

*I am the gate  
for the sheep*

JOHN 10:7



# Third Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2023

10:00 a.m.

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.

Please fill out the "Worship Slip" and place it in the offering plate.

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

## Prelude

## The Gathering

### \*Call to Worship

**P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
The fountain of living water,  
The rock who gave us birth,  
Our light and our salvation.

**C:** Amen.

**P:** Let us come into the light,  
the revealing and healing light of God.

*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

**P:** God of grace and glory,

**C: We confess to you all the ways in which  
we dismiss the resurrection news.  
We are slow of heart to believe.  
Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin.**

**C: Renew us in grace, reawaken our trust,  
strengthen our hope,  
and restore us to living in your ways,  
Through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

**P: The Risen Christ's first words to his disciples were:  
Peace be with you.  
Sisters and brothers, rejoice with all creation!  
The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil,  
Casts out hate and brings peace.  
Jesus + Christ loves you and has freed us all from sin.  
Rejoice and welcome this freedom as a cherished gift!  
Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

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

**\*Opening Hymn**

*"I Know that My Redeemer Lives!" #619 vs 1, 2, 4, 7 & 8*

**I know that my Redeemer lives!  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever living head!**

**He lives triumphant from the grave;  
He lives eternally to save;  
He lives exalted, Throned above;  
He lives to rule his Church in love.**

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

**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.**

**He lives, all glory to his name!  
He lives my Savior, still the same;  
What joy this blest assurance gives:  
I know that my Redeemer lives!**

\*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

God Stories

**The Word of God**

First Reading

Acts 2:42-27

Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

Celebrate pg. 2

\*Alleluia

“Halle, Halle, Halelujah”

Red #172

**Halle, halle, halle—lu-u-jah!  
Halle, halle, halle—lu-u-jah!  
Halle, halle, halle—lu-u-jah!  
Halleujah! Halle-lu-jah!**

\*Gospel Reading

John 10:1-10

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. John, the 10th Chapter

**C: Glory to you. O God.**

*(The Gospel is read)*

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message

Rev. James Lapp

\*Hymn of the Day

*"Shepherd Me, O God"*      Red #780

*Refrain:*

***Shepherd me, O God,  
Beyond my wants,  
beyond my fears,  
from death into life.***

**God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,  
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,  
I walk by the quiet waters of peace.**

*(Refrain)*

**Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,  
You lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,  
My spirit shall sing the music of your name.**

*(Refrain)*

**Though I should wander the valley of death,  
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,  
Your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope.**

*(Refrain)*

**You have set me a banquet of love  
in the face of hatred,  
Crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold.**

*(Refrain)*

**Surely your kindness and mercy follow me  
all the days of my life;  
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore.**

*(Refrain)*

## 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.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our JOY...

### \*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

*Guests: EVERYONE is welcome to come forward to receive  
Communion as part of this church family!*

Communion Hymn

"The King of Love My Shepherd is" #502

**1. The King of love my shepherd is,  
Whose goodness fails me never;  
I nothing lack if I am his,  
And he is mine forever.**

**2. Where streams of living water flow  
With gentle care he leads me,  
And where the verdant pastures grow,  
With heav'nly food he feeds me.**

(hymn continued)



3. Perverse and foolish I have strayed,  
But yet in love he sought me,  
And on his shoulder gently laid,  
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With you, dear Lord, beside me;  
Your rod and staff my comfort still,  
Your cross before to guide me.

5. You spread a table in my sight,  
Your saving grace bestowing;  
And O what joy and true delight  
From your pure chalice flowing!

6. And so through all the length of days  
Your goodness fails me never:  
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise  
Within your house forever.

## **The Sending**

### **\*Communion Blessing**

P: May this Holy Communion of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's 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**



\*Benediction

P: The God of life,  
Who raised Jesus from the dead,  
Who sends forth the Spirit to renew the face of the earth,  
Bless you + and Keep you, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn

*"Have No Fear, Little Flock"*

Red #764

**Have no fear, little flock; have no fear, little flock,  
For the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom;  
Have no fear, little flock!**

**Have good cheer, little flock; have good cheer, little flock,  
For the Father will keep you in his love for ever;  
Have good cheer, little flock!**

**Praise the Lord high above; praise the Lord high above,  
For he stoops down to heal you, uplift and restore you;  
Praise the Lord high above!**

**Thankful hearts raise to God; thankful hearts raise to God,  
For he stays close beside you, in all things works with you;  
Thankful hearts raise to God!**

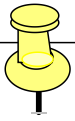
\*Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Go in Peace. Share the Good News.

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

Postlude





*Your God Stories:*

Sign up for Altar flowers in the narthex  
Dedicate to loved ones  
Bring your own or use our Florist



## Sister Parish News

### 2023 Prayer Children -

After several months of me saying "stay tuned", ***we have received the 2023 list of scholarship recipients!*** The scholarship committee in Guillermo Ungo has been hard at work preparing the list for this school year.

