

***“People of Christ
Making a
Difference”***

**Resurrection of
Our Lord
Easter Sunday**

April 5, 2026

**8:30 AM &
11:00 AM**

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S!

A nursery is provided for children through age 4 for both worship services and for infants and toddlers during Sunday School. The nursery is located at the end of the hall on the right side.

Children's bags can be found in the "Kid's Corner" of the narthex.

Restroom facilities are located down the hall on the left side.

First Aid, Emergency Equipment, and a wheelchair are located down the hall on the right by the stairwell.

If for any reason you must leave the sanctuary, the service is live streamed in the Agape Sunday School classroom. Any usher will be glad to direct you.

Sunday school classes are provided for 2 year olds through adults.

Listening devices and larger print bulletins are located in the narthex. Ushers are also available to assist you.

If you are a visitor feel free to sign-in using the QR code. Here's how it works: Point your camera at the image, tap the link that appears on your screen, and share whatever information you desire. Thank you! Hope to see you again soon!



GATHERING MUSIC

Category V Brass and Percussion

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PEACE

PRELUDE

"Easter Rejoicing"

Todd Marchand

(We Stand)

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

By our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, God raises us up to new life. Let us confess to God our sins and all that waits for resurrection in our lives.

Amen.

God of grace and glory,

You have brought us through the night of sin into the light of Jesus' resurrection. Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin. Make us alive in Christ, O God. Make us new as you make all things new. Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin, renew us in grace, and restore us to living in your holiness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

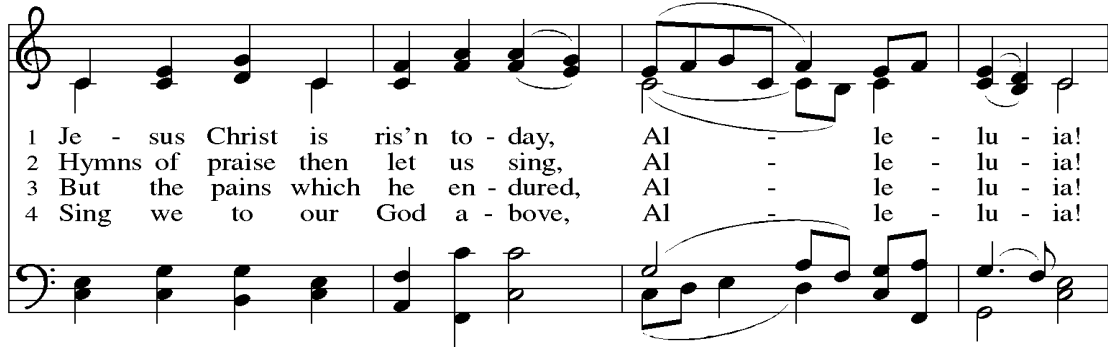
Rejoice with all creation around God's throne! The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin, restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace, and humbles earthly pride. God is merciful and gracious, granting forgiveness through Jesus Christ to all who confess their sin. 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 sin, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

