St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

THE SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION: EASTER SUNDAY

April 5, 2026

Festival Eucharist, Rite II 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.

ORGAN PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT

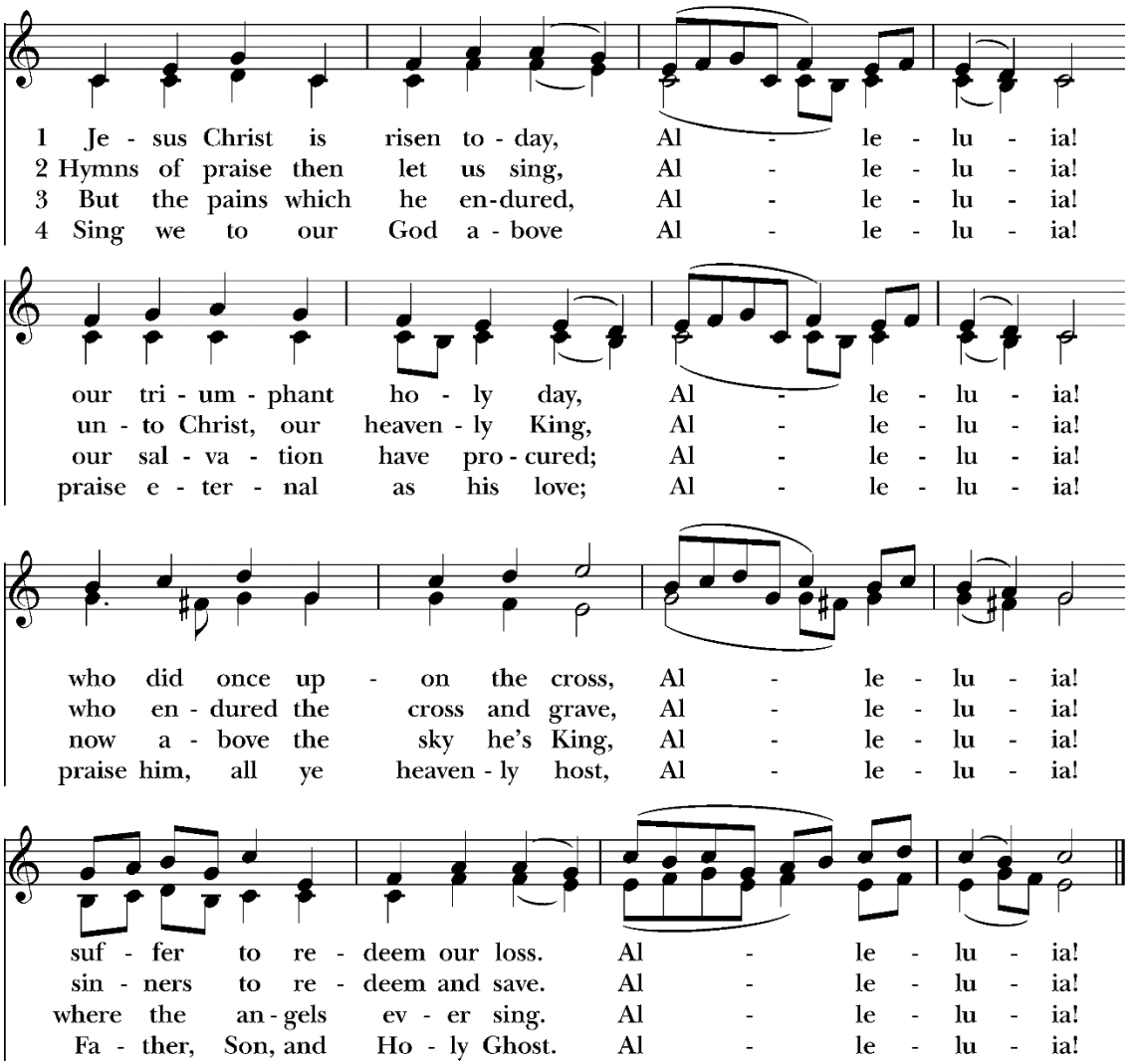
Shout aloud this Easter day! *Carol McClure*

