

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 12, 2024



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



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GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

Welcome to St. Stephen Lutheran:

**A Worshipping Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
who partners with other Christians. Where the Faith is Taught, Connections
are made, and people are Cared for.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the
presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

GATHERING HYMN

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

red book #392

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

(see next page)





1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

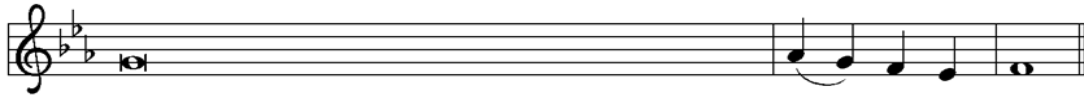
Setting One



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



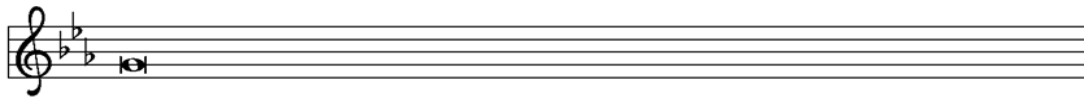
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



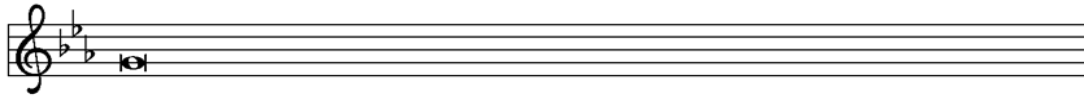
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

...Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

A reading from Acts the 1st Chapter.

Word of God, word of life.:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 1

The psalm for the day is read responsively.

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:9-13

A reading from 1st John the 5th Chapter.

Word of God, word of life.:

Thanks be to God.

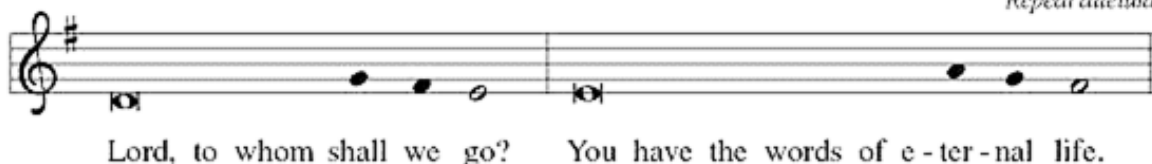
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Setting One

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



Repeat alleluia



GOSPEL: John 17:6-19

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to John the 17th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

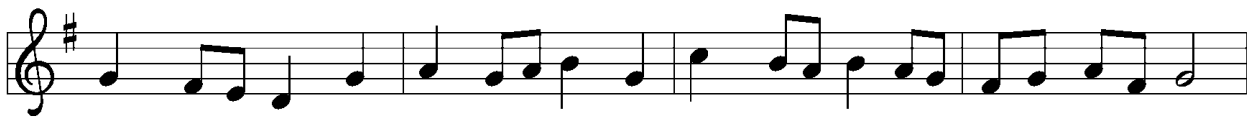
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Son of God, Eternal Savior" *red book #655*

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
... through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

After the table is set, the assisting minister may lead one of the following or a similar prayer.

Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

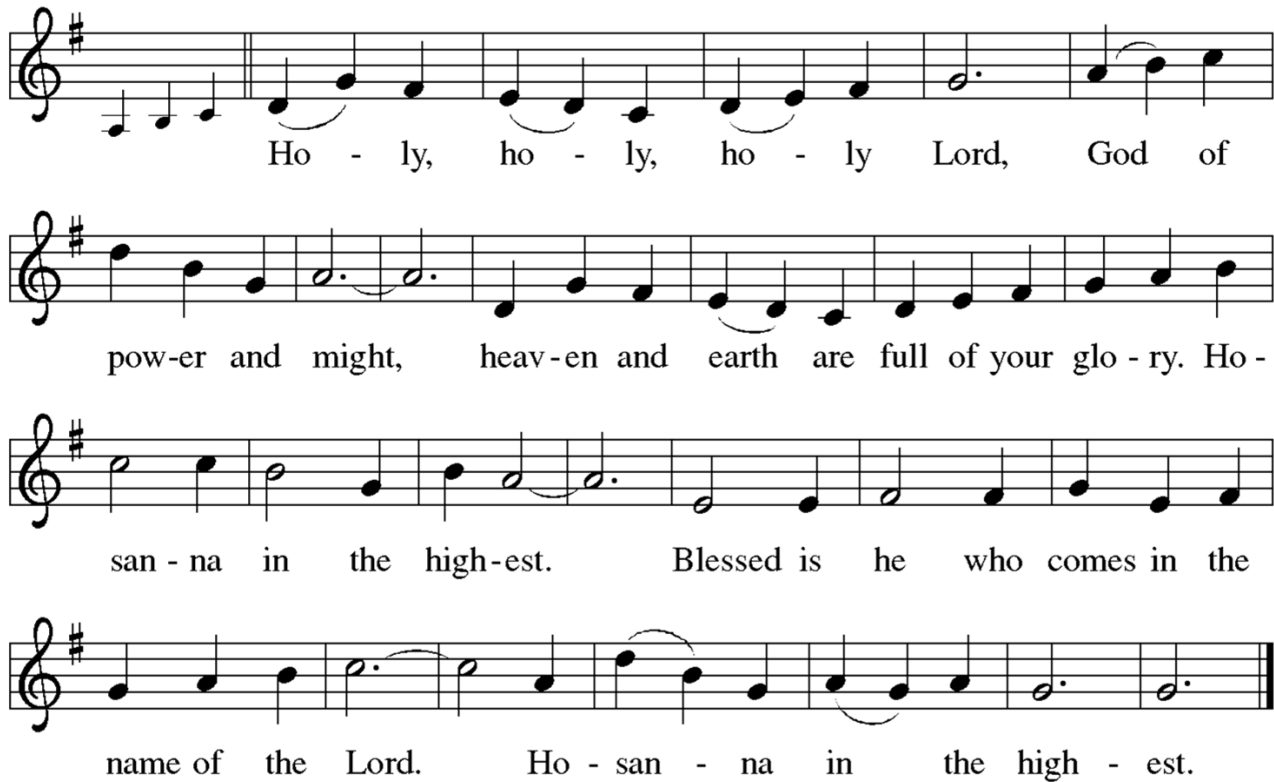
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Setting One