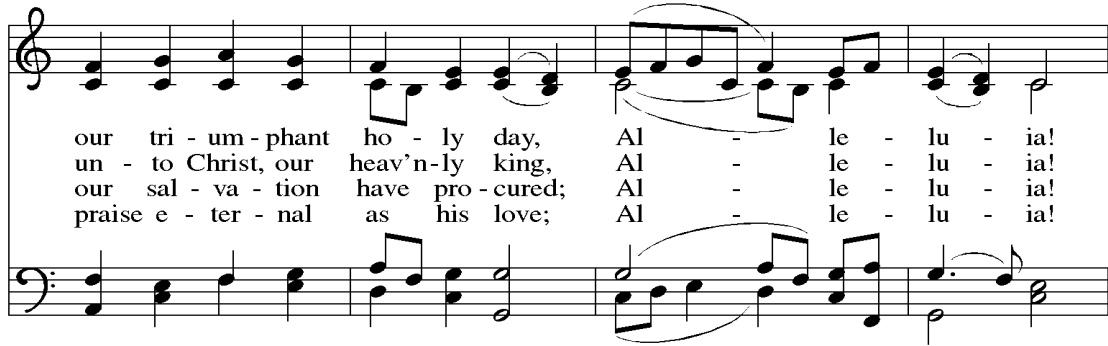
GATHERING HYMN

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

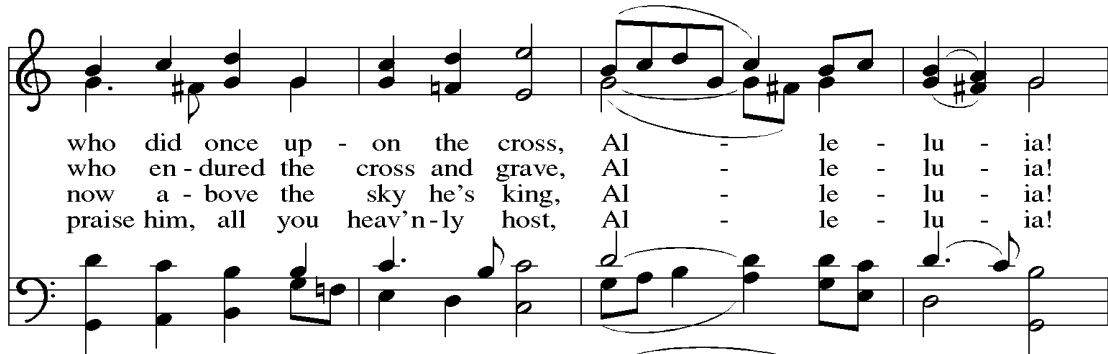
ELW 365



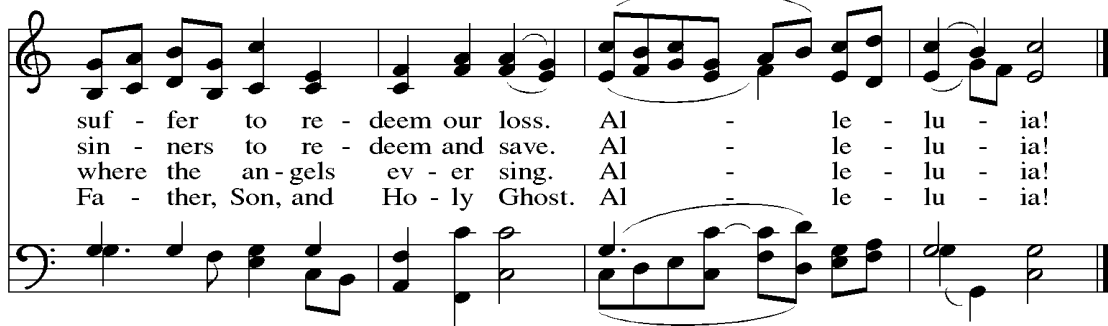
1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

GREETING

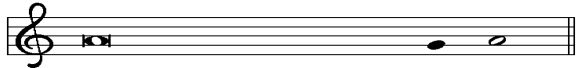
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

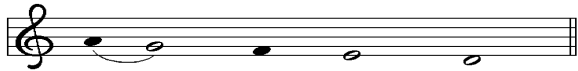
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

And also with you.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



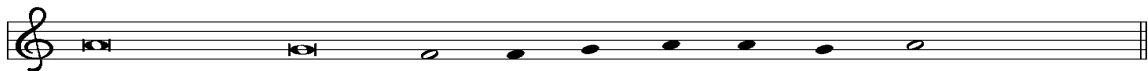
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



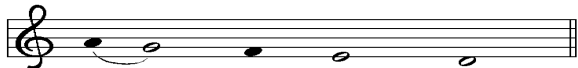
Lord, have mer - cy.



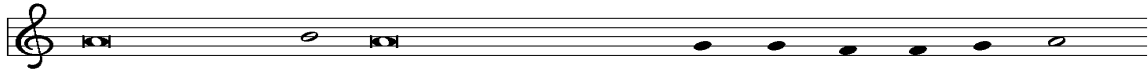
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!"

ELW 377



1 Al - le - lu - ja! Je - sus is ris - en!
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

THE SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(We Sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 118

Refrain

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us re-joyce,
let us re-joyce and be glad in it.

Refrain text: Psalm 118:24 (PD).
Music: Hal H. Hopson, and copyright © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers.

