

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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

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April 20, 2025 † Easter Festival Service

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 118 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

Our Worship Service

will be Posted to Our Website Each Sunday Evening.

To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:

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

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn 457 Jesus Christ is Risen Today

LSB 457



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 ye 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!

Text: tr. Lyra Davidica, 1708, London, alt.; (sts. 1–3): Latin, 14th cent.; (st. 4): Charles Wesley, 1707–88

Tune: Lyra Davidica, 1708, London

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 Father, and of Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Responsive Reading

P Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

P This is the day the Lord has made;

C **let us rejoice and be glad in it. Hallelujah!**

P He is risen, Hallelujah!:

C **Why do you seek the Living among the dead? Hallelujah!**

P Remember how He spoke unto you, Hallelujah!

C **The Son of Man must be crucified and the third day rise again. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

P Now Christ is risen from the dead,

C **and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

P For since by man came death,

C **by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.**

P For as in Adam all die,

C **even so in Christ all shall be made alive. Hallelujah!**

Confession

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 **ut if confess our sins, God 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 then join in making confession of our sins to God our Father and seek His forgiveness.

C **Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness, blot out my transgressions. Wash me completely from my iniquity and cleanse me from all my sin. For I confess my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done this evil in Your sight. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation.**

Absolution

The LORD declares His forgiveness through His called servant.

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and was raised again for our justification. Because of His death in our place, God forgives us all our sins. Therefore according to our Lord's command, in His Name and in His stead I forgive you all your sins. To those who place their trust alone in Jesus as their Savior He gives the right to become the children of God, and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ!

C Amen

"Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices" LSB 811

I Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es To praise my
God with thou-sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -
joic - es, Would then pro-claim in grate - ful songs To all, wher -
ev - er I might be, What great things God has done for me.

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862 Tune: Public domain

P Let us pray:

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, has overcome death and opened wide the gate of everlasting life, we pray, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we might ever trust in Jesus as our living Savior and be filled with the peace and joy that He alone can give. Grant that we, who have been raised spiritually with Him through baptism, may walk in the newness of life and ever rejoice in

the hope of sharing His glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit be dominion and praise now and forever.

🕊 Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Job 19:23-27 ²³ " Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book! ²⁴ That they were engraved on a rock With an iron pen and lead, forever! ²⁵ For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; ²⁶ And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, ²⁷ Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me! (NKJV)

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:1-12 Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. ² But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. ³ Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. ⁵ Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ "He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, ⁷ "saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.' " ⁸ And they remembered His words. ⁹ Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. ¹¹ And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened. (NKJV)

Easter Confession of Faith

🕊 I believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Man, Lord of lords and Savior of the fallen world. I believe that He is the Word made flesh, Who came to


earth to redeem all sinners. He was born under the Law, to fulfill all of God’s commandments on my behalf. He was crucified at the hands of sinful men, and endured all the punishment that I and all sinners deserved, to fully satisfy the justice of God. He died and was buried.

I believe that on the third day Jesus Christ rose bodily from the dead, as the prophets foretold and as He Himself promised. Proved by the inspired Scriptures and by many eyewitnesses, Jesus’ resurrection shows that He is God’s Son, that His mission of salvation is complete, and that He has triumphed over death, our last great enemy.


With this victory, Christ has become our forerunner, the first-fruits of all who sleep in Him. Because He rose, I and all who trust in His redeeming work shall rise on the Last Day. Because He lives, I too shall live. For He has promised me: “I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.” This is most certainly true.

Hymn 490 Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won

LSB 490



1 Je - sus lives! The vic - t'ry's won! Death no long - er can ap -
2 Je - sus lives! To Him the throne High a - bove all things is
3 Je - sus lives! For me He died, Hence will I, to Je - sus
4 Je - sus lives! I know full well Noth - ing me from Him shall
5 Je - sus lives! And now is death But the gate of life im -



pall me; Je - sus lives! Death's reign is done!
giv - en. I shall go where He is gone,
liv - ing, Pure in heart and act a - bide,
sev - er. Nei - ther death nor pow'rs of hell
mor - tal; This shall calm my trem - bling breath



From the grave will Christ re - call me. Bright - er
 Live and reign with Him in heav - en. God is
 Praise to Him and glo - ry giv - ing. All I
 Part me now from Christ for - ev - er. God will
 When I pass its gloom - y por - tal. Faith shall

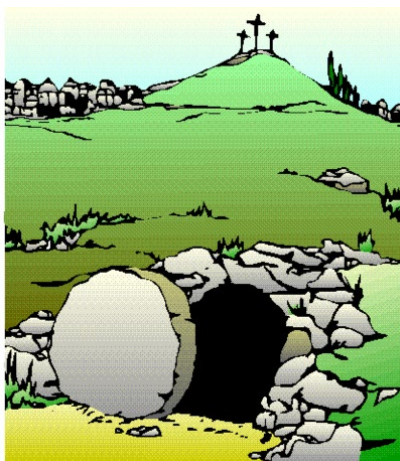


scenes will then com-mence; This shall be my con - fi - dence.
 faith - ful; doubt-ings, hence! This shall be my con - fi - dence.
 need God will dis - pense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.
 be my sure de - fense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.
 cry, as fails each sense: Je - sus is my con - fi - dence!

Text: Christian Fürchtegott Gellert, 1715–69; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text and tune: Public domain



Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 ²⁰ But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. (NKJV)

Sermon Theme: Jesus' Resurrection Assures Us of Our Resurrection unto Life Everlasting.

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.

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Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.
The collection plate to receive your offering can be found on the table in the entryway.*

Prayer of the Church *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.**

Hymn 461 st.1-6 I Know That My Redeemer Lives *LSB 461*



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort
 2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -
 3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to
 4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who
 ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious
 plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry
 guide me with His eye; He lives to com - fort



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.
 in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
 soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
 me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

5 He lives to silence all my fears;
 He lives to wipe away my tears;
 He lives to calm my troubled heart;
 He lives all blessings to impart.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
 He lives and loves me to the end;
 He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
 He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–99, abr.

Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793

Text and tune: Public domain

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 to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C ♩ **Amen, Amen, Amen.**

Hymn 461 st.7,8 I Know That My Redeemer Lives *LSB 461*

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

8 He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–99, abr.

Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793

Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today	10:00 a.m. Easter Festival Service
4/20/25	11:00 a.m. Easter Brunch
4/21-25/25	SSLS Spring Break (No School)
4/27/25	10:00 a.m. Worship Service
	11:00 a.m. Choir Practice

Easter Brunch Following the service this morning, all are welcome to share with us the meal that will be served in the fellowship hall. Depending on what you prefer, the meal can be eaten either in the fellowship hall or outside at the picnic tables.