

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)

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April 23, 2023 ✝ Easter 3

We Welcome Our Visitors who are with us this morning.

We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel at our worship service.

We invite you to join us every Sunday.

✝ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 67 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✝

**Our Worship Services will be Posted to Our Website Each Sunday Evening.
To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:**

<https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

Opening Hymn: 478 *The Day of Resurrection* (please stand for last verse)

LSB 478



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil That we may see a - right
3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, Let earth its song be - gin,
△ 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, All praise to God the Son,

The pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The pass - o - ver of God.
The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion light
Let all the world keep tri - umph And all that is there - in.
All praise to God the Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One!

From death to life e - ter - nal, From sin's do - min - ion free,
And, lis - t'ning to His ac - cents, May hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things, seen and un - seen, Their notes of glad - ness blend;
Let all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the throne

Our Christ has brought us o - ver With hymns of vic - to - ry.
His own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, May raise the vic - tor strain.
For Christ the Lord has ris - en, Our joy that has no end!
And hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry As - cribe to God a - lone!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–79

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

P In the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** (1 John 1:5, 7-9)

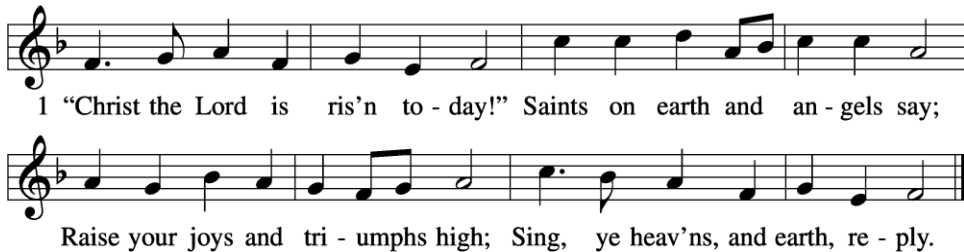
P Let us pray...

C **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer:**

We confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven! With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the joy and peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord...

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today” *LSB 469 v. 1*



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Tune: French, 13th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P We pray:

Dear Heavenly Father, by the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus, You have raised up the fallen world. We pray that You would give to us, your children, faithfulness and perpetual gladness. And to us, whom You have delivered from the danger of everlasting death, give the joys of everlasting life. We pray this in the name of Your Son, our Savior Jesus, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading

1 Peter 1:17-21 (EHV)

¹⁷ If you call on the Father who judges impartially, according to the work of each person, conduct yourselves during the time of your pilgrimage in reverence, ¹⁸ because you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, not with things that pass away, such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was chosen before the foundation of the world but revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Second Reading

Luke 24:13-35 (EHV)

P The second reading is from Luke 24:13-35.

G Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!

¹³ Now, on that same day, two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about all of these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing this, Jesus himself approached and began to walk along with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ He said to them, "What are you talking about as you walk along?" Saddened, they stopped.

¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹ "What things?" he asked them.

They replied, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet, mighty in deed and word before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be condemned to death. And they crucified him. ²¹ But we were hoping that he was going to redeem Israel. Not only that, but besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²² Also some women of our group amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning. ²³ When they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb. They found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him."

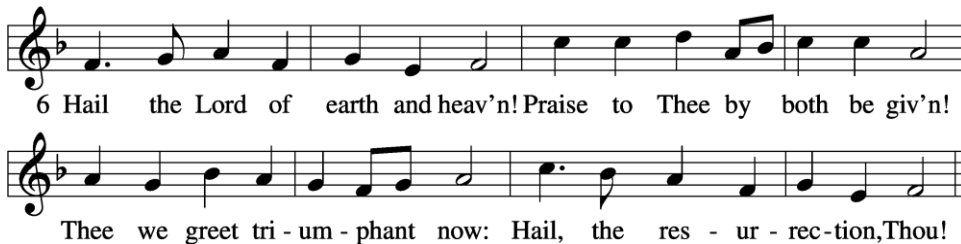
²⁵ *He said to them, "How foolish you are and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and to enter his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.*

²⁸ *As they approached the village where they were going, he acted as if he were going to travel farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, since it is almost evening, and the day is almost over."*

So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he reclined at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and began giving it to them. ³¹ Suddenly their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. Then he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was speaking to us along the road and while he was explaining the Scriptures to us?" ³³ They got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and those who were with them assembled together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord really has been raised! He has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ They themselves described what had happened along the road, and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

P Here ends our Scripture readings.

