

My Lord
and my God!

JOHN 20:28



2nd Sunday of EASTER everything between grief & hope

April 27, 2025 at 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 during the offering.

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

Prelude

Gathering

*Call to Worship

My dear friends,
we have known grief.
We have known loss.
We have known the long road, tired and winding.
We have whispered prayers on bended knees.
We have stared at the sky, empty of stars.
But today—
today we know hope.
Today we know life.

Today we know the sound of Alleluias.

Today we know that death does not have the last word.

**Today we know that nothing can separate us
from the love of God.**

It is Easter.

May hope find you.

And may you know, deep in your bones, that today is a
new day.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

*Call to Confession

Faithful friends, today is a joyful day!

If I were to ask you what parts of our service feel joyful,
you'd probably say the music,
or the flowers in the sanctuary.

You might say the children,
the passing of the peace

or the crowded room we are in today.

But it's unlikely that any of you would name
the prayer of confession we will soon offer,

Because the prayer of confession has a reputation
for being somber and serious.

But this prayer of confession can feel like a fresh page!

Maybe the prayer of confession can allow us to start again.

When we move closer to God,

we are always met with grace, mercy, and abundant love.

And my friends, *that* is joyful.

That feels like Easter, doesn't it?

So join me in the prayer of confession. It's a joyful day!

*Prayer of Confession

The Gospel of Luke says: "It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women who told the disciples of the resurrection.

But these words seemed to the disciples an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

But Peter got up and ran to the tomb."¹

**Forgive us, God,
when good news lands in our lap
and we refuse to believe it.**

**Forgive us, God,
when grief and fear crowd out
any room in our hearts for hope.**

**Forgive us, God,
when we dismiss the stories of others
and minimize the voices of our neighbors.**

When our world teeters between grief and hope,
show us how to be like Peter.

Show us how to hold onto hope.

Show us how to run toward you. Amen.

*Words of Forgiveness

Family of Faith,

At first, the disciples didn't believe that Jesus had risen.
They stayed locked in an upper room, shaking and afraid.
Peter was the only exception.

But Jesus loves us on our best days and our worst days.

**God's grace exists for us when we are hopeful
and when we're grieving,
when we're shouting and when we're silent,**

**when we're full of faith and when we're full of fear.
God's grace exists for us on the best days,
the worst days, and every day in between.
Thanks be to God for this good news!
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.**

*Opening Hymn

“Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded”
ACS #933 Blue

Day of delight and beauty unbounded,
tell the news, the gospel spread!
Day of all wonder, day of all splendor,
praise Christ risen from the dead!
Sing of the sun from darkness appearing;
Sing of the seed from barren earth greening;
Sing of creation, alleluia!
Sing of the stream from Jesus' side flowing;
Sing of the saints in water made holy;
Sing of salvation, alleluia!

Day of delight and beauty unbounded,
tell the news, the gospel spread!
Day of all wonder, day of all splendor,
Praise Christ risen from the dead!
Sing now of mourning turned into dancing;
Sing now the myst'ry, hope of our glory;
Sing with thanksgiving, alleluia!
Sing now of the fasting turned into feasting;
sing the Lord's favor lasting forever;
Sing, all things living, alleluia!

*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

Celebrate insert pg. 1

God's Word

God Stories

Congregation

First Reading

Acts 5:27-32

Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading

Revelation 1:4-8

Celebrate pg. 2

*Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. John 20th 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

“Earth, Earth, Awake!” ACS #937 Blue

Earth, earth, awake! Your praises sing! Alleluia!
Greet with the dawn your risen King! Alleluia!
Bright suns and stars, your homage pay! Alleluia!
Life reigns again this Easter day! Alleluia!

All nature sings of hope reborn! Alleluia!
Christ lives to comfort those who mourn! Alleluia!
First fruit of all the dead who sleep! Alleluia!
Promise of joy for all who weep! Alleluia!

