

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.

May 10, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:15am

Holy Communion

Introduction to the Fifth Sunday of Easter

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.



Gathering

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG:

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

ELW# 363

(verses 1 -3)



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,
5 Al - le - lu - ia! now we cry to our Lord im - mor - tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en.
with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;
nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold you as a mor - tal;
who tri - um - phant burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal;



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
 All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
 comes to glad Jer - u - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion
 but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing
 Al - le - lu - ia! with the Son God the Fa - ther prais - ing;



led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 from the Light to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 wel - comes in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
 your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.
 Al - le - lu - ia! yet a - gain to the Spir - it rais - ing.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, 1490–1547

APOSTOLIC GREETING

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



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.



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.

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

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he 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 7:55-60

A reading from Acts.

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

²**Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.**

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵**My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶Let your face shine up- on your servant; save me in your steadfast love.”

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

A reading from First Peter.

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” ⁸and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

L: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

P: † The Holy Gospel, according to John.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

ELW # 816



1	Come,	my	way,	my	truth,	my	life:	such	a
2	Come,	my	light,	my	feast,	my	strength:	such	a
3	Come,	my	joy,	my	love,	my	heart:	such	a



way	as	gives	us	breath;	such	a	truth	as	ends	all
light	as	shows	a	feast;	such	a	feast	as	mends	in
joy	as	none	can	move;	such	a	love	as	none	can



strife;	such	a	life	as	kill	-	eth	death.
length;	such	a	strength	as	makes		his	guest.
part;	such	a	heart	as	joys		in	love.

Text: George Herbert, 1593–1633
 Music: THE CALL, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
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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.**

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:

A: O God, incline your ear to us, **C:** **make haste to deliver us.**

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.**



MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

SETTING THE TABLE

OFFERING SONG:

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW# 674



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
 Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925-1980
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The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Risen One, as you broke bread with the disciples on the shore, meet us now in this meal.
 Nourish us to follow you, using our gifts to feed the hungry and tend the weary, and all for your
 love's sake. **C: Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

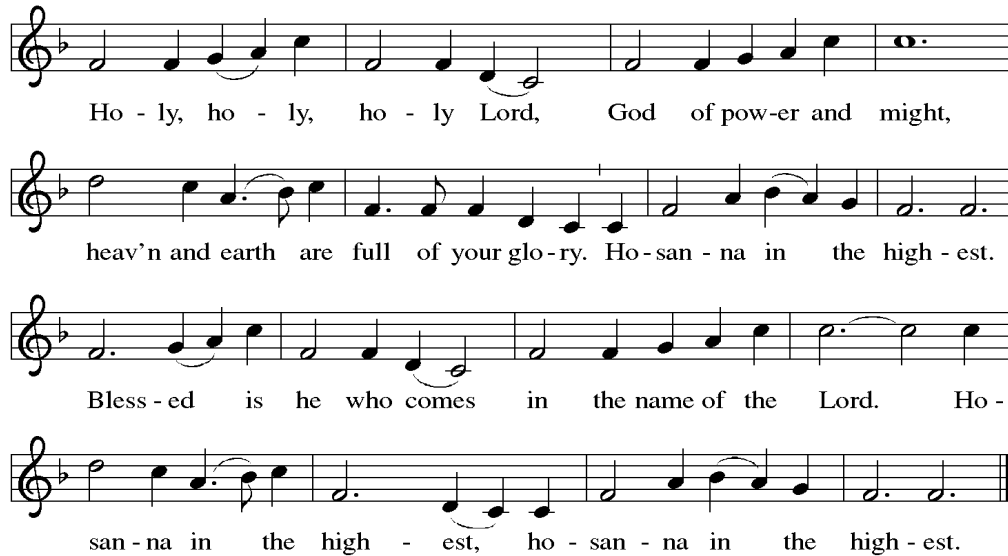


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The presiding minister continues to give thanks:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore....

...Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, ...

...all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, ...

...that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

... O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

Communion

The bread is broken for the communion.

