

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



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GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

Welcome to St. Stephen Lutheran:

**A Worshipping Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
who partners with other Christians. Where the Faith is Taught, Connections
are made, and people are Cared for.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the
presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

GATHERING HYMN

“In Christ There is no East or West” red book #650

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.



- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close bind-ing hu-man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

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.

KYRIE

Setting One

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

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 mercy.

For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen, amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

...Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

A reading from Acts the 10th Chapter.

Word of God, word of life.:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 98

The psalm for the day is read responsively.

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

A reading from 1st John the 5th Chapter.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

Setting One

**Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia.**

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to John the 15th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.


SERMON

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.


HYMN OF THE DAY: “Jesu, Jesu Fill Us With Your Love” red book #708

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

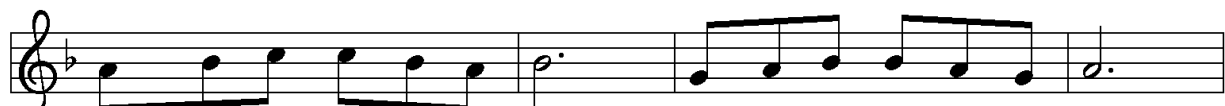
Refrain



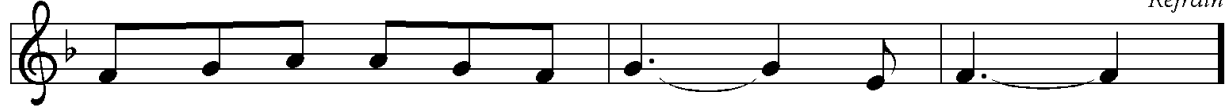
Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:



Refrain

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

... God of grace,
... through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**hear our prayer.
Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

After the table is set, the assisting minister may lead one of the following or a similar prayer.

Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
And also 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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Setting One

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

...the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

...We look with hope for his coming.
...Bring the gift of peace on earth.
...now and forever.

**Come, Lord Jesus.
Come, Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

The assembly may be seated.

AGNUS DEI

Setting One

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

COMMUNION

Come and know Christ,
broken and poured out for you.
Amen.



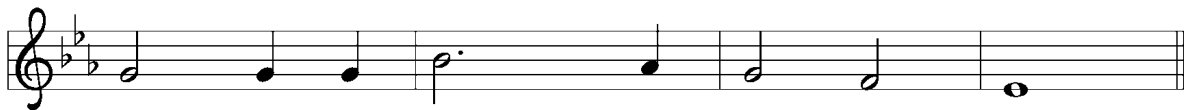
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Shepherding God,
 you have prepared a table before us
 and nourished us with your love.
 Send us forth from this banquet
 to proclaim your goodness
 and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
 our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *“Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing”* *red book #389*
The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE



TODAY'S SERVANT LEADERS

Rev. Frantisek Janak, *Pastor*
Pastor Oscar Castro, *Musician*
Jeanne Elmuccio, *Church Secretary*

Randy Gerling, *Worship Assistant*
Gianneschi Family, *Ushers*
Miriam Skrzypczak and Pat Benward, *Altar Guild*

Offering Counters:

1st Sunday of Month - Pat Klatt/Judy Ziccardi
2nd Sunday of Month - Bob Newman/Randy Gerling
3rd Sunday of Month - Linda Nietman/Linda Hansen
4th Sunday of Month - Miriam Skrzypczak/Frank Gianneschi
5th Sunday of Month - Craig and Jane Busch

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

*God gives us this community, the body of Christ, as the answer to our prayers.
Remember these and all in need as you pray and as you serve.*

Rose Adam, Sheri Agens, Patrice Apostol, Amandeep Bedi, Barbara Barreca, Joy Billich, Kim Boyd, Jane Busch, Pamela Casey, Kathleen De Carlo, Kaylene DeMaio, Doell Family, Nate Fagen, Mary Flannary, Ronald Franz, Chuck Helvig, Katie Herdman, Jackie Hettrick, Barbara Hodge, Harry Jacobs, Kim Jarema, Stephanie Kendall, Charles Knight, Joyce Krauss, Phil Lore, Vera Millett, Alice Murraray, Bill Owens, Denise Paavola, Werner Porsch, Rev. Olga Rivera, Jacqueline Santiago, Artie Sears, Barbara and Mick Smalley, Deborah Summey and family, Jimmy Tangen, Doris Torre, Butch Varga, Joe Woodring, Carlton, Everett, Heather, Michael, Family of Pastor Lynn Ash, Family of Lillian Boltz, Family of Lois Gorman, and all communities and people affected by violence and weather related disasters. +

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Typical Pastor's Schedule

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays
(Emergency pastoral care as needed: please text or call at 331-248-3084)

Schedule a meeting or visit with Pastor František:

<https://bit.ly/schedule-with-rev-janak>

Bible Verse: **Psalm 145:18:** The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

May 5, 2024 11:30 a.m. Worship and Music Committee Meeting

May 9, 2024 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Meeting of the South Plainfield Ecumenical Council of Christian Churches

May 15, 2024 5:00 p.m. Pop-Up Food Pantry

May 21, 2024 7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting

May 26, 2024 11:30 a.m. Coffee and Refreshments Following Worship

The Bulletin Board by the entrance in the narthex is empty and awaiting your input. Please take one of the blank paper balls on the table and write your 2024 Word of Intention in the center. Around the outside write some related words you found that add understanding to your word. There is an example on the board.