St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Church on Main Street...
where love begets love

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 19, 2026

Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Baptism at 10:00 am

Welcome to St. Stephen's Church. We are delighted that you are here.

All of what you need to join us is in this bulletin or in one of two hymnals:

Hymnal 1982 (the blue book)
"H" followed by a number indicates hymns.
"S" followed by a number indicates selections that appear in the front section of the blue hymnal.
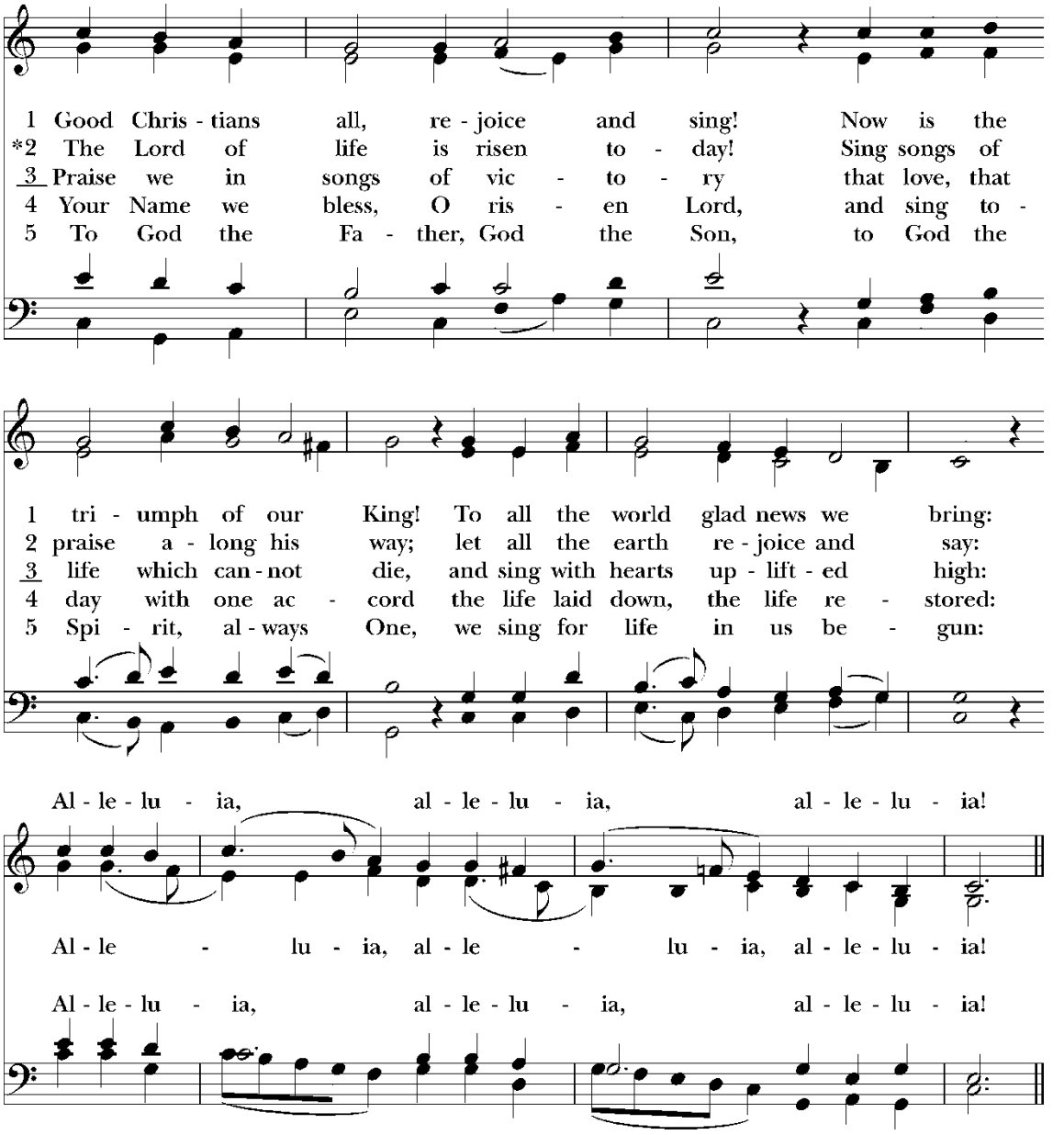
St. Stephen's Hymnal (the red spiral bound book):
"SSH" followed by a number indicates hymns.