Winter is past; the night is gone! Alleluia!
Christ’s light, triumphant, brings the dawn! Alleluia!
Creation spreads its spring-time bloom! Alleluia!
Life bursts like flame from death’s cold tomb! Alleluia!

Praise we the Father, Spirit, Son! Alleluia!
Praise we the vict’ry God has won! Alleluia!
Praise we the Lamb who reigns above! Alleluia!
Praise we the King whose rule is love! Alleluia!

*Prayer for Illumination

God of Alleluias and empty tombs,
God of garden plots and good news,
it is Easter.

It is *finally* Easter.

When the world is full of grief and heartache,
When the world is full of violence and oppression,
When the world is full of loss and separation,
we long for this day
because Easter sings a different song.

Easter sings a song of hope.
Easter sings a song of new life.
Easter sings a song of love that makes you
want to jump out of your chair
and run barefoot to the tomb.
Easter smells of fresh flowers and baked bread.
It sounds like trumpets and laughter.
It feels like a crowded table and a warm hug.
Yes, Easter sings a different song.
So in a world full of grief,
help us to cling to Easter's hope.
When the world seems full of grief,
help us hear this story of good news.
When things seem to get overwhelming,
we're ready to jump out of our chairs
and run barefoot to the tomb.
With hope we pray, with hope we listen. **Amen.**

*Affirmation of Faith

In the dark before dawn,
we believe that God is alive.
In the midst of our grief,
we believe the Spirit is at work.
In the chaos of our broken world,
we believe that love is on the loose.
For no stone could keep God at bay,
and no violence could keep God's love from us.
So today we sing,
Alleluia!

For somewhere in between our belief and doubt,
hope lives.

Christ has died,

and Christ has also risen. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*The Prayers of the Church

Celebrate, Page 4

* Passing of the Peace

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

C: **And also with you.**

The Communion Meal

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

Music

*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

*A Prayer of Invocation

God meets us in the night—
**before the sun rises,
before the wound heals,
before there are answers,
before there is closure.**

God meets us in the light—
**where joy is effervescent,
where laughter is contagious,
where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,
where people gather around tables.**

God meets us in between—
**at the edge of the water,
at the beginning of the wilderness,
at the start of something new,
on the edge of faith.**

And if God meets us in all those places,
**then surely God meets us everywhere—
at the water's edge, at the start of something new,
after the baptism, and before the call.**

We are not alone. God is all around.
We worship the God of everything.

*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 our thanks and praise.

*Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Invitation to Communion

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

Holy Communion — ALL, Yes — EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Communion is by intinction, we dip the bread into either the wine (red) or grape juice (white).

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world,
have mer - cy on us. *Repeat as needed* *Last time* Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

“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.**

*Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in God’s grace now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Prayer After Communion

P: Generous Host, You have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified and risen one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Sending

*A Benediction

As you leave this place,
may you find God in every messy middle.
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,
and therefore, you contain multitudes.
So may you move through this world with an open
heart,
with a curious mind, and with the confidence
that you do not go alone.
God is with you in the mountains, in the valleys,
and everywhere in between.
Believe that good news, and go + in peace. **Amen.**

*Closing Hymn

“Thine Is the Glory” #376 Red

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

(continued next page)

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

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

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

Postlude

Serving Today

Reader: Robert Bartee

Coffee Host: Connie Cunningham

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



The Altar Flowers are offered
by Judi Alvarado
in celebration of Robert's birthday

