



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, April 18, 2021 ■ 9:30 a.m.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Third Sunday of Easter
Worship Service with Holy Communion



WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

“Benedictus”

Wolfgang Mozart

1756-1791
Written 1791

Welcome

Singing Bowl

Silence is kept for reflection.

* Thanksgiving for Baptism

*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!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.

Amen.

WE GIVE OUR PRAISE

* Hymn

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

ELW #367 vs. 3, 4

Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
set heart and will on things above
that we conquer through your triumph;
grant grace sufficient for life's day
that by our lives we truly say:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Adoring praises now we bring
and with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father, and our Lord,
to Spirit blest, most holy God,
all the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
All rights reserved. Used by permission under
AUGSBURG FORTRESS #SB158773
ONE LICENSE #A-708293, R-196364

* Greeting

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.

* Hymn of Praise

“The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing”

ELW #531

The Feast Is Ready

The trumpets sound, the angels sing,
The feast is ready to begin.
The gates of heav'n are open wide,
and Jesus welcomes you inside.

Tables are laden with good things;
oh, taste the peace and joy He brings.
He'll fill you up with love divine;
he'll turn your water into wine.

Refrain

Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight.
Come and revel in heaven's love and light.
Take your place at the table of the King.
The feast is ready to begin;
the feast is ready to begin.

The hungry heart He satisfies,
offers the poor His paradise.
Now hear all heaven and earth applaud
the amazing goodness of the Lord.

Refrain

Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight.
Come and revel in heaven's love and light.
Take your place at the table of the King.
The feast is ready to begin;
the feast is ready to begin.

CCLI Song # 190672 Graham Kendrick
© 1989 Make Way Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)
For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](#).
All rights reserved. www.ccli.com
CCLI License # 1664009

*** Prayer of the Day**

Holy and righteous God,
**you are the author of life,
and you adopt us to be your children.
Fill us with your words of life,
that we may live as witnesses
to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading

1 John 3:1-7

1 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. 3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 4 Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 4

Answer me when I call, O God of my right!
You gave me room when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.
How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?
How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?
But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.
When you are disturbed, do not sin;
ponder it on your beds, and be silent. *Selah*
Offer right sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.
There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!
Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!"
You have put gladness in my heart
more than when their grain and wine abound.
I will both lie down and sleep in peace;
for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

"Yours, Lord, Is the Glory"

ELW #849 vs. 2

**Yours, Lord, the dominions,
and power as well;
yours, Lord, now and always.
Amen, amen.**

The Holy Gospel according to St Luke,
Glory to you, O Lord

*** Gospel**

Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." 37 They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. 38 He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." 40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41 While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish,

43 and he took it and ate in their presence. 44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.

The Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, O Christ

Gospel Acclamation

"Yours, Lord, Is the Glory"

ELW #849 vs. 4

**Glory in the highest,
and on earth as well.
Glory, alleluia.
Amen, amen.**

Text: Traditional; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.
All rights reserved. Used by permission under
AUGSBURG FORTRESS #SB158773 ONE LICENSE #A-708293 R-196364

Sermon

Pastor John

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

"Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

ELW #579 vs. 1, 2

**Lord, you give the great commission:
"Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity:**

Refrain

**With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.**

**Lord, you call us to your service:
"In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise,
life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us
closer in community: *Refrain***

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934
Text © 1978 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
All rights reserved. Used by permission under
AUGSBURG FORTRESS #SB158773
ONE LICENSE #A-708293 R-196364
CCLI #1664009 #20540802

*** Prayers of Intercession**

Petition response Leader: ... Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

*** Sharing the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Offering [Invitation to support ongoing ministries of St. Stephen's]

Like all of the stars in the heavens,
God's mercies can never be told.
They shine through the darkness of midnight;
their beauties can never grow old.
Like all of the stars in the heavens,
God's mercies can never be told.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
Text © 1993 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. www.selahpub.com.
All rights reserved. Used by permission under
ONE LICENSE #A-708293, R-196364
CCLI #1664009 #20540802

* **Offertory Prayer**

God of love,
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.
Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

* **Words of Institution**

* **Lord's Prayer**

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 to Communion**

The risen Christ invites us to this table.
Come, eat and be satisfied.