PRELUDE

Gather
We come together to praise God.

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN
H 205 Good Christians all, rejoice and sing *Gelobt sei Gott*



WELCOME

Word
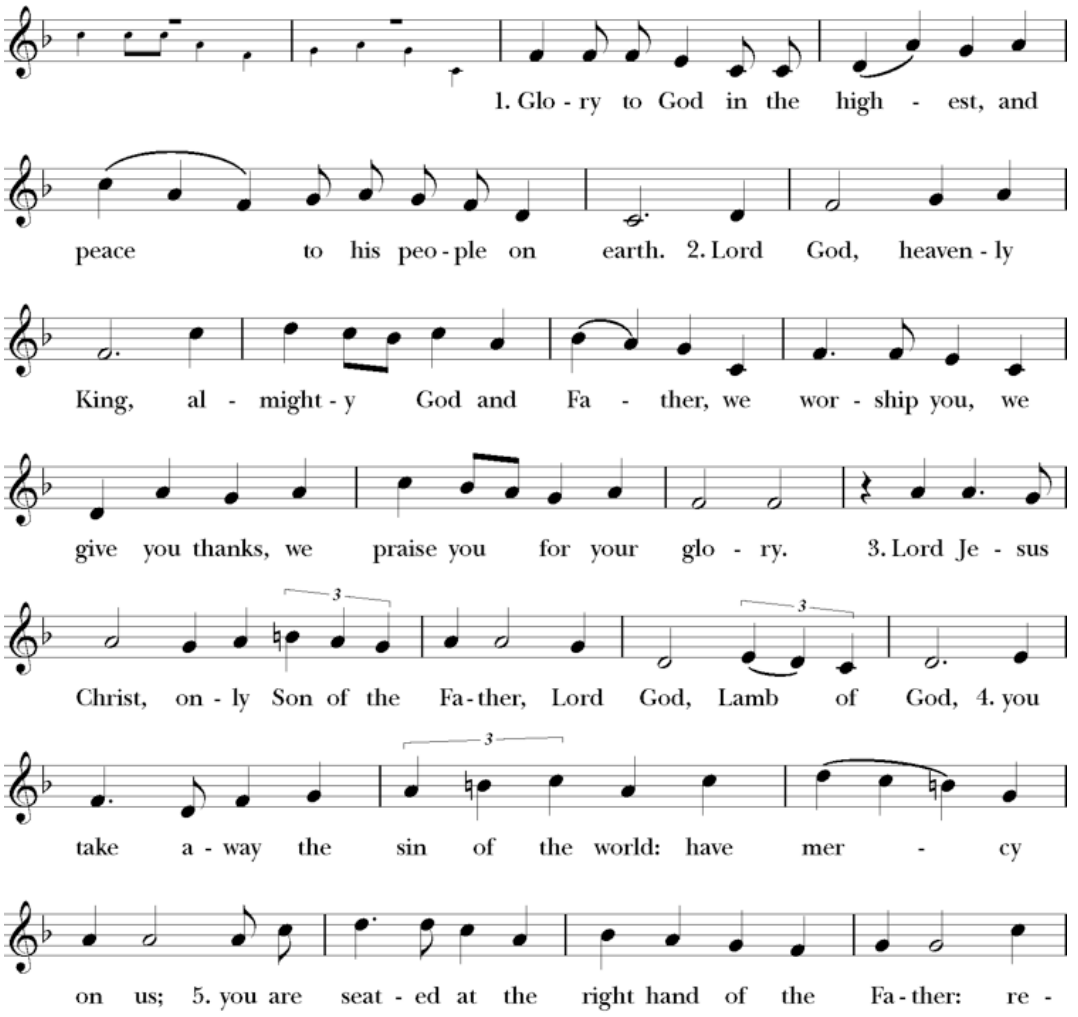
We hear and respond to the story of God's liberating acts.

