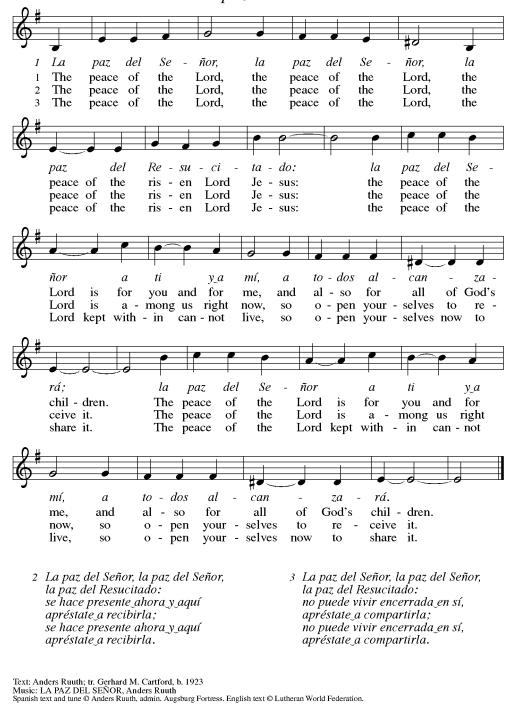
C: And also with you.

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

~WE COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE~

OFFERING

The Peace of the Lord



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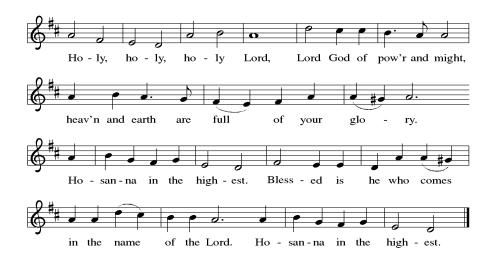
OFFERING PRAYER

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) The Lord be you. with you. with And al 0 We lift Lift your hearts. them the Lord. . 0 God. give thanks to the Lord our Let us 6 is right It 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:



Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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.

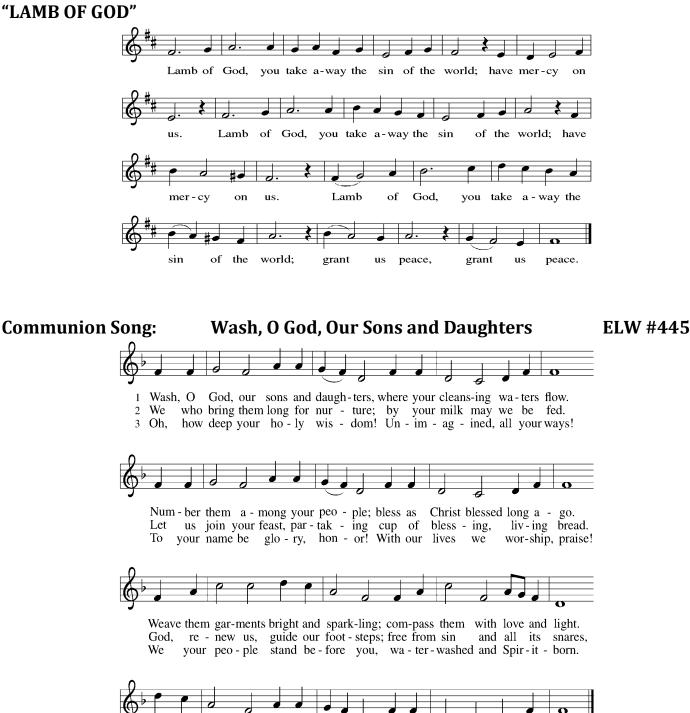
We believe Jesus Christ is present in the bread and wine by his Word of Promise. All baptized Christians are invited to participate in the celebration of God's forgiving love, strengthening faith, and grace-filled hope. Those who are not baptized and children not yet communing may come forward for a 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"



Fill, a - noint them; send your Spir - it, ho - ly dove and heart's de - light. one with Christ in liv-ing, dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs. By your grace, our lives we of - fer. Re-cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

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Instrumental Music

Cesar Vidaud

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.



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DISMISSAL

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

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: Debra Georgia, Lynn Antill, Kathy Runk, Marie Koach, Roy Kaptain, Bob & Jane Rinehold, Larry and Beverly Sheehan, Chico E., Paul Hanzlik, and C.C.

Prayers for Friends of the Church: Debbie Varie-Bright, Joyce Brelsford, Kathy Dickeroff, 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 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, Lemmuel Knowles Sr., Jean and Ken McCormick, Pastor Ed Bary and the Rodriguez Family.

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

Flowers sponsored this week by:

Announcements

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!

DINNER CELEBRATION: On May 7 at 4:30p.m., in the Fellowship Hall we will be having a dinner celebration for Pastor Pedro's first anniversary at St. Stephen. Tickets for this event \$10, for more info please contact Carol Jacobson or at the Narthex as you exit the Sanctuary.

FOOD PACKING EVENT: Food For the Poor is hosting a **great hands-on, food packing event** entitled "Join The Pack" on June 4, 2016 at Advent Lutheran Church in Boca Raton. During the event, 500 volunteers will hand-pack 100,000 meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. These meals will be sent to Haiti to provide much needed nutrition to starving children. We are delighted to invite you to join us to help us pack! We are recruiting teams of twenty to pack meals in two-hour shifts. For more information please contact Cassandra Celestin at 954-427-2222 ext. 4020.

10:15 AM	<u>May 1</u>	<u>May 8</u>	<u>May 15</u>	<u>May 22</u>	<u>May 29</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Pat Belanger	Aura Suarez	Sera Butz	Carol Jacobson	Pat Belanger
ACOLYTE	Sera Butz	Taryn or Alyssa Booth	Carol Jacobson	Maddie Kibler	Katie Paff
LECTOR	Pat Belanger	Tom Peterson	Rosie Fennelli	Joanne Brustad	Sera Butz
USHERS – Need 4 to Serve	Floyd MacDonald Lynda Smith Zack Smith Web Antill	Rudi Koch Carissa Esposito Madalyn Ammons Kathie Shutt	Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Scott Kelley Suzanne Loggins	Darin Kibler Marsha Kibler Drew Kibler Linda Hanzlik	Floyd MacDonald Lisa Castaneda Carole Jacobson Jean Pettit
Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli	Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to serve	Caroline Smith Barbara Kaptain	Don Shutt Suzanne Loggins	Caroline Smith Edith Reichenbach	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Eduardo Arango Marie Koach
SOUND	Eric Castaneda	Sera Butz	Dennis Magarrell	Sera Butz	Katie Paff
PROJECTION	Web Antill	Larry Jones	Web Antill	Larry Jones	Dennis Magarell

Service Assistants for May



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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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