Senior Choir and Children's Choir

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

H 207 Jesus Christ is risen today *Easter Hymn*



Word

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

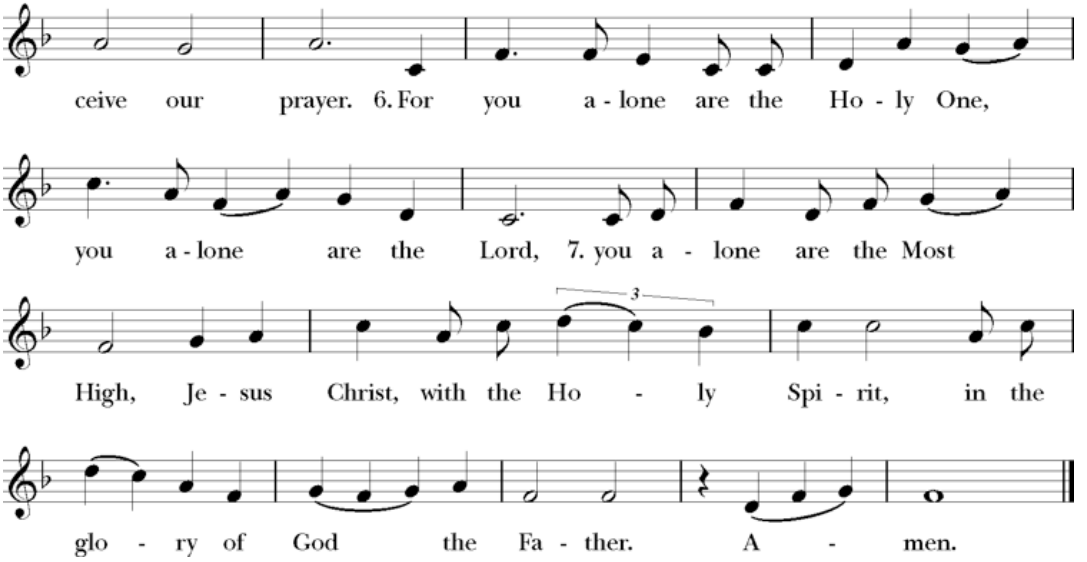
Alleluia. Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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*





COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. 49:1-13

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that

he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, *The Saint Helena Psalter*

Give thanks to God who is good; *
God's mercy endures for ever.

Let Israel now proclaim, *
"God's mercy endures for ever."

God is my strength and my song, *
and has become my salvation.

There is a sound of exultation and victory *
in the tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the Most High has triumphed! *
The right hand of the Most High is exalted!
The right hand of the Most High has triumphed!"

I shall not die, but live, *
and declare the works of God.

God has punished me sorely, *
but did not hand me over to death.

Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to God.

"This is the gate of the Holy One; *
those who are righteous may enter."

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have become my salvation.

The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is God's doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

On this day the Holy One has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