P: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

C: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The assembly is seated.

Lamb of God



Cor-de-ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no-so-tros, ten pie-dad de no-so-tros.
have . . mer-cy up-on us, have . . mer-cy up-on us.

Cor-de-ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no-so-tros, ten pie-dad de no-so-tros.
have . . mer-cy up-on us, have . . mer-cy up-on us.

Cor-de-ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

da-nos tu paz, da-nos tu paz.
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

Communion Song:

I Received the Living God

ELW# 477

Refrain



I re-ceived the liv-ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

I re-ceived the liv-ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

1 Je-sus said: I am the bread, knead-ed long to give you life;
2 Je-sus said: I am the way, and my Fa-ther longs for you;
3 Je-sus said: I am the truth; come and fol-low close to me.
4 Je-sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,

Refrain

you who will par-take of me need not ev-er fear to die.
so I come to bring you home to be one with us a-new.
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.
but re-ceive this liv-ing bread, and my Spir-it you shall know.

Text: Anonymous
Music: LIVING GOD, Anonymous

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assembly stands and the assisting minister leads the prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

Life-giving God,

you have fed us with your word,
and our hearts burn within us.

Through this meal of holy communion, you have opened us to your presence.
Now send us forth to share the gifts of Easter with all in need;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Sending

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

Announcements

Blessing of Mothers

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.



The assembly turns toward the cross as it passes by.

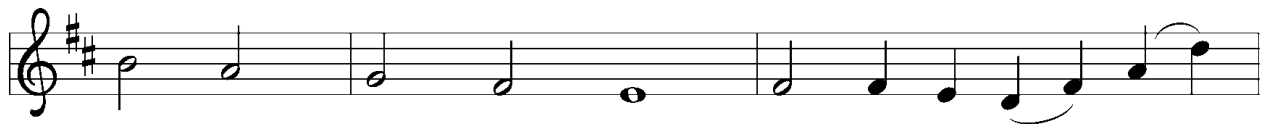
SENDING SONG:

I Know That My Redeemer Lives!
(verses 1-4)

ELW# 619



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -
3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to
4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,
guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort
wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.
me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

DISMISSAL

P: Christ is risen, just as he said.

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



In response to the amazing love, mercy and grace of God, St. Stephen Lutheran Church is a community that openly welcomes all who are seeking God's divine love and grace. All are welcome in this place regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic situation or life situation, marital or relationship status, or your doubts about faith and church. Our unity is in Christ. Your family, children, friends, spouses and partners are welcome. Your diversity and uniqueness enriches and expands our community. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

IN OUR PRAYERS...

In our prayers today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: Marti Stroberg, 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

✠ Our family, our friends, our 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 ✠ Julia, Iris, Natalie, and all the medical staff in hospitals around the world, please dear God, keep them safe, for all those who had lost their loved ones, comfort them ✠ Zeus, Phil Capece, Rodrigo, Carol, Susan, Betty & Chuck, Gene, Chris & Amanda, Annette Madison & Mason, Joanna. Susan, Betty, Diana, Aiden, Chandler, Becky, Braemen, Cheryl, Craig, Robert, Jerry, Trisia, and Vinny who is recovering from Covid19, for the family of Cecelia Zurick from her death, Jake, Lisa, Eric, Natalie, Rosie, Miguel, Skip, Marilyn, Rosita, Jorge, Evelyn, Joe, Joseph.

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.



With unemployment at near record highs, more people are food insecure than ever. To help make a difference we are supporting FEEDING SOUTH FLORIDA. Feeding South Florida is the largest, most efficient food bank serving Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties. More than 98% of all donations are put back into

the community.

Through innovative direct-service programs and a network of nonprofit partner agencies, Feeding South Florida distributed nearly 62 million pounds (51.5 million meals) of food last fiscal year to over 706,000 individuals – 236,000 of whom are children and 100,000 are older adults.

Send your loose change to Church and let's fill up the Change for Change Tower. You may give on line by following the link on our homepage at: www.ststephenlutheran.net

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