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today" LSB 469 v. 6



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.
Tune: French, 13th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

Apostles' Creed *We boldly confess what we believe.*

W.S. p. 15

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

(Creed continues on next page ->)

The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: 464 *The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done*

LSB 464

Refrain

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

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done;
 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst,
 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped,

Now is the vic - tor's tri - umph won;
 But Christ their le - gions hath dis - persed.
 He ris - es glo - rious from the dead.

The Refrain is repeated after st. 5.

Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia!

**4. He broke the age-bound chains of hell;
 The bars from heav'n's high portals fell.
 Let hymns of praise His triumph tell.
 Alleluia!**

**5. Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee,
From death's dread sting Thy servants free
That we may live and sing to Thee.
*Alleluia! (Refrain)***

Text: Symphonia Sirenum Selectarum, 1695, Köln; tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909, alt.
Tune: Giovanni P. da Palestrina, c. 1525–1594, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Acts 2:14a, 36-47 (EHV)

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them: “Men of Judea, and all you residents of Jerusalem, understand this, and listen closely to my words...

³⁶ “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” ³⁷ Now when the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Gentlemen, brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸ Peter answered them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call.” ⁴⁰ He testified solemnly with many other words and was appealing to them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added.

⁴² They continued to hold firmly to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread, and to the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came over every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They were selling their possessions and property and were distributing the proceeds according to what anyone needed. ⁴⁶ Day after day, with one mind, they were devoted to meeting in the temple area, as they continued to break bread in their homes. They shared their food with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ as they continued praising God and being viewed favorably by all the people. Day after day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Sermon Theme:

Resurrection Reaction – The Early New Testament Christians

† Why are the early New Testament Christians an especially good example for us to look to as to how we should react to Jesus' resurrection?

† In what way(s) can we, and do we, follow their example? (**see v. 42-46**)

Offertory


LSB 956

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Public domain

Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

Sermon Hymn: 633 v. 1, 5-8 *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing* LSB 633 v. 1, 5-8



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
5 Might - y Vic - tim from the sky, Hell's fierce
6 Now no more can death ap - pall, Now no
7 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy! This a -
△ 8 Fa - ther, who the crown shall give, Sav - ior,

our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
pow'rs be - neath You lie; You have con - quered in the fight,
more the grave en - thrall; You have o - pened par - a - dise,
lone can sin de - stroy; From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
by whose death we live, Spir - it, guide through all our days:

Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
You have brought us life and light. Al - le - lu - ia!
And Your saints in You shall rise. Al - le - lu - ia!
New - born souls in You to be. Al - le - lu - ia!
Three in One, Your name we praise. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt.
Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivancice
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Church / Prayer Requests *We bring our prayers to God.*

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

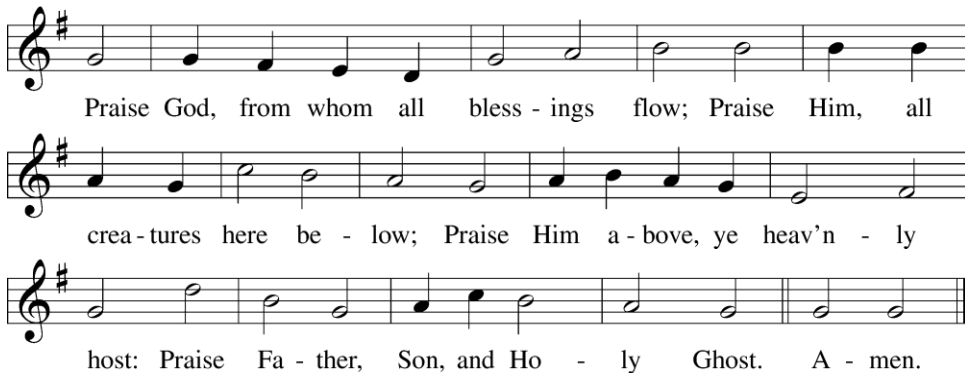
- ☐ Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is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

Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and $\cdot\ddagger\cdot$ give you peace.