LESSON ANTHEM

Alleluia, Christ is risen! *Stuttgart; arr. James Kirkby*

Senior Choir

THE SECOND LESSON

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Colossus. 3:1-4

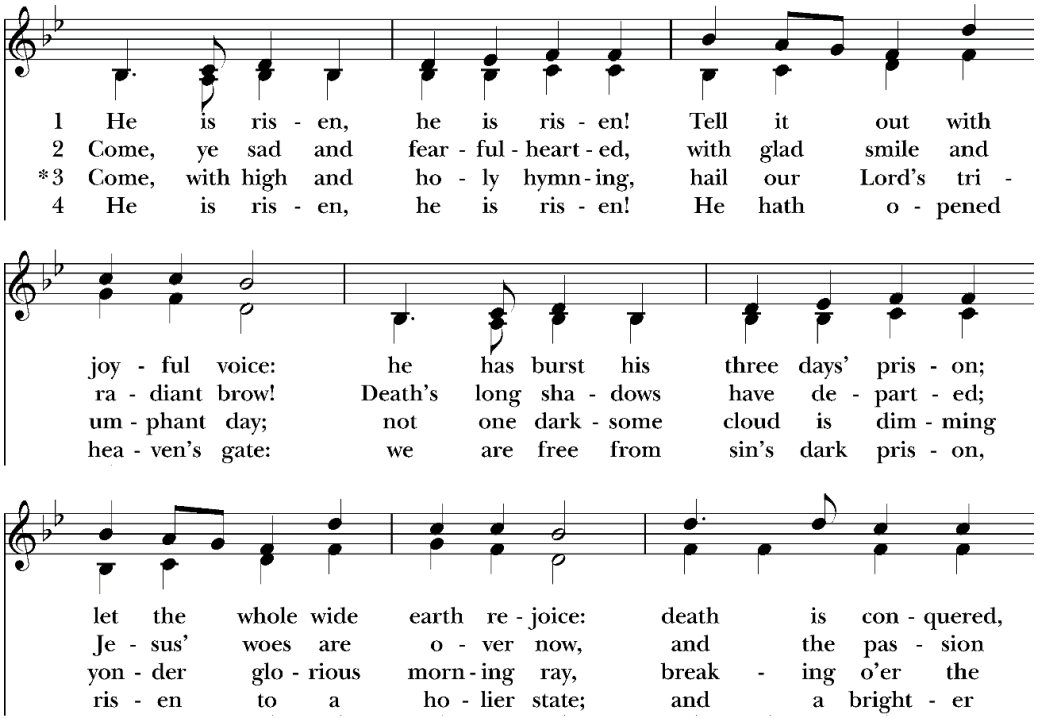
If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

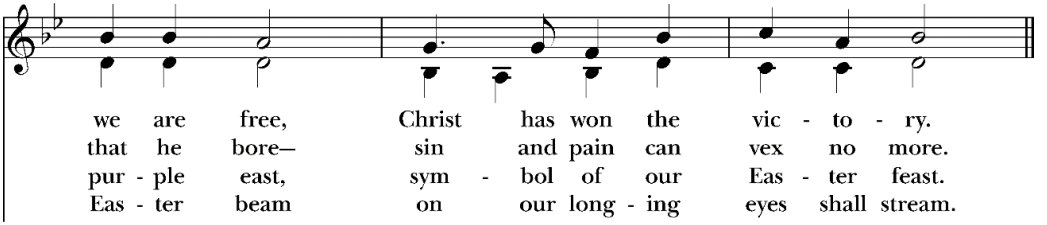
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN

H 180 He is risen, he is risen! *Unser Herrscher*





THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. 20:1-18

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

THE SERMON *The Rev. Paula J. Toland*

Please stand as you are able.

THE CREED *Enriching Our Worship*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jesus Christ is risen today, our triumphant holy day. Alleluia! So let us pray to our Lord, saying, "To you we offer praise eternal; *Alleluia! Alleluia!*"

Heavenly King, for us you endured the cross and the grave. When we were yet sinners, you redeemed and saved us. May we sing your eternal praises everywhere we go.

Silence

To you we offer praise eternal; ***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Incarnate Love, where hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, call forth new life by your touch. Bring forth life in the barren places of this world.

Silence

To you we offer praise eternal; ***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Author of Life, you are the ruler of creation. All things created on earth sing to your glory. From the death of the winter, raise the fair beauty of earth.

Silence

To you we offer praise eternal; ***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Living Savior, you hold the future. You bless and restore our families, our communities, our world with babies and children. Though they face uncertain days, we trust them to the certainty of your endless and eternal love.

Silence

To you we offer praise eternal; ***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Jesus, the health of the world, pour out your balm on our souls and the souls of all in pain or sorrow. Be the source of life for all people.