Communion is Received

The body of Christ, given for you
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
Strengthens you and keeps you in his grace.
Amen.

* **Prayer after Communion**

Wellspring of joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us,
and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

* Blessing

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Hymn

“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

ELW #579 vs. 3, 4, 5

Lord, you make the common holy:
"This my body, this my blood."
Let us all, for earth's true glory,
daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us
share your children's liberty:

Refrain

With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.

Lord, you show us love's true measure:
"Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure
all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us
to a just society: *Refrain*

Lord, you bless with words assuring:
"I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring,
may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity: *Refrain*

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934
Text © 1978 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
All rights reserved. Used by permission under
AUGSBURG FORTRESS #SB158773
ONE LICENSE #A-708293 R-196364
CCLI #1664009 #20540802

* Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

* Postlude

Improvisation on “Now All the Vaults of Heav’n Resounds”

Ben D.



Today's Altar Flowers

In Memory of Loved Ones
Given by: Virginia Culver

Jesus said ...

"My Father's House shall be a house of prayer."

Please include the following people in your prayers this week:

Barbara, Dorrie, Harlan, Dorothy, Laura, Mike, Leslie, Jim, Kathy, Lorraine, Steve, Jackie, The Family and friends of Daunte Wright, Public Safety Teams

Each week different families will be included in special prayers. Please hold in your prayers: **Georgene, Tim and Susan, Nancy, Keith and Rhonda, Matthew, Sarah, Ben and Danielle.**

Each week different missions that St. Stephen's support through our Sunday offerings are included in our prayers. This week we offer prayers for **Lutheran Mideast Development**. LMD strives to bring peace and wholeness to the Kurdish communities of the Middle East by mobilizing a network of people through education, vocational training, personal empowerment and advocacy.

We also offer prayers for our **brothers and sisters in Christ in the villages of Iwonde and Ihimbo, Tanzania** especially with the challenges presented by the COVID virus as it affects their daily lives.

We pray for **residents and staff of group homes and care facilities, and all healthcare workers.**

We pray also for those away from home serving in the military: **Tim, Ben, Nick, Jeremy, Matthew, Zachary, Sam, Troy, Tricia, Adam, Nick, Peter DJ, Christopher, Gene, Sam, Andrew.** (Please help us keep our military member listing up to date. Thank you.)

St. Stephen's invites you to add your prayer requests to our daily prayers. We hope that this list is placed inside everyone's Bible or devotional material. All prayer requests will be listed for three weeks. Please contact the church office if additional time is needed.



Leaders in Today's Service

Pastor.....	The Rev. Dr. John Snider
Lay Liturgist.....	Debbie Pirkl
Director of Worship.....	Bryon Dockter
Christian Music Leader	Ben D.
Guest Musicians	Mary Larew - Soprano, Violin
Lectors	Tracy Westman, Bruce Meyers
Audio Visual Ministry.....	Norm Goetzke, Keith and Jess Gregory
Prayer Chain	Rachel Circle, Mary Circle, Kathy Ericson, Abby Vavra
Altar Guild	Lori Ritt
Outdoor Street Sign	Jerry Thoreson



ST STEPHEN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor John Snider | Associate Pastor of Discipleship Tim Thompson
1575 Charlton Street ■ West St. Paul, MN 55118



Bulletin Acknowledgements

Liturgical texts, prayers, cover art and graphics: Sunday and Seasons.
Reprinted with permission under AUGSBURG FORTRESS #SB158773

Music and Streaming Licenses: AUGSBURG FORTRESS #SB158773;
ONELICENSE.NET License #A-708293 #R-196364; CCLI License #1664009 #20540802.