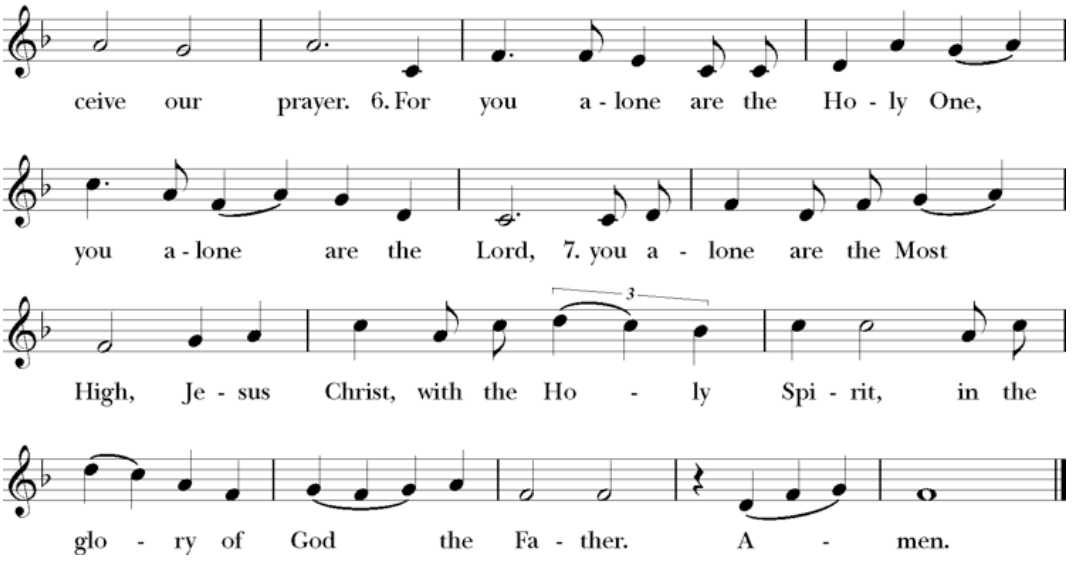
Alleluia. Christ is risen.
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.
There is one Body and one Spirit;
There is one hope in God's call to us;
One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
One God and Father of all.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GLORIA

S 280 Glory to God in the highest *Robert Powell*





THE COLLECTS OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. 2:14a,36-41

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 116, *The Saint Helena Psalter*

I love you, O God, because you have heard the voice of my supplication, *
because you have inclined your ear to me whenever I called upon you.

The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon your holy Name: *
"O God, I pray you, save my life."

Gracious are you and righteous; *
you are full of compassion.

You watch over the innocent; *
I was brought very low, and you helped me.

Turn again to your rest, O my soul, *
for God has treated you well.

For you, O God, have rescued my life from death, *
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

I will walk in the presence of God, *
in the land of the living.

I believed, even when I said,
"I have been brought very low." *
In my distress I said, "No one can be trusted."

How shall I repay God *
for all the good things done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of God.

I will fulfill my vows to God *
in the presence of all people.

Precious in your sight, O God, *
is the death of your servants.

O God, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon your holy Name.

I will fulfill my vows to you *
in the presence of all your people,

In the courts of God's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Alleluia!

THE SECOND LESSON

A Reading from the First letter of Peter. 1:17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

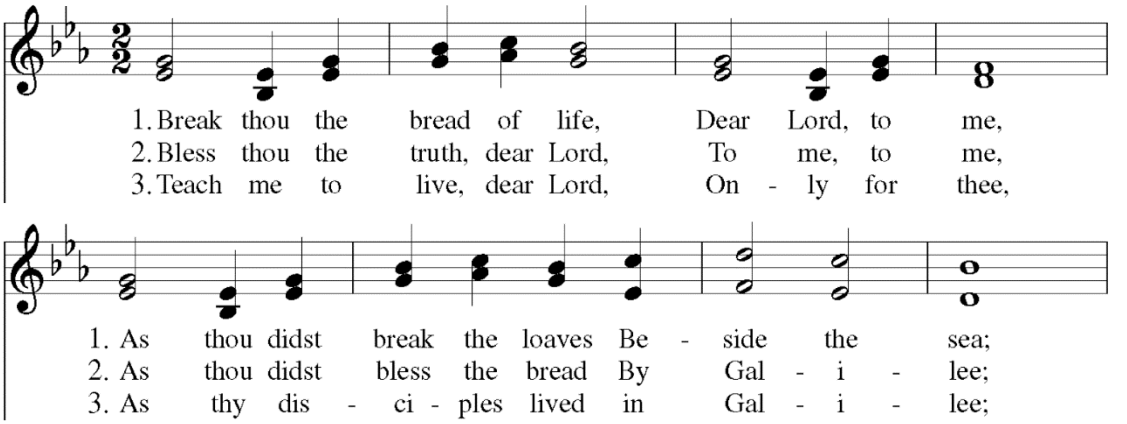
Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

