

It is  
the Lord!

JOHN 21:7



## 3rd Sunday of EASTER everything between grief & hope

May 4, 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

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.**

### \*Call to Confession

Faithful friends, Easter is a joyful season!

This time of year, all creation sings  
of new life and resurrection and hope.

But the prayer of confession

that we often begin our worship service with  
has a reputation for being somber and serious.  
Instead, let's make this prayer of confession  
feel like a fresh and new start!  
Let's allow the prayer of confession  
to help us see things in a new and hopeful way.  
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."<sup>1</sup>

**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

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing”      Red #385

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!

Now is the triumph rolled away;

Let all the earth rejoice and say:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2. The Lord of life is ris'n this day;

Death's mighty stone is rolled away;

Let all the earth rejoice and say;

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3. Praise we in songs of victory

That love, that life which cannot die,

And sing with hearts uplifted high;

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4. Your name we bless, O risen Lord,  
And sing today with one accord,  
The life laid down, the life restored;  
Alleluia, alleluia, 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 pg. 1

## God's Word

God Stories

Congregation

First Reading

Acts 9:1-6

Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading

Revelation 5:11-14

Celebrate pg. 2

\*Gospel Reading

John 21:1-19

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. John 21st 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

“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore” Red #817  
*(Tu has benido a la orilla)*

You have come down to the lakeshore  
Seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,  
But only asking for me to follow.

*(Tu has venido a la orilla,  
no has buscado ni a sabios ni a ricos;  
tan solo quieres que yo te siga.)*

*REFRAIN*

Senor, me has mirado a los ojos;  
Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes;

Son riendo, has dicho mi nombre.  
Kindly smiling, you have called out my name...

En la arena he dejado mi barca;  
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;

Junto a ti, buscare otro mar.  
Now with you, I will seek other seas.

You know full well what I have, Lord:  
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,  
Just these my fishnets and will for working. *REFRAIN*

*(Tu sabes bien lo que tengo:  
En mi barca no hay oro no espadas;  
Tan solo redes y mi trabajo.)*

You need my hands, my exhaustion,  
Working love for the rest of the weary  
A love that's willing to go on loving. *REFRAIN*

*(Tu necesitas mis manos,  
Mi cansancio que a otros descansa,  
Amor que quiera seguir amando.)*

You who have fished other waters;  
You, the longing of souls that are yearning:  
O loving Friend, you have come to call me. *REFRAIN*

*(Tu, Pescador de otros, mares,  
Ansia eternal de almas que esperan.  
Amigo bueno, que asi me llamas.)*

### \*Prayer for Illumination

God of Alleluias and empty tombs,  
God of garden plots and good news,  
Easter has come!

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 season

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.

(next page)

Easter smells of blossoms and warming air.  
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.**



\* 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: Risen One,

**You have gathered us around your table of grace**

**Along with these gifts we bring.**

**Come among us again,**

**Breathe your life into us,**

**And enliven us with this meal,**

**That we may live as your risen body in the world.**

**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: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

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

*“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”*

Red #708

### REFRAIN

Jesu, Jesu,  
fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends,  
silently washes their feet,  
Master who acts as a slave to them.      REFRAIN

Neighbors are wealthy and poor,  
varied in color and race;  
neighbors are nearby and far away.      REFRAIN

These are the ones we will serve,  
these are the ones we will love;  
all these are neighbors to us and you.      REFRAIN

**Kneel at the feet of our friends,  
silently washing their feet;  
this is the way we will live with you. REFRAIN**

**\*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:** Living One,  
In this feast you have made yourself known to us.  
Send us now to tell of your wonders,  
Sing of your glory,  
And proclaim your risen life  
To a wounded and weary world.  
**C: Amen.**

## **The Sending**

**\*A Blessing**

The triune God,  
Who was, who is, and who is to come,  
Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit,  
Light your way with resurrection dawn,  
Now and always.  
**Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn

“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing Red #389

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound  
To distant years in Palestine,  
But saving, healing, here and now,  
And touching ev'ry place and time.

In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,  
Where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
And lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,  
Can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
And find the way, the life, the truth,  
Revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
Good news to this and ev'ry age,  
Till earth and sky and ocean ring  
With joy, with justice, love, and praise.

\*Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

P: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Postlude

**Serving Today**

Reader: Elke Spires

Coffee Host: Margaret Schraft

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



The Altar Flowers are offered  
by Christa Garcia  
in celebration of Sam's birthday

# Prayer Request

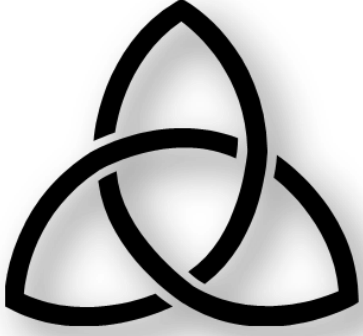


PRAYERS SHORT TERM: Laura, Joana, James S. Chad Fields, Chelsea & Logan Preston, Cassidy, family of George Webber, Sam, Isabelle Hackman, Eric, Ellie, Paula & family, Julia, Jim Aller's family, Margaret, Bill Giles family, Dr. Bruce Dunn's family, Grey, Ruth Stiles, Susan Birkelo Family, Riley, Mary 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



## **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](mailto:mtcross@mtcross.org) or call Christa at the Mt. Cross Office (831) 336-5179 for more information

## Upcoming Events:

May Benevolence Offering - Mt. Cross Camp

- May 6            Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm  
Pub Theology Discretion Brew 41st Ave.
- May 6            Scouts 6:30 pm
- May 7            Preschool Chapel 10:15 am
- May 7            Bible Study Weds. 7:30 pm
- May 8            MMRR Circle 10:30 am (Fireside)
- May 8            Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm Fireside rm
- May 9            A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall
- May 12           Church Council 6:30 pm
- May 15           Women's Café Group 6:00 pm Thursdays  
Dinner and devotions
- May 17           AFC Fundraising Gala 6:00 pm Holy Cross  
Working to end homelessness through interfaith action  
Reservations at [info@afcsantacruz.org](mailto:info@afcsantacruz.org)
- May 23-25       Mt. Cross Memorial Day Work Weekend
- July 26           Paul Cunningham Memorial  
Scotts Valley Community Center Noon

**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

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