The Doxology

LSB 805

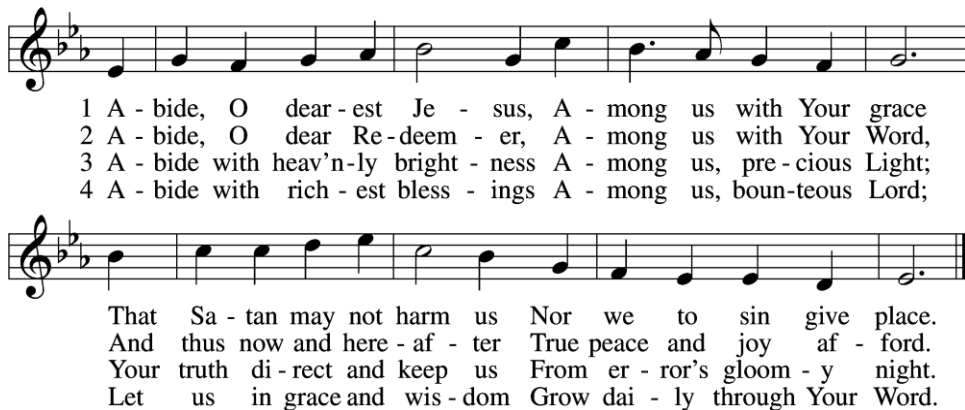


Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Public domain

Closing Hymn: 919 ***Abide, O Dearest Jesus*** *(please stand for last verse)*

LSB 919



1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us with Your grace
2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us with Your Word,
3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness A - mong us, pre - cious Light;
4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us, boun - teous Lord;
That Sa - tan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.
And thus now and here - af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.
Your truth di - rect and keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.
Let us in grace and wis - dom Grow dai - ly through Your Word.

**5. Abide with Your protection Among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us And overcome at length.**

**6. Abide, O faithful Savior, Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us To reach our home above.**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Class – 9am**
Worship – 10am
Women’s Auxiliary – 11:15am

St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship – 1pm
Bible Class – 2pm

This Week: Tuesday – **Stockton Worship (Oakmont) - 2pm**
Wednesday – **Church Council / Elders Meeting (Mt. View) – 7pm**
Friday - **The SSLS Run-A-Thon on the April church calendar for Fri. 4/28**
has been rescheduled for Friday, May 26th.

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Class – 9am**
4/30/23 **Worship – 10am**
St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship – 1pm
Bible Class – 2pm

Items for Giveaway on the Fellowship Hall Countertop – Please take a look at the items for giveaway on the fellowship hall countertop. There are a number of Bible-based VHS and cassette tapes as well as video and audio tapes from past events and seminars here at St. Stephen. There is also an older (but still working) small projector screen that is free for the taking.

Baptism Tentatively Scheduled for Next Sunday's Worship Service – 4/30 –

On April 4th the Lord blessed Tina and Julian Weinberger with a healthy baby boy, Aiden. The baptism is tentatively scheduled for next Sunday at our worship service. I will be meeting with Julian and Tina this week to finalize plans. We rejoice with the Weinbergers at the birth—and upcoming re-birth in baptism—of their new little one, Aiden!

CLC News – The CLC Call Committee on Graduates met on Wednesday evening, and issued these calls: seminary graduate Jonah Albrecht to the dual parish of Redemption Lutheran of Lynnwood, WA and Ascension Lutheran of Tacoma, WA; teacher graduate Stephen Krause to Grace Lutheran in Valentine, NE. We thank the LORD for His gifts to His Church, and pray for the ministries of our graduates.

Weekly Sermon Podcast - For nearly 65 years, the CLC's Ministry by Mail has been producing print sermons for distribution. Originally this was done by postal mail, especially for members living at a distance from their home church or serving in the military. With the arrival of the internet, sermons began being sent by email and posted online (www.lutheransermons.org). This past Advent, Ministry by Mail began offering audio versions of their sermons through weekly Podcast services. You can find these sermons on most major podcast platforms such as Google, Apple Podcasts, and Spotify by searching "*CLC Ministry by Mail*." Hit "subscribe" or "follow" to receive notifications of weekly uploads.