(The congregation is asked to sing the refrain and the choir will sing the verses.)

Give thanks, give thanks to our gracious God, whose love endures forever; The Lord, our strength and song shall be, from whom no fault can sever. **R**

Sing joyful songs of victory, both now and through eternity, for God will leave us never, for God will leave us never. **R**

I shall not die, but I shall live, and sing God’s grace with elation. Though I deserve no more than death, God blesses me with salvation. **R**

The gate that should unyielding be is open wide to welcome me. Give thanks and adoration, give thanks and adoration. **R**

Upon the stones the builders judged imperfect, weak and tender, now rest the corners of God’s house, still unsurpassed in splendor. **R**

This is the day the Lord has made; God is my sun, and God my shade; Rejoice, your praise now render! Rejoice, your praise now render! **R**

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:1-4

¹If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

(We Stand)

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL

"The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done" (Stz. 1)

ELW 366

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor's

tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 28th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL "The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done" (Stz. 3)

ELW 366

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious
from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

(We Sit)

CHILDREN'S SERMON
SERMON

Pastor Ralph
Pastor Ralph

(We Stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Rejoice This Easter Day"

Jeremy J. Bankson



1. Re - joice this Eas - ter day! Christ con - quered
2. God's pow - er can - not fail, Christ rules o'er
3. Re - joice in glo - rious hope! For Christ, the



sin and death! Re - joice, give thanks, and praise
earth and heav'n; The keys of death and hell
Judge, shall come To glo - ri - fy the saints



God with your ev - 'ry breath. Lift up your heart, lift
Are to our Sav - ior giv'n; Lift up your heart, lift
For their e - ter - nal home: Lift up your heart, Lift



up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!
up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!
up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

Text: Stanza 1, Otis E. Young, 1931-2009, based on *Rejoice, the Lord Is King*, and written in 1981; Copyright 1981 by Otis E. Young. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, *alt.*, and written in 1746 (PD).
Tune: *DARWALL'S 148th*, John Darwall, 1731-1789, and written in 1770 (PD).
Arrangement: Newly arranged by Jeremy J. Bankson, and copyright © 2013 with this publication.

Copyright © 2013 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP)
A division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc., St. Louis, MO
All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A. 1.800.647.2117 www.MorningStarMusic.com

THE 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 THE FAITHFUL

(We Sit)

OFFERING

God calls us to be generous stewards for the sake of our ministry near and far. You can support our ministry by putting your offering in the offering plate, mailing it to the church, giving online (sslc.org or use the QR Code) or through the Givelify app. If you would like more details on direct deposit giving please contact our Parish Administrator, Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, at (803) 359-6562.



Anthem

“Christians, Rejoice!”

Antonio Lotti

Christians, rejoice! Now sing your alleluias, O sing your alleluias.
Jesus, the Savior, from death has arisen. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Over sin and death he is the victor. Alleluia! Alleluia!

(We Stand)

OFFERING HYMN

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resound"

ELW 367

1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring

in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has

tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the

an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly

here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

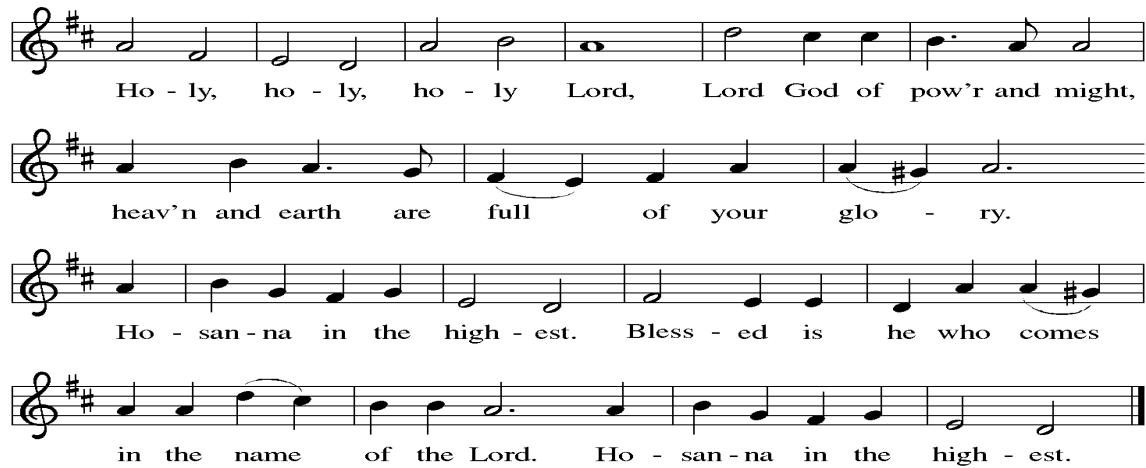
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

