



*My sheep
hear my
voice*

JOHN 10:27



4th Sunday of EASTER

everything between
grief & hope

May 11, 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

*“Christ is Risen! Alleluia!”
Composer, Robert Wetzler*

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."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

“Alleluia, Jesus is Risen”

Red #377

Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

Trumpets resounding in glorious lights!

Splendor, the Lamb, heaven for ever!

Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

REFRAIN

Jesus is risen and we shall arise.

Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Walking the way, Christ in the center

Telling the story to open our eyes;

Breaking our bread, giving us glory:

Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.

REFRAIN

Jesus the vine, we are the branches;
Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
Gift of the future now flowing to me. REFRAIN

Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent;
Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing; O grave, be open!
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. REFRAIN

City of God, Easter for ever,
Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, saints and arch angels,
Sing with creation to God the I AM! 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

Celebrate pg. 1

God's Word

God Stories

Congregation

First Reading

Acts 9:36-43

Celebrate pg. 1

Psalm 23 Choir / Congregation Response

Second Reading Revelation 7:9-17 Celebrate pg. 2

*Gospel Reading John 10:22-30 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. John 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)

*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.

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.

(next page)

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 Good News Singers
 “My Shepherd, You Supply My Need”
 Music: North American Traditional

*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 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

“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.
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.

*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

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" Red #367

Now all the vault of heav'n resounds
In praise of love that still abounds:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal is the gift he brings,
Therefore our heart with rapture sings:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Now still he comes to give us life
and by his presence stills all strife.
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
Set heart and will on things above
That we conquer through your triumph;
Grant grace sufficient for life's day
That by our lives we truly say:
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Adoring praises now we bring
And with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father, and our Lord,
To Spirit blest, most holy God,
All the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*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 "The Risen Christ"

Music—Walter Greatorex 1877-1949



The Altar Flowers are offered
by Connie Cunningham
for Family birthdays

Serving Today

Reader: Janet Slay

Coffee Host: Shelly Barker

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

Full & Part Time openings

Ages 2-4

Contact Kathy 462-4453

Enroll Now



For Preschool



PRAYERS SHORT TERM: Kathy & Van, Corinne, 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



Annual AFC Gala
Saturday, May 17
6– 8:30 pm at Holy Cross

Dinner, drinks, and a silent auction
Celebrate another year of interfaith action
Working to end homelessness

info@safcsantacruz.org register
Sit at the St. Stephens table **RSVP TODAY!**

Music at St. Stephen's

Christ has risen!

It is with great pleasure to thank all musicians for their dedication and continued love for music, here at SSLC.

Our Good New Singers are great! Always well prepared & sing from the heart! Thank you, choir very much. All are welcome to join us, enjoy songs to God, and enjoy our company, and fellowship.

Julia & Patrick Tracey have truly grown musically, and played like pro's — thanks!

All That Brass — Great to have you back once more. For some, it was the last time here. We all grow and go. It's the good times we remember always and wish the very best!

Special thank you to all who have donated to the music ministry. Yours in Christ & Mission,

Gary





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:

May Benevolence Offering - Mt. Cross Camp

- May 12 Church Council 6:30 pm
- May 13 Knitters Guild 6:15 pm
- May 13 Scouts 6:30 pm
- May 14 Preschool Chapel 10:15 am
- May 14 Bible Study Weds. 7:30 pm
- May 15 Knitter's Guild 10 am
- May 15 Women's Café Group 6:00 pm Thursdays
Dinner and devotions
- May 15 Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm Fireside rm
- May 16 A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall
- May 17 AFC Fundraising Gala 6:00 pm Holy Cross
Working to end homelessness through interfaith action
Reservations at info@afcsantacruz.org
- May 19 Newsletter Deadline Noon
- May 23-25 Mt. Cross Memorial Day Work Weekend
- May 27 Newsletter Collate 2:00 pm helpers needed
- July 26 Paul Cunningham Memorial S.V. Comm. Ctr 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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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

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