



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, April 25, 2021 ■ 9:30 a.m.

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



WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Reflection on "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Bryon Dockter

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.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

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

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

ELW #502 vs. 1, 2, 3

The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth
and, where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

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* 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.

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*** Prayer of the Day**

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep,
you seek the lost and guide us into your fold.
Feed us, and we shall be satisfied;
heal us, and we shall be whole.
Make us one with you,
for you live and reign with the Father
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading

1 John 3:16-24

16 We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. 17 How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? 18 Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. 19 And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him 20 whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21 Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; 22 and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24 All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

"Yours, Lord, Is the Glory"

ELW #849 vs. 3

To you I surrender my being, my life;
all, Lord, I surrender. Amen. Amen.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John,
Glory to you, O Lord

*** Gospel**

John 10:11-18

Jesus said ... 11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the

sheep. 16 I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

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.**

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Sermon

Pastor Tim

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

ELW #502 vs. 4, 5, 6

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me,
thy rod and staff my comfort still;
thy cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.**

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*** 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]

Offertory Response

"The Numberless Gifts of God's Mercies"

ELW #683 vs. 3

**I'll never count all of God's mercies,
but oh, I can give God my praise
for all of that love, my thanksgiving
and love to the end of my days.
I'll never count all of God's mercies,
but oh, I can give God my praise!**

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
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*** 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

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

ELW #789 vs. 1, 2

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,**

you have bought us; we are yours.

We are yours; in love befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear us children when we pray.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847
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*** Dismissal**

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

*** Postlude**

Celebration on "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Bryon Dockter



To sponsor Sunday Altar Flowers please sign up either
Online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0945ada822aafb6-sunday>
Stop by the church and add your name to the flower chart outside Fellowship Hall
or **Call the church office** at 651-457-6541.
Cost for two bouquets is \$29.50
Thank you!

Jesus said ...

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

Please include the following people in your prayers this week:

Ann, Michelle, Barbara, Dorrie, Harlan, Dorothy, Laura, Mike, Leslie, Jim, Carol, 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:

Jeff and Joy, Monica and Marilyn, Chris and Linda, Robert and Patricia, Julie.

Each week different missions that St. Stephen's support through our Sunday offerings. This week we offer prayers for **Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota** who expresses the love of Christ for all people through service that inspires hope, changes lives, and builds community.

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. Tim Thompson, Ph.D
Lay Liturgist	Debbie PirkI
Director of Worship	Bryon Dockter
Song Leader	Philip Dahl
Lectors	Kathy Canniff, Dean Eisfelder
Audio Visual Ministry	Norm Goetzke, Matt Kirkwood, Jenny Van Pelt
Communications and Media Coordinator	Garrett Masters
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
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