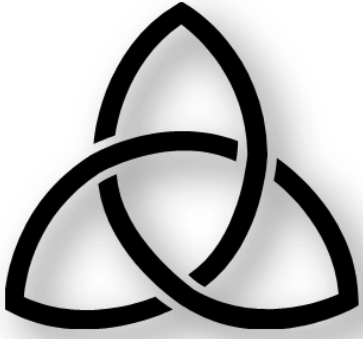
Prayer Request



PRAYERS SHORT TERM: Joana, James S. Chad Fields, Chelsea & Logan Preston, Cassidy, family of George Webber, Sam, Isabelle Hackman, Eric, Ellie, Paula & family, Julia, Jim Aller's family, Margaret, Bill Giles family, Dr. Bruce Dunn's family, Grey, Ruth Stiles, Susan Birkelo Family, Riley, Mary Saccullo, Chad Fields, Ana Cardenas, Rose, Levi, Lisa J., John B., Linda, Unemployed, Isaac & Marissa, Chris Powers, Gloria, Marta's parents, Gary & Louse Matz, Nick, James, Mary D., Tom, Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Robbin, Francisco, Michael, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Sierra, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, Alvarado family, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Sandi Csik, Sam, Adolfo, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Nancy, Jane, Barbara Allen, Gary & Marjie Toops, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager.

LONG TERM: Those suffering with Mental Illness, James Sheehan, Biergiel—Colclough family, Carla Brown, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Joel Hurtgamm, Dawit and family (Ethiopia), April McCalmont, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Will, Aaron Johnson, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, Mike, 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, People of Palestine/Israel, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, S.S. Senior Housing, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

Please notify when to remove



Trinity Tuesday

(Pub Theology / Discussion)

May 6 at 6:30pm

(First Tuesday of the month)

Place: Discretion Brewing 41st Ave.

1 HOUR

1 QUESTION

1 DRINK

(3-in-1)

Have you been contemplating coming — - - your curiosity piqued by the, "one question, one drink, and one hour" description?

I decided to give it a shot, and I'm glad I did! I found the informal, non-judgmental gathering to be an intellectually stimulating, fun, social circle. I enjoyed the collaborative pondering of questions (some prepared and some spontaneous) addressed in an open forum, conversational style. The experience was akin to attending a philosophical salon except the topics were theological in nature, reference, and response.

Essentially, Trinity Tuesday is a safe and welcoming space for collaborative pondering and casual conversation around important topics with theological perspectives.

No materials necessary. Come as you are. Bring a question if you like. During my first meeting there were six of us in attendance, and only 2 came with prepared questions; however, spontaneous questions were addressed and a pleasurable time was had by all! I've added attendance to my monthly calendar . . . Will you?

- Tara McMilin



Zoom with Pastor Jim

check email on Tues. for link

Wednesday from 11a -12noon

and

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

We will be looking at the upcoming scripture readings for Sunday, to enrich our worship experience and uncover some of the deeper truths of our faith.

*As we grow in our faith,
we grow in community.
Amen!*



Memorial Day Work Weekend May 23-25

This FREE volunteer retreat is open to all and includes time for service, fellowship, worship, campfires, and s'mores! Plus delicious food and cozy lodging, all provided. When was the last time you slept at camp???

Throughout the weekend, volunteers will help with a variety of projects including:

- Trail maintenance
- Gardening
- Landscaping
- Carpentry
- Painting
- Cleaning

Projects will be tailored to match the skills and gifts of those attending.

Sign up on the Mt. Cross website by Friday, May 16 to join us in giving back to this sacred place we love! Email mtcross@mtcross.org or call Christa at the Mt. Cross Office (831) 336-5179 for more information

Upcoming Events:

April Benevolence Offering - Habitat for Humanity

- | | |
|------------|--|
| April 28 | CDC Board 11:15 am |
| April 29 | Newsletter Collating 2:00 pm |
| April 29 | No Scouts |
| April 30 | Preschool Chapel 10:15 am |
| April 30 | Bible Study Weds. 11:00 am & 7:30 pm |
| May 1 & 15 | Women's Café Group 6:00 pm Thursdays
Dinner and devotions |
| May 1 | Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm Fireside rm |
| May 2 | A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall |
| May 8 | MMRR Circle 10:30 am (Fireside) |
| May 12 | Church Council 6:30 pm |
| May 17 | AFC Fundraising Gala 6:30 Holy Cross |
| May 23-25 | Mt. Cross Memorial Day 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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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

prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.