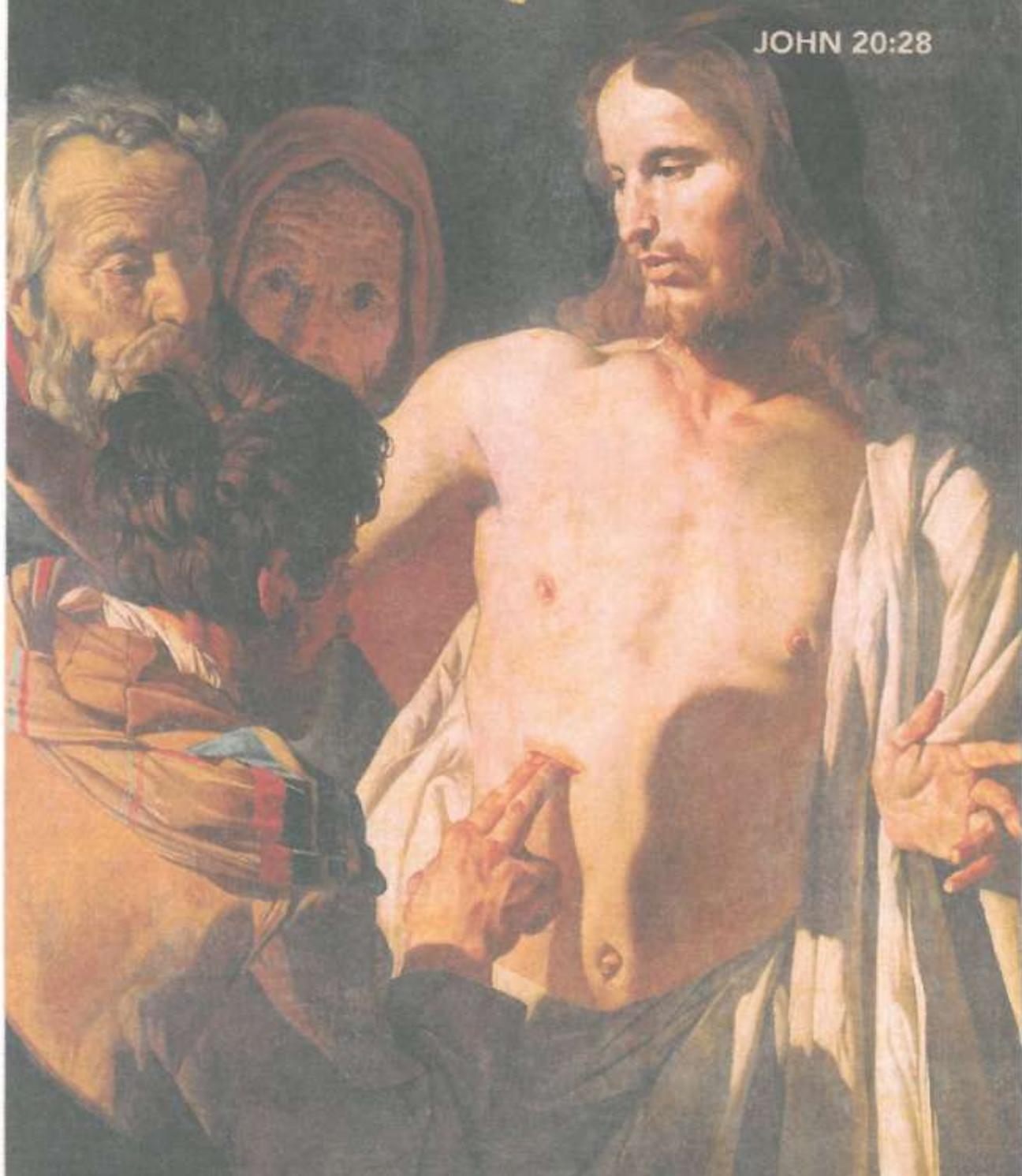


My Lord and my God!

JOHN 20:28



Second Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2020

Welcome to people new to this church or faith, long time Lutherans, and Christians from every tradition. Welcome to all who have no church home, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new visitors and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation and marital status, ability and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners and questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate and sorrow, rejoice and recover. This is a place where lives are made new. Welcome on this day.

(*) Asterisk means, "Please stand as you are able."

Prelude

The Gathering

*Call to Worship

P: Alleluia! Christ has risen!
Christ has risen indeed, Alleluia!

P: Sing a new song.
Full of incredible joy, gracious healing, and comfort for those who mourn.

Sing praise to God.
An abundant song full of springtime glory and sunny renewal.

Sing loud and clear,
For God brings super-blooms in the desert!

Let all the waterfalls clap their hands and the mountains and hills ring out with gladness,
For Christ is risen and rules the world with truth and grace.

Heaven and nature sing,
For the Savior reigns, and the wonders of God's love are everywhere.

*Opening Hymn

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen! Red #377

**Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!**

REFRAIN

**Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**Walking the way, Christ in the center
Telling the story to open our eyes;
Breaking our bread, giving us glory:
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.** *REFRAIN*

**Jesus the vine, we are the branches;
Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
Gift of the future now flowing to me.** *REFRAIN*

**Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent;
Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: O grave, be open!
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.** *REFRAIN*

**City of God, Easter forever,
Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, saints and archangels,
Sing with creation to God the I AM!** *REFRAIN*

*Greeting

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen

C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: **The grace of our risen Savior,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.**

C: **And also with you**

*Prayer of the Day

The Word of God

The Communion Meal

* Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering— We honor and worship God by returning some of the gifts with which we have been blessed.