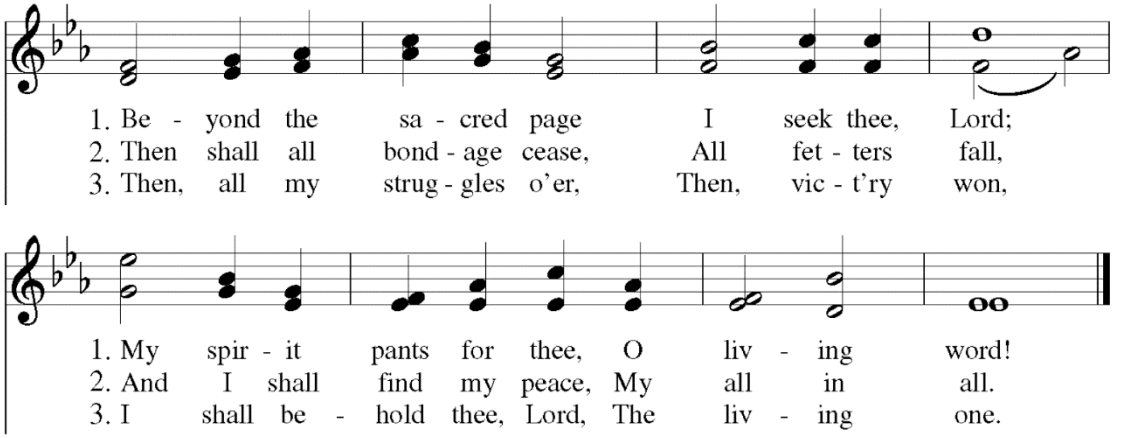
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN

SSH 28 Break thou the bread of life *Williams F. Sherwin*





Words: Mary A. Lathbury (1841-1913); Music: William F. Sherwin (1826-1888)

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. 24:13-35

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they

recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

THE SERMON *The Rev. Paula J. Toland*

PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATE

The people remain seated as the candidate, parents, and godparents gather at the chancel stairs.

The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Parents and Godparents say:
I present William to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

To the Parents and Godparents:
Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life? **I will, with God's help.**

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?
I will, with God's help.

Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God? **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God? **I renounce them.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior? **I do.**

Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love? **I do.**

Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord? **I do.**

All stand as they are able.

To the people:
Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in his life in Christ?
We will.

Let us join with this person who is committing himself to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

Do you believe in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers? **I will, with God's help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord? **I will, with God's help.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? **I will, with God's help.**

Let us now pray for William who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

The intercessor leads the prayers.

Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Open his heart to your grace and truth.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Send him into the world in witness to your love.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, God, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISM

William is baptized with water and the following words:
William, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

William is anointed with Chrism and the following words:
William, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

Heavenly God, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

William, we receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

AT THE BAPTISM
Welcome to the Family *Debby Kerner*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Form III, BCP*

God, we pray for your holy catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; Bless all who lead and teach Christians in this community; for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Carlye, our Diocesan Bishop; Paula, our Rector; Karen, our Deacon; Maryalice and Roger, our Wardens; our Vestry and delegates;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; Guide Donald, our President; J.D., our Vice-President; Mikie, our Governor and Frank, our Mayor, that they would lead with compassion and mercy;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Bring healing and peace, to all who have been harmed, live in fear, or experience anxiety because of the words and actions of leaders anywhere;
That they would live an awareness of your unconditional love for all people.