You are invited to offer your own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Silence

To you we offer praise eternal; ***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Purify us, O Lord, from all evil that we may rightly see you in the eternal light of your resurrection. By your victory, bring us from death to life eternal.

Silence

To you we offer praise eternal; ***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

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.**

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.

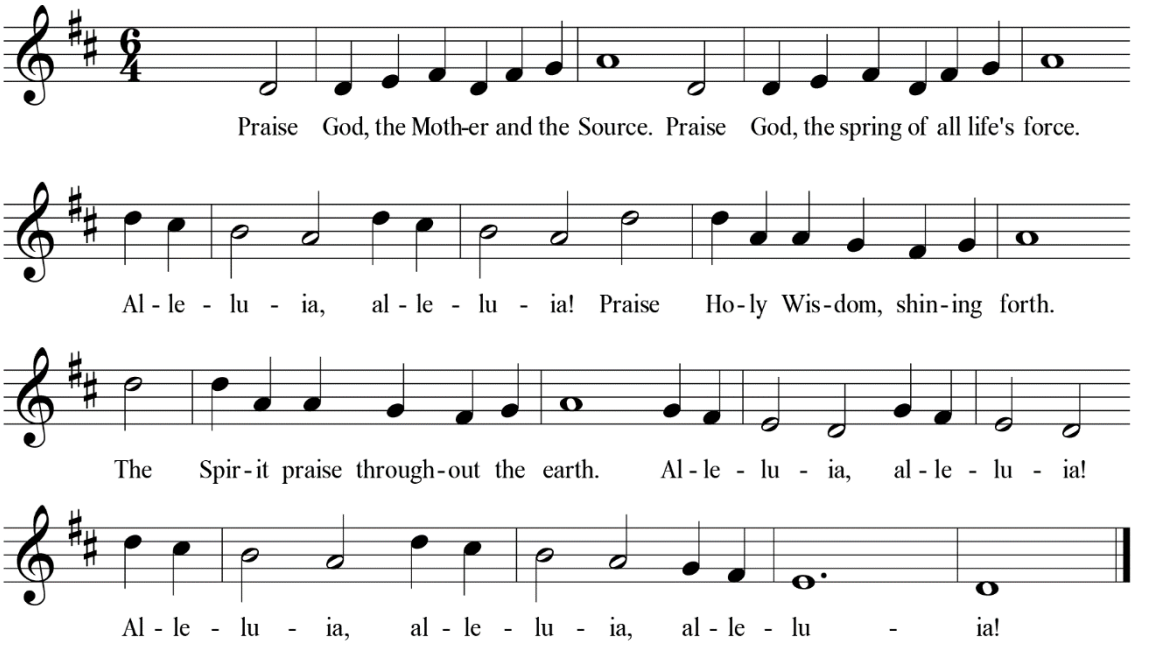
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Christ has risen! *G. F. Handel*
Senior Choir

Please stand as you are able.

THE DOXOLOGY

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



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Tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen,* melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesaeng,* 1623.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 3 *EOW*