Offertory Prayer

Giver of life,
**We bring to your table what we have, gifts from you,
the one who makes all things new.
With these signs we bring ourselves,
that we may carry to the world
the love of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*Prayer of Preparation

Let us prepare our hearts to receive God's grace by confessing our sin and need of forgiveness.
Creator of the heavens, Maker of each small thing,

what a wondrous universe
you have spread before us.
Each day overflows with the richness of life:
with growing green and bursting blossom,
with relationships which nurture and challenge,
with missions accomplished
and justice to be done.
Each day is full of your meaning,
and yet many times we do not see this.

With much around us to be done,
we complain of boredom,
or we are so busy
we lose track of your presence and calling.
Too often we hurry around
without appreciation, delight,
or much sense of purpose.
Call us, O God, out of apathy and spiritual poverty
and into the richness of life lived in love.
Move us toward you and one another
as we receive your grace together now. Amen.

*Words of Institution

*Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is 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

**P: The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come for all is ready!**

(You may be seated)

Holy Communion

Communion Hymns

Eat This Bread Red #472

**Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.**

**Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.**

“Be Not Afraid” Red #388 (Sing 4 times)

**Be not afraid, sing out for joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!
Be not afraid, sing out for joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!**

The Sending

*Communion Blessing

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

*Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray:

In this meal, O God, you have strengthened us by the risen life of your Son.
Send us by your Spirit to live in peace with one another

and to renew your whole creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

*Benediction

P: God, who raised Jesus from the dead,
Make you stand strong in faith.

C: Amen. Alleluia!

P: Jesus Christ, triumphant over the grave,
Make you bold to tell the good news.

C: Amen. Alleluia!

P: The Spirit of truth abide with you
And guide you into paths of service.

C: Amen. Alleluia!

*Closing Hymn

Thine Is the Glory Red #376

**Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.**

REFRAIN

**Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!**

**Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom;
Let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting REFRAIN**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. REFRAIN**

*Dismissal

-
Go in the power of the Spirit.
Proclaim the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

Serving Today

Videographers — Kent Madsen & Barbara Rice
Organist — Gary Roberts

Worship with us online at www.ststephenslutheran.org

Prayer Concerns

Short Term: Family of Suzanne Duval, Vanessa, Rose, Shelly Barker & family, Scott Ruble & family, Family of Pr. Bonnie, George Webber & Family, Cox Family, Becky & Aaron Johnson, Trippel family, Grandma Joyce, Marlene Simmen, Lily Williams, Duke, Michael, Kimberly & Danny, Lora Schraft Poulson, Debbie, Julie, Kelly, Doug Hahn, Michael, Kayla, Don, Lina, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Cabel, Kyle, Esdras, Jackson, Joe, Pat, Riley, Shelby, Frank, Kaitlyn, Daniel, Ryder, Jenny, Abby, Healthcare workers, Immigrant families, The Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim and Our Church Family. **Long Term:** Lee Arvid, people of the Bahamas, The Sanders Family, Ernestine Bartee, Barbara & John Bartee, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Susan Anderson, Rick, Bobbie Erickson, Edna Lindquist, Richard C., Eric VonSchell, Lauri Hollist, Ken Pahel, Pat M., Gary, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Barry & Barbara, Chris & Lorie Juhl, Karin, Will, Chris, Pat Hubbard, Cathy, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, men and women of Armed Forces, the President, and the Youth of today

Our Mission Statement

St. Stephen's is a welcoming, healing community who worship God in Christ,
nurture people growing in faith,
serve others with acceptance and love,
invite people to share the joy of the spirit.

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Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's
Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp
Music Director: Gary Roberts
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens
Custodian: John Hopping

St. Stephen's Worship Band

Jay Johnston, Nancy Graham Loya & Sam Loya

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ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod
A message from Katy Grindberg
Assistant to the Bishop

The word I probably hear more than any other when talking about our current situation is “weird”. The experience is weird, we feel weird, the patterns and rhythms of our days and weeks (if patterns exists) are weird – it’s just all so weird.

As we begin the season of Easter, I have also seen many reflections tying how many feel in this time to the experience of the first Easter. The sense of dislocation and uncertainty were probably present, and we certainly know that grief, fear, and doubt were being experienced by those closest to Jesus, as well as the multitudes that followed him. The world that the disciples faced after Jesus’s death and resurrection looked both very much different and very much the same as the world did just a few months before.

We don’t know when our lives and communities will be able to begin to return to a more ‘normal’ pattern of life, but we do know that it will look very different. Some will be grieving the death of loved ones, some will be mourning the loss of jobs and the fear about providing for themselves and maybe families. Businesses that we frequented may have closed, friends and family may be facing unprecedented challenges. We all will be coming out of this time with new ways of seeing the world and our neighbors – as in many of our communities many of us are seeing the needs of our neighbors with new eyes.

As we travel through this time of the season of Easter, may we pay new attention to the biblical stories and how the eyes and hearts of the disciples were opened in their encounters with the risen Christ. May we have new compassion for those who were afraid, or those who doubted, or those who were slow to return. May we allow Jesus to enter our hearts and lives anew and break open our hearts so they are overflowing with love for our neighbors, and this world that God loves so deeply...in all of its weirdness.

Be well,
Pr. Katy