ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR LUTHERAN CHURCH 2ND WEEKEND OF EASTER Saturday, April 26, 2025 5:00pm

Saturday, April 26, 2025 5:00pm Sunday, April 27, 2025 9:30am



In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

ELW is the cranberry red Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship

SSM is equipped with hearing assistance devices.

If you would like more information on how to gain access please see an usher for the instructions and assistance.

Please note: Sunday Service is streamed, recorded and posted on YouTube beginning with the prelude and continuing through the postlude. Be aware that you may be recorded when coming up the center aisle for communion.

PRELUDE: (5:00) "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain" - R. Hughes

(9:30) "Fugue in C Major" BWV 553 -J. S. Bach

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Eternal God, as we wander in the wilderness, you are with us.

C: Open our hearts to your comforting presence.

P: Living God, as we sit with Mary at the feet of Jesus, you welcome our gifts.

C: Open our hearts to your transforming love.

P: Compassionate God, as we come to your table, you share yourself with us.

C: Open our hearts to your extravagant grace. Pour your blessing on us. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW #385 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P: In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

C: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

C: make us one as you are one.

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One,

C: make us one as you are one.

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,

C: make us one as you are one.

P: Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

C: Amen.

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

THIS IS THE FEAST





PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: (9:30) Billie Jo Kunesh

FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

²⁷ When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

L: The Word of the Lord C: Thanks be to God

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

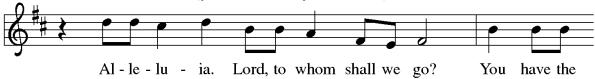
So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (please stand as you are able)





GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who "have not seen and yet believe."

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not

written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE: "Breathing Room" Rev. Brian Hooper

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #449 We Know that Christ is Raised

APOSTLE'S CREED: (please rise as you are able)

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

L: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

- L: Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.
- L: Preserve the earth as a safe home for all creatures. Restore habitats contaminated by pollution or overuse, strengthen efforts to shape more sustainable communities, and make us mindful of the impacts of our daily lives on the well-being of creation. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.
- L: Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities. Care for your people who caught in the middle of war and strife, especially the people of Ukraine, Gaza, and Israel. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.
- L: Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all who are sick and for whom death is near. Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way especially those we name before you now, either aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Hear us, O God.

- C: Your mercy is great.
- L: Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across differences in race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and economic situation. Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination, and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.
- **L:** We remember the faithful departed from all times and places. Comfort those who mourn the passing of Pope Francis. Confident that you are the Alpha and Omega, we pray for your wisdom and guidance until our earthly pilgrimage is complete. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.
- L: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
- C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE (please be seated after sharing the peace)

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERINGS

Thank you for sharing your gifts. Offerings can also be made electronically using the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app. More information can be found on our website ssmelca.org. or use the QR codes listed here:



OFFERTORY PRAYER (Please stand as able)

- **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.
- C: Amen

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Partaking of the elements will occur after the Lord's Prayer. You will have the opportunity to come forward to receive communion. If you are unable to come forward please inform an usher and communion will be brought to your seat, otherwise prepare your prepackaged elements by opening the two separate parts, wafer and juice (if you need assistance, please wave to an usher).

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

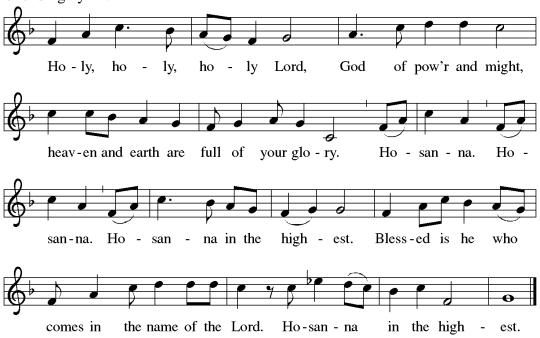
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION: "In the night..."