THE SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

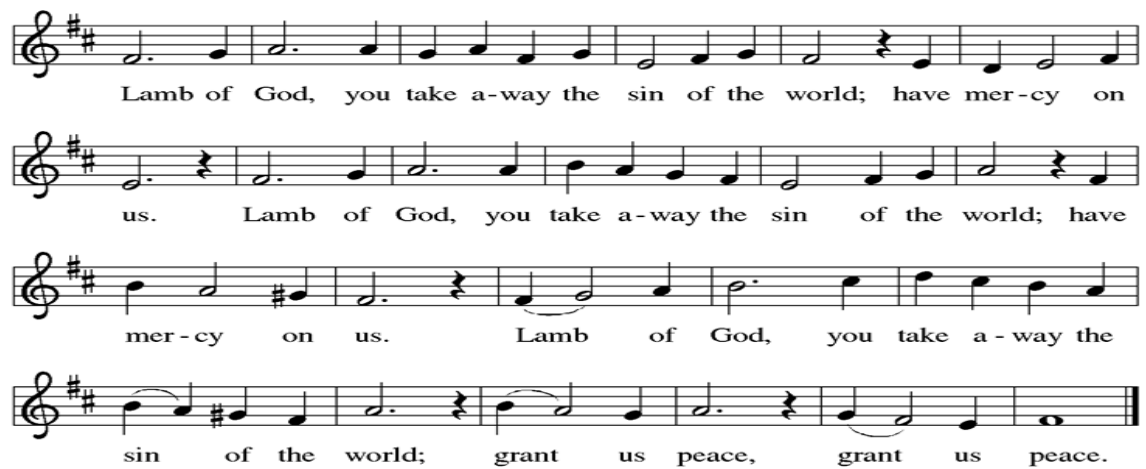
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

(We Sit)

THE AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

RECEPTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Christ welcomes you to this Holy Meal of the Baptized! We receive communion this morning at the center aisle. Communion will be brought to the front rows for those who wish to remain seated. Children who commune should be assisted by adults near them. Those unable to partake of wine or wheaten bread are assured of our Lord's presence in, with, and under each element alone. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Communion Music

"Day of Delight"

Robert Hobby

Day of delight and beauty unbounded, tell the news, the gospel spread!
Day of all wonder, day of all splendor, praise Christ risen from the dead!
Sing of the Sun from darkness appearing;
sing of the seed from barren earth greening,
sing of creation, alleluia!
Sing of the stream from Jesus' side flowing,
sing of the saints in water made holy;
Sing of salvation, alleluia!

Day of delight and beauty unbounded, tell the news, the gospel spread!
Day of all wonder, day of all splendor, praise Christ risen from the dead!
Sing now of mourning turned into dancing;
sing now the mystery, hope of our glory;
sing with thanksgiving, alleluia!
Sing now of fasting turned into feasting;
sing the Lord's favor lasting forever;
sing, all things living, alleluia!

*The Congregation is encouraged to participate in the following Communion Hymn.
The hymn can be found in the back portion of the LBW (Green) Hymnal in your pew rack.*

Communion Hymn

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!"

LBW 144

(We Stand)

BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

May God, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who has brought us from death to life, fill you with great joy and bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Christ is Risen! Alleluia!"