You should have been contacted either by me or by email. Please fill out and send in your Commitment Card with the donation of your choice. Once again we are asking for an additional \$50 to fund a gift basket, in lieu of you, the sponsor, providing a gift bag to be transported to El Salvador. There are still students without sponsors, so if you are not sponsoring a student, please contact me.

**2022 Delegation** - A favorite activity on delegations is the "craft project" with the children, held in each of our communities. Here is a photo of part of the activity in El Pilar last November.

On behalf of the Board of Directors for Santa Cruz al Salvador, thank you, members of St. Stephen's, for your contributions and sponsoring students. We cannot do our work without our donors.

*Your gifts make a difference!*

*-Kent Madsen*

SCaS Board of Directors Rep.

*"Building Relationships for Better Lives"*

## **Serving Today**

Reader: Janet Slay

Coffee Host: Connie Cunningham

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

## **Prayer Concerns**

**SHORT TERM:** Sandi Csik, Jacob & Family, Family of Marj Young, Barbara Hansen, Tom Harris, Barbara Allen, Marshall Bautz, Carla Brown, Kathy, Family of Gwyn Larson, Joel Hurttgam, Jacob & Family, Judith Alvarado, Family of Kirsten Skiles, Carla Brown, Keith, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Norman's Father, friends in Bakersfield, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Lisa & Beau, Craig Dahl, Family of Kurt Bell, Genell Csik, Barbara Bartee, Mike Homa, Mateo, Family of Mark Cronquist, Barbara Stiles, Family of Connor Kowalski, Shiela P., Paul Cunningham, Anita & Howard, Sydnei Wilbywold, Paul Paustian, Deborah Henry, Ellie, Adrian Cameron, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Marisa & Isaac, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Anthony, Steve, Margot Wilson, Rose, Will, Sam, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Parents, Healthcare workers & teachers.

**LONG TERM:** April McCalmont, Marty Nehring, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Michelle, Josh, CJ, Bobbie Erickson, Lupe, Joyce, Susan Anderson, Jan Wagner, Richard C., Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, Cabel, Noah, Esdras, Immigrant families, The Homeless, People of Ukraine, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men and women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

## New Ways of Giving

Our *Virtual Offering Plate* has been enhanced. We are now able to receive donations made by: credit card, debit card, PayPal and Venmo.

There are three choices:

- 1) **Vanco**, our regular electronic giving provider;
- 2) **PayPal/Venmo** for single one-time gifts;
- 3) **PayPal** with the possibility of recurring donations and an option to cover the fees.

All are available at <https://ststephenslutheran.org>  
(click on the **Donate Now** button)  
or by scanning this QR code.



Questions: Call Kent Madsen or Janet Slay



**On Zoom or at Church w Pastor Jim**  
check email on Weds. for link

**THURSDAYS from 11a -12noon  
and  
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm**

For the next several months,  
we will be using the biblical resource:

**"Manna and Mercy"**

***A Brief History of God's Unfolding  
Promise to Mend the Entire Universe  
by Rev. Daniel Erlander***

*(the same author as  
"The Tales of The Pointless People",  
which we used in Lent).*

Anyone can join in at any point. Each chapter stands alone, but is also connected as part of the whole story of the Bible.

Copies are available at church for \$10 each.  
Or it can be mailed to you.

## Upcoming Events:

April Benevolence Offering - Habitat for Humanity

TBA	Confirmation Class 6:30 pm
May 2	Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
May 3	Women's Café Group 6:00 pm
May 4	Preschool Chapel 10:15 am
May 4	Bible Study Resumes 11:00 am & 7:30 pm
May 4	Mens beginner A.A. 7:00 pm
May 5	A.A. 7:00 pm
May 6	Concert to end Homelessness 7 pm United Methodist Church Benefits the Assoc. of Faith Communities
May 9	Knitters Guild 6:15 pm
May 9	Church Council 6:30 pm
May 11	MMRR Circle 10:30 am
May 13	AFC Annual Gala 6 pm Holy Cross Tix available now and at the door

**Pastor's Office Hours Wed & Thurs. 10:00 to 1:00**



## 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.

### Reconciling in Christ

*"We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace.  
We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of  
race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity,  
gender expression, or relationship status.  
We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or  
mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic  
circumstances, or anything that too often divides us.  
Our unity is in Christ."*

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Office Hours: Mon.—Fri. Noon—5:00 pm

Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's  
Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp  
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp  
Music Director: Gary Roberts  
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens  
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp  
Custodian: John Hopping  
Powerpoint: Jay Johnston, Kent Madsen & Barbara Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539