

## 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.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.

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Web Address: [www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://www.ststephenslutheran.org)

Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 8:30 am—2:30 pm

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

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539

# Third Sunday of Easter

## April 26, 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."

### The Gathering

#### \*Call to Worship

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

P: O radiant God, in the midst of crippled hopes and shattered dreams, you worked your brightest surprise—

**C: The shining glory of the risen Christ.**

P: Even now, you are birthing new hopes and prompting new dreams.

**C: Our eyes are open wide—**

P: Seeing your glory in the springtime blossoms,

**C: Noticing that your blessing leaves a calm in our hearts,**

P: And a patience in our voices,

**C: Sensing your presence in the breaking of bread,**

P: The embrace of a friend and the planting of a seed.

**C: O radiant God, with songs of praise and hearts of gladness, we worship you as beams of joy and candles of hope!**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

### ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod

Our prayers continue for all of the Pastors, Deacons, Congregational Leaders and Members of our congregations and ministries as we live into and through this time of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We are aware of and blessed by the ways you are working and witnessing as "Church Together" in worship, service and witness for each other and the communities you serve.

A decision has been made to close the Bay Area Office of the Bishop. Given the economic realities of this time of challenge in our synod's ministry, and the fact that there will no longer be any synod staff members who regularly use this office as a part of their service among us, it seems an appropriate decision to find other, more economically sustainable options for office space in the Bay Area. The Synod Council, working with synod staff, will work to secure space that will serve our shared ministry until decisions are made with the next bishop regarding the need for office space to serve our synod's ministry.

On another note, we continue to work with our Meeting Planner, Ms. Diane Niggli of Helms Briscoe, to find a date for our postponed Synod Assembly. For now, it is likely that will be sometime in late September in Fresno. We are working with Fresno County Health Officials, our hotel venue, and the Fresno Convention and Visitors Bureau to determine when and how we might be able to gather for our Synod Assembly. Your prayers for all of this will be much appreciated.

We will share information with you as it becomes available regarding our Synod Assembly, as well as how we will continue to serve as the Church in this time of pandemic with information we receive from our partners in ministry in Region 2 and the Churchwide Organization of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Take care.

God's blessings and peace be with you,

Bishop Mark Holmerud

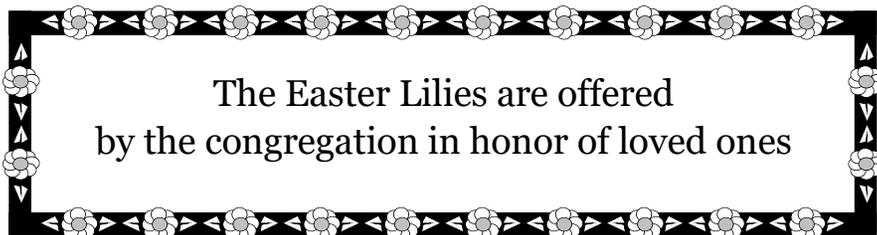
## April Benevolence = Habitat for Humanity

### Serving Today

Videographers — Kent Madsen & Barbara Rice  
Organist — Gary Roberts

Worship with us online at [www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://www.ststephenslutheran.org)

Taped for you to view anytime



### Prayer Concerns

**Short Term:** Healthcare workers, Heather, Kevin, 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

### \*Opening 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****

### \*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

First Reading Acts 2:36-41 Celebrate pg. 1

Read Responsively Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading 1 Peter 1:17-23 Celebrate pg. 2

\*Gospel Reading Luke 24:13-35 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter. *(The Gospel is read)*

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Message Rev. James Lapp

\*Hymn of the Day

*"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"* Red #484

**REFRAIN:** You satisfy the hungry heart  
with gift of finest wheat.  
Come give to us, O saving Lord,  
the bread of life to eat.

As when the shepherd calls his sheep,  
They know and heed his voice;  
So when you call your fam'ly, Lord,  
We follow and rejoice. *REFRAIN*

\*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

*"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"* Red #365

**Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Who did once upon the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Sinners to redeem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!**

**But the pains which he endured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Our salvation have procured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
Now above the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Where the angels ever sing. Al - le - lu - ia!**

**Sing we to our God above, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Praise eternal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!  
Praise him all you heav'nly host, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!**

\*Dismissal

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

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

(You may be seated)

### Holy Communion

### Communion Hymns

*"Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal"* Red #464

**Bread of life, our host and meal, Jesus, feed us.  
Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.**

**Bread now break and wine now pour, Jesus, feed us.  
Make us one, our hope restore; feed us with your love.**

**Grant forgiveness in the feast—Jesus, feed us -  
For the greatest and the least; feed us with your love.**

**Thank you for this gift we share. Jesus, feed us.  
Save God's children ev'rywhere; feed us with your love.**

## The Sending

### \*Communion Blessing

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

**C: 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**

**With joyful lips we sing to you  
Our praise and gratitude  
That you should count us worthy, Lord,  
To share this heav'nly food. REFRAIN**

**Is not the cup we bless and share  
The blood of Christ out-poured?  
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare  
Our oneness in the Lord? REFRAIN**

**The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,  
No mortal tongue can tell:  
Whom all the world cannot contain  
Comes in our hearts to dwell. REFRAIN**

**You give yourself to us, O Lord;  
Then selfless let us be,  
To serve each other In your name  
In truth and charity. REFRAIN**

### Easter Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God,**

**Who lights the dawn to chase away the darkness;  
Who rolls away each stone of doubt;  
Who surprises us with incredible gifts of family and friends,  
silence and laughter;  
Who raises us from sadness and despair  
to the possibilities of blessing and joy.**

**We believe in Jesus,**

**Friend of the poor and searcher for the lost,  
Who comes to us in our grief and longing, calls us by name  
and sends us on the paths of peace to speak of an awesome  
love that is not overcome by death.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**The hidden partner, the gentle messenger of God,  
Who fills our every breath with blessing;  
Who guides us in the dark, beckons us to do good,**

speaks to us in dream and image,  
and watches over us with tender compassion.

We believe in the church,

An instrument of God in this present moment, striving for justice, celebrating in joy, clawing at despair, living in hope, praying for healing and forever proclaiming Good News of God's persistent and redeeming love.

\*The Prayers of the Church

Celebrate, Page 4

## The Communion Meal

\* Passing of the Peace

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

C: **And also with you.**

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

Offertory Prayer

P: Giver of life,

C: **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.

C: **We lift them up to God**

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

C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

\*Prayer of Preparation

P: We prepare our hearts to receive God's grace together now.

C: **Generous God, you have given us so much. Give us one more thing. Give us thankful hearts because we know our hearts can turn hard and cold. We hold on when we should let go. We are clutching when we should be sharing. We are fearful instead of trusting in your everlasting care.**

Open our hands and our hearts to the bounty of your love, which cares for the flowers of the fields, the birds in the air, each child who toddles, every parent who worries, every adult who struggles.

Loving god, you have given us so much.

Give us again the assurance of your love and care, and fill us with grateful hearts and open hands. 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**