ELW 382



1 Christ is ris-en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!
2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!
through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-turs to life once more;
now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris - ing of to - day.
We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri-umphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;
death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,
See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground;
All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be-fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.
an - gels on his steps at-tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow.
Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.
hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

Refrain



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to share the good news that Christ is Risen!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"Trumpet Tune in G"

Jeremy J. Bankson

Sunday, April 5, 2026

Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Sunday

Hidden with Christ

Easter turns the world upside down. It defies our expectations with hiddenness and bluntness: Mary does not recognize the resurrected Jesus (John 20:14), the good news is heralded by an earthquake and terrifying angels and is brought to the women of the church first, rather than to the Twelve (Matt. 28:1-10). The radical reversals prophesied in scripture and revealed in Christ's life and ministry culminate in the good news we proclaim today: Christ, through death, has triumphed over death. "The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone" (Ps. 118:22).

Easter offers the mystical possibility of transformation in every moment. In this season, what is dying and what is being born? For our communities? For our families? For our world? What is breaking open like a seed to die (John 12:24) so that new life might thrive?

The theme is framed candidly in Colossians: "You have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). In the season of Easter, we are invited to allow old husks to fall away so that Christ's new life may emerge. This part of the resurrection story is strange, unsettling. We are invited, after all, to share fully in Christ's death as well as his resurrection (Rom. 6:5; 2 Cor. 4:10-11). Terrifying, but in the mystery of the Holy Spirit's work in us, we receive it as hope (1 Peter 1:3).

On this Easter day, we are honest about how God is stirring us to transformation, and we may be called to faithfully lament the letting go. Almost simultaneously, as we embody Christ's resurrection in the present, we celebrate it with great joy (Matt. 28:8). In our desire to be hidden in Christ's abundant life (John 10:10), we can even name seasons of suffering as Christ's resurrection emerging (Phil. 3:10).

EASTER LILIES are given to the glory of God and in honor/memory of those as printed within your bulletin insert. Lilies can be picked up after the 11:00 service today.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in gratitude for all the blessings he has bestowed upon everyone worshipping with us, today, and in Christ's love by Blaine, Alyssa, Hartley, and Georgia Richardson

SERVING TODAY:

Ushers: (8:30) Eric Wessinger, Ivan Black, Bill Carroll, Aaron Rawl, Vernon Hester, Deon Fink, Blaine Richardson, and Chad Geary;

(11:00) Alon Cox, Roy Welch, Brian Paeth, Doug Harper, and Matt Martin

Cantor: Hal McIntosh

Brass: Noa Miller, Mike Santiago, trumpets, Eric Gilfus, French Horn, Blake Lawson, Trombone, Mathew Tuk, Tuba

Percussionist: Matthew Jones

Organist: Frances Webb

Greeters: (8:30) Shannon Burnett; (11:00) Shannon Burnett

Readers: (8:30) Anna Yonge; (11:00) Bill Cegelis

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Marian Fowler & Lacy Geary;
(11:00) Peggy Sherman & Cathy Mathias

Order of St. Stephen's: (8:30) [A] Gracen Geary [C] Ryan Kennedy [BB] Jack Kennedy [TB] Connor Geary [TB] Shaun Wessinger;

(11:00) [A] Hudson Taylor [C] Sam Taylor [BB] Sophie Taylor [TB] Mary Beth Stafford [TB] Madelyn Burgess

The Church Staff

Website: www.sslc.org

The Rev. Jason T. Antley	The Rev. Ralph G. Hill
Mrs. Shannon Burnett, Director of Family Life	Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, Parish Administrator
Ms. Susan Wilson, Director of Music/Organist	Mrs. Julie Tworzyanski, Preschool Director
	Mrs. Sylvia Looney, Organist Emeritus

Sunday School Information:

<u>Locations for Children's Classes</u>	<u>Locations for Adult Classes</u>
Nursery – Room #105	Agape Adult Class Room #102 (Closest to Narthex)
2—4 year olds & 5K – Room #103	Saints & Sinners with PJ and PR Room #203 (Large Upstairs Room)
1st—5th Grade – Room # 216	Women Digging Deeper Parlor
6th—8th Grade – Room #212	For those not attending a Sunday School class but waiting on a child to get out of one, feel free to sit in the Social Hall!
9th—12th Grade – Room #217	If you are interested in beginning a new Sunday School class please contact Mrs. Shannon.

If you are not receiving the weekly announcements and monthly newsletter via email and would like to receive them, please email Shannon (Shannon@sslc.org) so she can add you to the distribution list.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.