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

...the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

...We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

...Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

...now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

The assembly may be seated.

AGNUS DEI

Setting One

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

Come and know Christ,
broken and poured out for you.

Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN “For the Bread Which You Have Broken” red book #494



- 1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,
- 2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,
- 3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n - ly board,
- 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;



for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
in the world to which you send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope ✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Thine the Amen”

red book #826

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.
thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE



TODAY'S SERVANT LEADERS

Rev. Frantisek Janak, *Pastor*
Kenneth Yao, *Musician*
Jeanne Elmuccio, *Church Secretary*

Frank Gianneschi, *Worship Assistant*
Newman Family, *Ushers*
Sharon Gianneschi and Judy Ziccardi, *Altar Guild*

Offering Counters:

1st Sunday of Month - Pat Klatt/Judy Ziccardi
2nd Sunday of Month - Bob Newman/Randy Gerling
3rd Sunday of Month - Linda Nietman/Linda Hansen
4th Sunday of Month - Miriam Skrzypczak/Frank Gianneschi
5th Sunday of Month - Craig and Jane Busch

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

*God gives us this community, the body of Christ, as the answer to our prayers.
Remember these and all in need as you pray and as you serve.*

Sheri Agens, Patrice Apostol, Amandeep Bedi, Barbara Barreca, Joy Billich, Kim Boyd, Jane Busch, Pamela Casey, Kathleen De Carlo, Kaylene DeMaio, Doell Family, Nate Fagen, Mary Flannary, Ronald Franz, Chuck Helvig, Katie Herdman, Jackie Hettrick, Barbara Hodge, Harry Jacobs, Kim Jarema, Stephanie Kendall, Charles Knight, Joyce Krauss, Phil Lore, Violet McCabe, Vera Millett, Alice Murrery, Bill Owens, Denise Paavola, Werner Porsch, Rev. Olga Rivera, Jacqueline Santiago, Artie Sears, Barbara and Mick Smalley, Deborah Summey and family, Jimmy Tangen, Doris Torre, Butch Varga, Joe Woodring, Carlton, Everett, Heather, Michael, Family of Pastor Lynn Ash, Family of Lillian Boltz, Family of Lois Gorman, and all communities and people affected by violence and weather related disasters. +

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Typical Pastor's Schedule: Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays
(Emergency pastoral care as needed: please text or call at 331-248-3084)

Schedule a meeting or visit with Pastor František:

<https://bit.ly/schedule-with-rev-janak>

Bible Verse: **Psalm 145:18:** The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

May 9, 2024 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Meeting of the South Plainfield Ecumenical Council of Christian Churches

May 12, 2024 Newsletter items due

May 15, 2024 5:00 p.m. Pop-Up Food Pantry (Pasta Sauce, Apple Sauce)

May 19, 2024 11:30 a.m. Coffee and Refreshments Following Worship
Newsletter distributed

May 21, 2024 7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting



Flowers were given this Mother's Day, in memory of Lois Gorman by her daughter, Debra Webb.



**The streaming of our
church services is moving
to YouTube!**

<https://www.youtube.com/@StStephensLutheran-SPNJ>

**Go to the YouTube channel at 10:30 AM on Sundays
and Subscribe**



DID YOU KNOW? 💡

The world produces more than enough food to feed every person, yet the number of hungry people has grown since 2019. More than 2 billion people around the world aren't sure where their next meal will come from.

Your congregation has the chance to join a generation of change and make a difference. Together we can be the generation that ends hunger. 🤝

Thanks to generous donors, all gifts to ELCA World Hunger as part of Generation Zero-Hunger will be matched—dollar for dollar—until we reach \$250,000. That means your gifts will go twice as far in the work to end hunger!

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

Generation Zero-Hunger is a youth-driven fundraising challenge to support the programs of ELCA World Hunger, our church's ministry to end hunger and poverty. Many groups will bring their offerings to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, La. Congregations can join youth across the ELCA and commit to being part of the generation that takes action, ushering in a world without hunger.

Will your congregation join Generation Zero-Hunger? Right now, gifts to end hunger and poverty go twice as far!