



| Holy Eucharist | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Introduction to Easter III The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others. | | | | |

gathering

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

Announcements

Prelude

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The assembly stands and faces the baptismal font. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

The assembly sings the hymn, turning to the altar as the cross passes by.

GATHERING SONG: Christ is Alive **ELW# 389**

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: Christ is risen.

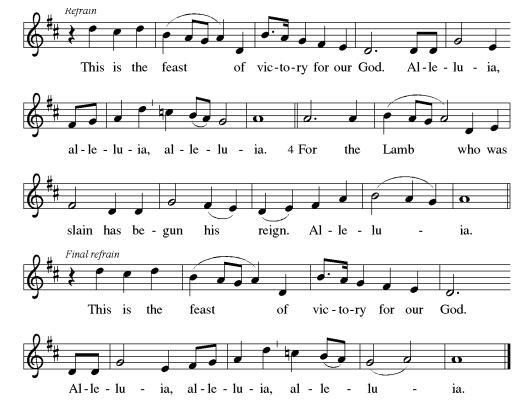
C: Christ is risen indeed.

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

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

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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 9: 1-20

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.

¹ Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [⁷ The men who were traveling with

him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. § Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. § For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."]

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 30

- ¹ I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up and have not let my enemies triumph over me.
 - ² O LORD my God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health.
 - ³ You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.
 - ⁴ Sing praise to the LORD, all you faithful; give thanks in holy remembrance.
 - ⁵ God's wrath is short; God's favor lasts a lifetime.
 Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.
 - ⁶ While I felt secure, I said,
 - "I shall never be disturbed.
 - ⁷ You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains." Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.
 - ⁸ I cried to you, O LORD;
 - I pleaded with my Lord, saying,
 - ⁹ "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?
 - ¹⁰ Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me; O LORD, be my helper."
 - $^{\scriptscriptstyle 11}\mbox{\sc You}$ have turned my wailing into dancing;

you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

12 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.

SECOND READING: Revelation 5: 11-14

A reading from the book of Revelation.

The vision of John recorded in Revelation offers a glimpse of cosmic worship around the throne. At its center is "the Lamb who was slain."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered

to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might

and honor and glory and blessing!"

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb

be blessing and honor and glory and might

forever and ever!"

- ¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.
- L: The word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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(choir) Now he is living the Christ, out of the tomb he is risen. He has conquered death, opened heaven to all believers.

The assembly repeats the alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 21: 1-19

P: The Holy Gospel, according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.

¹ After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others

of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Sidney Nelson

ELW # 729

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

The church of Christ, in every Age

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition of the prayer is said: A: Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The assembly greets those nearby with the words, "Peace be with you." The assembly is then seated.

meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING/Music

You can make your offering electronically if you wish! It's simple: Open the camera app on your phone, focus the camera on the QR code below by gently tapping the code, tap on the link that appears—it will bring you to St. Stephen's secure online giving page:



Donation

Anthem:

As the offerings of bread, wine, and money are brought forward, the assembly stands.

OFFERING SONG: I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me Up ELW#860

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you

P: Lift up your hearts

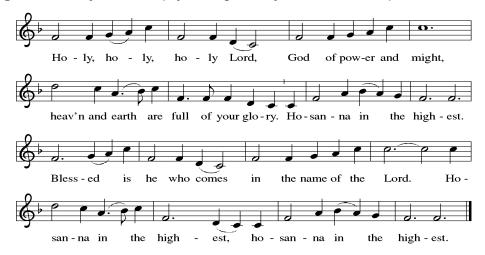
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C: And also with you

C: We lift them to the Lord

C: 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:



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



Communion Song:

Blessing, Honor, and Glory

ELW# 433

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

sending

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

SOLEMN 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.

Amen.

Hallelujah



Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Music © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! 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 we remember Pope Francis, who died on Easter Monday, the people of Ukraine, Israel and Palestine, the people of the Middle East, those affected by gun violence, for those unjustly deprived of liberty, the victims of violence, discrimination and abuse, those who are suffering due to flooding, extreme heat, and other natural disasters; for harmony, peace and unity across our divided nation, those who are homebound and others in our parish family in need of healing; for relief from anxiety and depression, for courage, for continued health and strength, for patience, direction, guidance, food addiction, for positive thinking, for peace and healing, for help with memory, and strength, for guidance with decisions; +Dottie, Louise, Linda, Pastor Reggie, Pastor Tom, ++Rita, Dave Metz, Derrick Black, Carol, Jerry, Cheryl ++Chris, Pat, Pastor Tom, Pastor Reggie, Linda, Dottie, Carol, Ron; 3

Prayers for Friends of the Parish:

(Please renew your prayer requests every three weeks.)

中中中, Kevin, Kamm, Jose, Allen, Alexandra, Serena, Robert, Aiden, Chandler, Becky, Braemen, Craig, Nettie, Ed, Barbara, Paula, Emilia, George, Jessica, Frank, Nick, Susanne, Abby, Marge, Sharon, Mike, Isaiah, Theresa, Audrey, Gregory, 中中中Alexandra, Greg, Evi, Malle, Tommie, Gregory, Nadine, Peggy, David, Pat, Eric, Karen, Shelley, Joseph, Michelle, Barbara, Frank, Brad, Mike, Isaiah.

this week at st. stephen

Tower for Change. . .. May

Our Tower for Change project for May is with Hope Partnership in Kissimmee. The organization was formed in 2011 to meet the needs of the growing number of families and children experiencing poverty and living in hotels and motels along Highway 192. They have grown by providing a holistic community to meet the needs of the poor and homeless.