Give courage to allies and advocates everywhere that they may continue the fight to uphold the dignity and worth of every human being as they walk alongside those who have experienced dehumanizing or demoralizing treatment of any kind;
That they will continue to have the strength and courage to do this holy work.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; we pray for our partners in ministry: Apostles' House, Cross Roads, Family Promise, North Jersey Pride, and North Porch. We pray for our sister congregations in the Evelyn Underhill Region: Calvary, Summit; Christ Church in Short Hills; Grace, Madison; St. George's, Maplewood; and St. Paul's, Chatham.
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, including those on our parish prayer list:

Donna Riggi	Lizzie Ekberg	Karen Eberhardt
Mary Ruth Stone	Boyd Hunnaman	Sue and Larry H.
Kris Hunt	James K.	Maureen Burke Rockaway
Aldaiza DaSilva	Walter	Maggie Holland
Antonio DaSilva	Ron G.	Celine Ghiara
Carol & Kyle McManus	Marvin	Kathleen N.
Martha Lipowski	Kayt and Adam Zielinski	Timothy M.
Keith Taber	Victor Calantoni	Eugene Foley
Maryann Ekberg	Jenna Mitchell	Ambika Bedi

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

We give you thanks for St. Stephen's Staff and Preschool.

The Presider offers a concluding Collect.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Table

We offer our gifts, give thanks, and we gather at Christ's banquet

Please be seated.

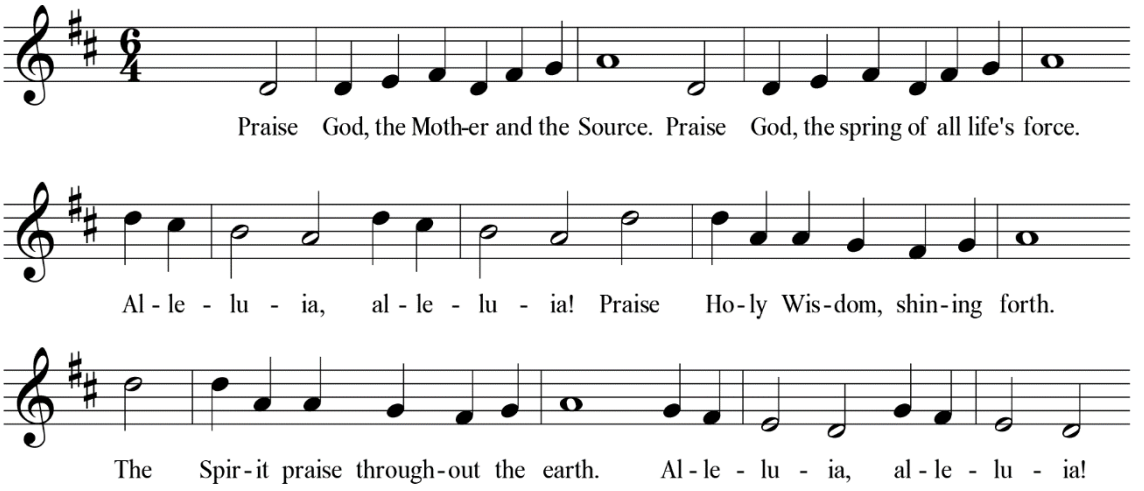
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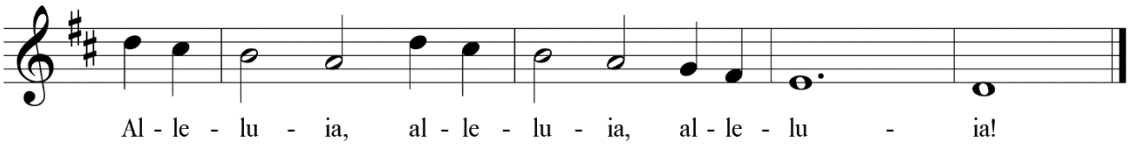
Now the green blade riseth — *arr. Andrews*
Senior Choir

Please stand as you are able.

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, the Mother and the Source — *Jody L. Caldwell*





Words: Jody L. Caldwell. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the author.
Tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen,* melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesaeng,* 1623.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 3 *EOW*