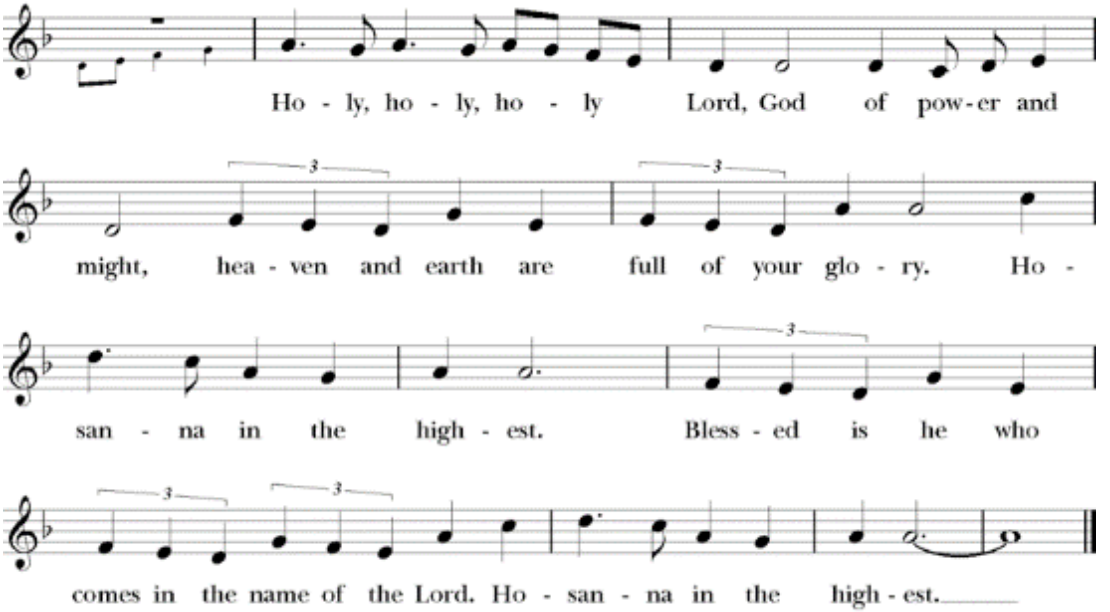
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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

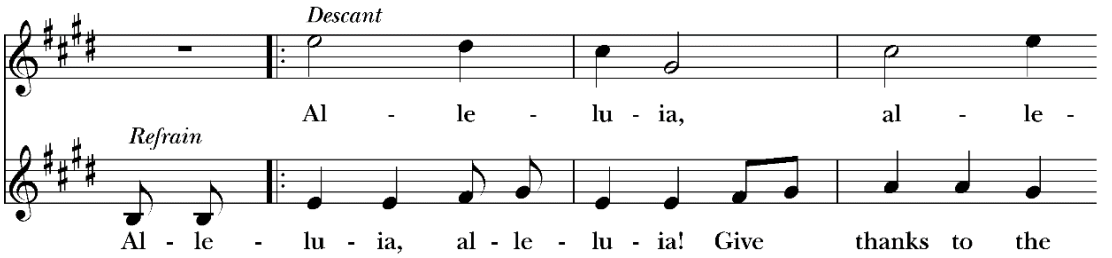
We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

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

H 178 Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord *Alleluia No. 1*





The descant may be sung after stanzas 3 and 4.

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 182 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing *Truro*



DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

LITURGICAL STEWARDSHIP

Concelebrants:	The Rev. Paula J. Toland, The Rev. Jane Rockman
Deacon:	The Rev. Deacon Karen Eberhardt
Minister of Music:	Kim Williams
Organist:	John Schucker
Chalicer/Crucifer/Acolyte:	Eric, Martin, Clara
Oblations bearer:	Rosie
Reader/Intercessor:	Martin
Greeter/Usher:	Maryalice, Emily
Tech Verger:	Ron
Coffee Hour:	Jennifer, Julia, Linda

Source for today's lectionary: The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL)
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EASTER FLOWERS

- Ruth Dorn in memory of Sarah August and Daphna Havkin-Frenkel.
- Julia Dorn in memory of Felder and Sara Ruth Dorn, Jane and Paul Rossiter, and Louise Weber.
- Norma Cook in memory of Clive Cook, Hazel Annadale, and Phyllis Rymer.
- Allison Walker in memory of the Walker Family and the McFall Family.
- Barbara Churchill in memory of the Fitzgerald Family and the Macaulay Family.
- Angela Fickling in memory of Una Morgan.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

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

Upcoming Events

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

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
4/5 Easter Sunday	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	11:30 AM	Easter Egg Hunt
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting
4/6	7:30 PM	MA Meeting
4/12	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting

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

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