We are grateful to all who assisted in today's worship service:

Serving this week, May 4, 2025 (Easter III) Presiding Minister: The Rev. Dr. Sidney Nelson

Assisting Minister: Lisa Goertzen

Crucifer: Eric Castenada

Chalice Minister: Rosie Fennelli

Lector:Erika Flanigan

Musician: Cesar Vidaud Sound: Zachary Smith Camera: Chris Belanger

Greeters/Ushers: Monica Kellington, Rosie Fennelli, John Holmes, Ida Solomita, Pat Engle, Jeanne Pettit

Serving next week, May 11, 2025 (Easter IV)

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Dr. Sidney Nelson

Assisting Minister: Brad Goertzen

Crucifer:Lynda Smith

Chalice Minister: Zachary Smith

Lector:Carol Jacobson Musician: Cesar Vidaud Sound: Chris Belanger Camera: Zachary Smith

Greeters/Ushers: Monica Kellington, Rosie Fennelli, John Holmes, Ida Solomita, Pat Engle, Jeanne Pettit

Luncheon following Worship today.....

The St. Stephen Call Committee and Congregation Council are pleased to invite you to join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship TODAY, May 4th, for a special luncheon to meet the Rev. Dr. Victor Jortack, our recommendation for St. Stephen's next full-time Pastor. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Pastor Jortack and share in fellowship as we seek God's direction together.

With sadness...



With sadness we announce the passing on April 26, 2025 of Pastor Bill Van O'Linda who served as a pastor at St. Stephen. A memorial service will be held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Southern Pines, NC on Saturday, May 3, 2025 at 11:00 am. Inurnment will be at a later date at Riverview Cemetery in Richmond, VA.

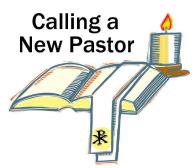
In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Global Refuge - PO Box 17467, Baltimore, MD 21297-1467; or the Alzheimer's

Association - PO Box 96011, Washington, DC, 20090-6011.



A Message from the Broward County Sheriff's Office....

We have been reminded by the Broward County Sheriff's Office to lock your car. There are people roaming up and down 14th St. (and other major streets) in every parking lot checking for unlocked cars and taking valuables. If they don't find anything they move on.



Congregation Meeting to vote on the call of the Rev. Dr. Victor Jortack Sunday, May 18, 2025

This is to serve official notice that there will be a Special Meeting of St. Stephen Congregation on Sunday, May 18, 2025, immediately following the 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion in the church, for the sole purpose of voting whether to extend a call to the Rev. Dr. Victor Jortack as a pastor of this congregation. No

other business will be transacted at this meeting. Voting members are those who have

communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding calendar year (*C8.02.c of the congregation's constitution). Associate members of this congregation do not have voting rights (*C8.02.d), but may be granted voice and discussion privileges at the congregational meeting. Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot is not permitted (C10.06.).

THIS WEEK.....

| Sunday | May 4 | 9:00, Choir | Luther Room | |
|------------|------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| | Easter III | 10:15am Holy Communion | Sanctuary | |
| | | 11:15 Luncheon | Fellowship Hall | |
| | | 7pm, AA | Fellowship Hall | |
| Monday | May 5 | 6:30pm, AA | Fellowship Hall | |
| | | | | |
| Tuesday | May 6 | | | |
| Wednesday | May 7 | 9:00 Holy <mark>Gril</mark> l | Church grounds | |
| | | 5:00 Holy <mark>Gril</mark> l | Church grounds | |
| Thursday / | May 8 | 7pm, AA | F <mark>ellow</mark> ship Hall | |
| Friday | May 9 | | | |
| Saturday | May 10 | 9-12 Threads of Love | Fellowship Hall | |
| Sunday | May 11 | 9:00, Choir | Luther Room | |
| | Easter IV | 10:15am Worship | Sanctuary | |
| | | 7pm AA | Fellowship <mark>Ha</mark> ll | |
| | | | | |



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To all who enter here this holy place:

To those who are weary and need rest;

To those who mourn and need comfort;

To those who pray and those who do not;

To those who sin and need a Savior;

To those who rejoice and wish to praise;

To those who are blessed and wish to serve;

This Church opens wide its doors

and says

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ: you are welcome.

2024 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Pastor's email: pastoratststephen@gmail.com; Pastor Nelson cell: 561-463-8900
Brooks Black (2026) fbrooksblack@aol.com; 954-242-2225
Karen Breslin (2026) kimbreslin@aol.com; 954-407 -3324
Eric Castaneda (2024) nativeny918@att.net; 954-494-4070 / 954-415-7509
Erika Flanigan, President (2024) extendpediatrics@gmail.com; 954-895-5623
Lisa Goertzen (2025) lisagoertzen13@gmail.com; 314-707-4078
Kevin Krasovic(2026) (Treasurer) Kevin.Krasovic@gmail.com 786-234-9257
Natalie Prego, Secretary (2026) natalieprego@yahoo.com; 754-367-0261 / 561-488-8280
Rita Sharkey (2026) ftdrita@aol.com; 516 770-9146
Lynda Smith, Vice President (2024) enginej@bellsouth.net; 954-261-9579