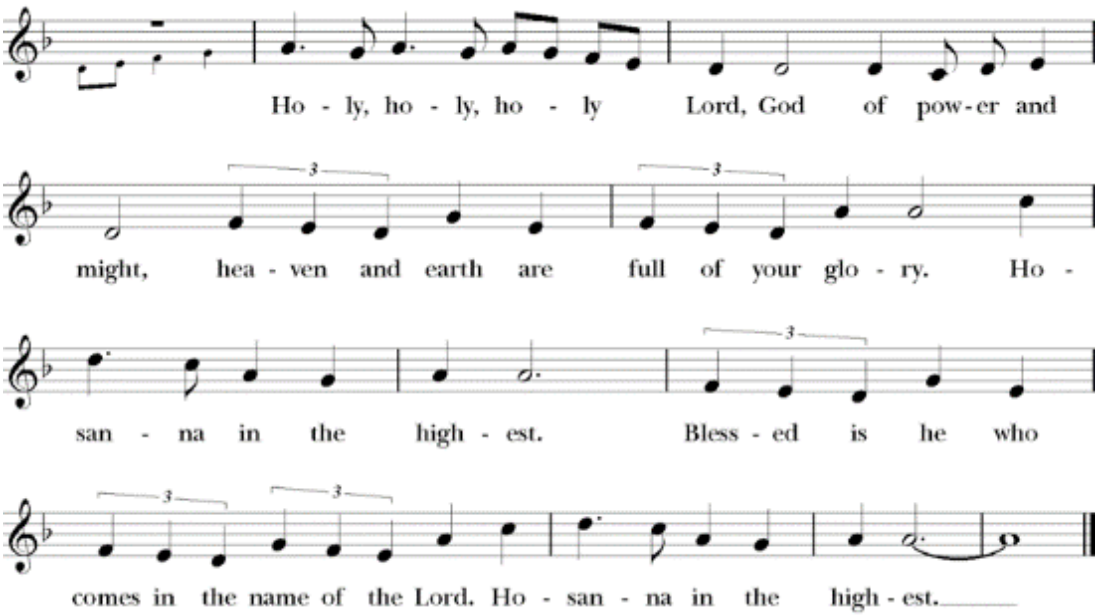
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

SANCTUS

S 129 Holy, holy, holy Lord *Robert Powell*



Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ.

Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with St. Stephen and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, our Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE INVITATION
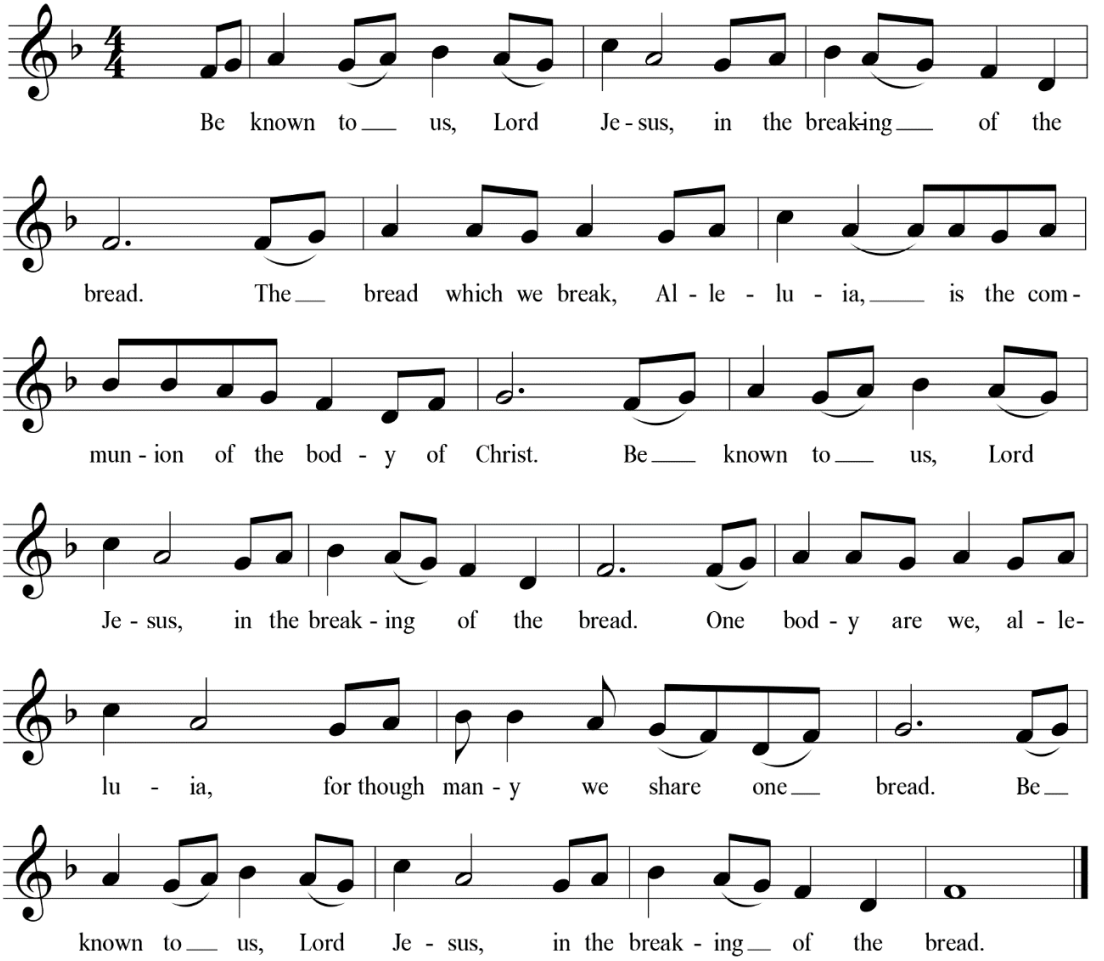
We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Whoever you are, where ever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome at Christ's table.

