

Do not  
let your  
hearts be  
troubled

JOHN 14:1



# Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 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

Chartres V ar.1

Richard Purvis

## 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

*"God is Here"*

Red #526

God is here! As we your people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
May we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit  
Into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us  
Of our life long need of grace;  
Here are table, font, and pulpit;  
Here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching,  
Here in silence, as in speech,  
Here, in newness and renewal,  
God the Spirit comes to each.

(Hymn continued)

Here our children find a welcome  
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
Here as bread and wine are taken,  
Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant  
Seek in worship to explore  
What it means in daily living  
To believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom,  
In an age of change and doubt,  
Keep us faithful to the gospel;  
Help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
All we have to give, receive;  
We, who cannot live without you,  
We adore you! We believe!

#### \*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**

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

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 14:1-14

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. John, the 14th 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

*“Now the Green Blade Rises”*

Red #379

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,  
Thinking that he would never wake again,  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

(Hymn continued)

Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain,  
He that for three days in the grave had lain;  
Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
Your touch can call us back to life again,  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

\*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.

Music                      Chartres V ar 2      Richard Purvis

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    *“I Received the Living God”*    Red #477

REFRAIN

I received the living God,  
and my heart is full of joy.  
I received the living God,  
and my heart is full of joy.

1. Jesus said: I am the bread  
kneaded long to give you life;  
you who will partake of me  
need not ever fear to die.

REFRAIN

2. Jesus said: I am the way,  
and my Father longs for you;  
so I come to bring you home  
to be one with us a-new.

REFRAIN

3. Jesus said: I am the truth;  
if you follow close to me,  
you will know me in your heart,  
and my word shall make you free.

REFRAIN

4. Jesus said: I am the life  
far from whom no thing can grow,  
but receive this living bread,  
and my Spirit you shall know.

REFRAIN

## 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

*“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” Red # 674*

1. Let us talents and tongues employ,  
reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

REFRAIN (two times)

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

2. Christ is able to make us one,  
at the table he sets the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless,  
love and word and in deed express. REFRAIN ( 2 X)

(Hymn continued)

3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out  
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God (Immanuel) ev'ry-where! REFRAIN (two times)

\*Dismissal

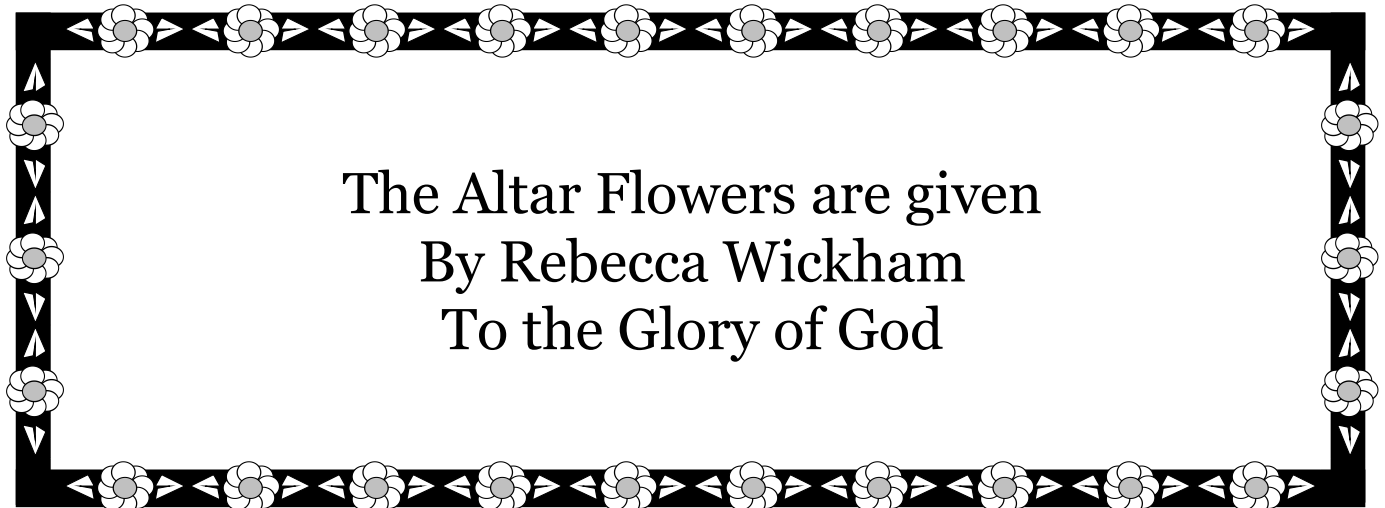
P: Alleluia! Go in Peace. Share the Good News.

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



Postlude

Chartres Var 3 Richard Purvis



## **Serving Today**

Reader: Elke Spires

Coffee Host: Rebecca Wickham

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

## **Prayer Concerns**

**SHORT TERM:** Sandi Csik, Amy Wimmer, James, George Trippel, Darlene Woodburn, 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 & children, 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.



## **COPA Convention 20th Anniversary**

Saturday, May 20 from 5:00 to 7:00  
Golden Sate Theater  
417 Alvarado St. — Monterey

Nearly 1,000 people will gather from across the region to celebrate COPA's 20th Anniversary, lay out organizing strategies on key issues (such as housing, Pajaro flooding, and workforce development) affecting local families, and engage with elected officials around these concerns.

The convention is an opportunity for our diverse communities to come together in pursuit of justice. Through sharing our stories and traditions, building power together and celebrating our victories we demonstrate how working together brings benefits to all.

It's time for members to renew their covenant and plan forwards for the next 20 years!





# **Mt. Cross Memorial Day Work Weekend May 26-28**

All are invited to volunteer at camp for a weekend of service, fellowship, and fun! Service projects include but are not limited to:

- Madrone Bathroom Repairs
- Sand Volleyball Court Maintenance
- Dining Hall Bathroom Repairs
- Cabin Deck Repairs
- Trail Maintenance
- Cabin Deep Cleaning

Enjoy a campfire, s'mores, worship, and delicious food while giving back to the place we love. Together, we can keep Mt. Cross beautiful! See [Mtcross.org](http://Mtcross.org)

**Special invite:  
Friday, May 26  
Between 1-9pm**

Help organize the Craft Cottage  
Carpool, contact Elizabeth 239-6012  
[lizzy@baymoon.com](mailto:lizzy@baymoon.com)



**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:

May Benevolence Offering - Mt. Cross  
Lutheran Outdoor Ministry

TBA Confirmation Class 6:30 pm

May 9 Knitters Guild 6:15 pm

May 9 Church Council 6:30 pm

May 9 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm

May 11 Preschool Chapel 10:15 am

May 11 MMRR Circle 10:30 am

May 11 Bible Study 11:00 am & 7:30 pm

May 11 Mens beginner A.A. 7:00 pm

May 12 A.A. 7:00 pm

May 13 AFC Annual Gala 6 pm Holy Cross  
Tix available now and at the door

May 15 Embroiders Guild 7:00 pm

May 17 Women's Café Group 6:00 pm

May 27—29 Mt. Cross Work Weekend

**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