All are welcome at God's table to receive Communion or a blessing. Gluten-free hosts are available. Please use the hand sanitizer available in the pew before coming forward.

COMMUNION HYMN

Be known to us — *Gary James*



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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Source: Celtic

The Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, in the name of the Holy Trinity. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

H 296 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more *Engelberg*

1. We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
   Embraced by death he broke its fearful hold;
   and our despair he turned to blazing joy.
   Alleluia!

2. We share by water in his saving death.
   Reborn we share with him an Easter life
   as living members of a living Christ.
   Alleluia!

3. The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
   The Spirit's power shakes the Church of God.
   Baptized we live with God the Three in One.
   Alleluia!

4. A new creation comes to life and grows
   as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
   The universe restored and whole will sing:
   Alleluia! Amen.

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of the Risen Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE

LITURGICAL STEWARDSHIP

Officiant:	The Rev. Paula J. Toland
Deacon:	The Rev. Deacon Karen Eberhardt
Minister of Music:	Kim Williams
Organist:	John Schucker
Chalicer/Crucifer:	Eric
Reader/Intercessor:	Barbara R.
Greeter/Usher:	Barbara R., Roger
Tech Verger:	Ron
Coffee Hour:	

Source for today's lectionary: The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL)
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Upcoming Events

Details can be found in the weekly e-newsletter, which is available on our website.

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
4/19	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship with Baptism
	11:30 AM	Vestry Meeting
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting
4/20	7:30 PM	MA Meeting
4/26	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting
	4:00 PM	Organ Recital

ST. STEPHEN'S FRIENDS OF MUSIC ORGAN RECITAL – On Sunday, April 26th at 4:00pm, internationally renowned concert organist Damin Spritzer will present a special organ recital at St. Stephen's Church in Millburn. Though often promoting the works of lesser-known composers, Dr. Spritzer will focus on the music of the great Baroque master, Johann Sebastian Bach, for this performance.

General admission will be available at the door.
A $20 cash donation is suggested.
Artist's reception to follow the recital.

St. Stephen's Organ recitals are made possible through financial support from St. Stephen's Friends of Music. Tax deductible donations can be made to St. Stephen's, entitling sponsors admission to the recital and acknowledgement in our organ recital programs. Donations to the Special Gifts - Friends of Music fund may be made online via Tithely.

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"A diverse Episcopal parish, a life-giving sanctuary, a place where love begets love. Seekers, doubters, and believers find a comfortable place in our midst."

119 Main Street, Millburn, NJ 07041 / 973-376-0688 / ststephensmillburn.org
Rector: The Rev. Paula J. Toland; Emergency Contact: 508-542-1327
Parish Administrator: Maria T. Card

Minister of Music: Kim Williams; Organist: John Schucker

Members of the Vestry
Maryalice Chech: Warden, People & Programs; Roger Riedel, Warden, Property & Preschool; Ashley Morgan: Treasurer; Fran Taber; Julia Dorn; Kira Hanson; Linda Soughan; Steve Moran; Tom Hillemeier; Barbara Riedel: Recording Secretary & Clerk

Sheelagh Clarke; Eugene Foley: Vestry Emeriti

If you wish to receive the weekly e-newsletter, please contact the parish office at 973-376-0688 or church@ststephensmillburn.org.