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, 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;

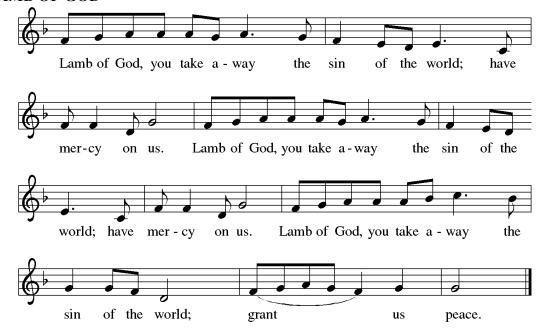
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN: ELW #389 Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please be sure to read the printed announcements.)

BLESSING

P: 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.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: ELW #380 Hallelujah! Jesus Lives! (please stand as you are able)

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!

10 - Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others

POSTLUDE: (5:00) "Thine Is the Glory" -arr. G. Young (9:30) "Prelude in C Major" BWV 553 -J. S. Bach

From sundaysandseasons.com

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St. Stephen the Martyr Welcome Statement

St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church is a spiritual community grounded in the belief of Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others.

Recognizing that there are those who have historically experienced rejection within congregational life, we strive to welcome and affirm the participation of all people into our community of faith – people of all ages, races and ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, physical and mental abilities, educational backgrounds, family statuses, and economic circumstances.

We are driven to be a welcoming congregation, offer a safe place to worship, and celebrate the diversity of God's family. We are committed to racial equity and invite all people to join us in our faith journey toward greater love, understanding, and mutual respect.

We proclaim that we are an open and affirming congregation, and you are invited to join us.

This Week at SSM			
Wednesday, 4/30	6:15pm	Handbell Rehearsal	
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Thursday, 5/1	1:00pm	Quilting – Cut & Sew – until 3pm	
	6:30pm	Confirmation Class	
3 rd Weekend of Easter			
Saturday, 5/3	5:00pm	Worship	Ushers: Jim Hennesy and Deb Perl
			Reader:
			Communion Set Up: Betty Kroll
			Communion Server: Heidi Hennessy
Sunday, 5/4	9:30am	Worship	Ushers: Dennis Lucchesi and Cheryl & Dan
			Stefanski
			Reader:
			Communion: Jason & Tracy Covert
		Sunday School	

THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: (5:00) Cheryl & Dan Stefanski

(9:30) Bob Rasmussen, Kim Sussman and Adam Woerpel

Reader: (5:00) Nick Winter (9:30) Cathy Peterson

Communion: (5:00) Set Up Bonnie Court Server Heidi Hennessy

(9:30) Diane Moraza and Denise Sanders Streaming Technician: Eric Sanders Sunday Coffee Hour Host: John Bugajski

KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER

Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins, Penny Dowling, Diana Gastrau, Sue Jarchow, Carolyn Kahl, Sally Kowalewski, Carol Kucharski, Shirley Lieske, Karen Palasz, Joan Retzlaff, Mary Rockstad, Dick Rutzen, Bob Soderstrom, Richard Sontvedt,

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Cheryl, sister-in-law of Larry & Sue Stasiewski Helen, mother of Jenny Koeff Scott, friend of Mary Luedtke Steve, friend of Dan Stefanski Lenny Alt, friend of Don & Carol Manning Sandy Bell, sister of Bill Bravner & friend of

SSM
Bart Bohne, friend of Kelly and Greg Sachse
Rich Bonner, friend of Al Behling
Irene Bonnert, mother of Deb Perl
Julie Francis, daughter-in-law of Sally
Kowalewski

Karen Gastrau, daughter-in-law of Diana Gastrau Liane Guthrie, daughter of Dianne Niese Ronald Hause, friend of Don & Carol Manning Tim Ingram, grandson of Ron Ropel Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt Dan Knapik, friend of Don & Carol Manning Jon Kowalewski, husband of Sally Kowalewski Susan Kueny, friend of Mary Luedtke Tim Noonan, friend of Jean Brownell Ted & Ellen P., family of Gail Jakus Shari Palmeri, friend of Nancy Schneider Sarah Reyes, daughter of Debbie and Vic Barth

Leroy Robinson, father of Linda Schmidt Larry & Lori Sachse, family members of Kelly & Greg Sachse

John Schatzman, nephew of Marion Walton Gloria Simley, sister of Dave and Rae Ann Simley

Dale and Barb Starks, parents of Julie Starks Andy Stein and his family, son of Barb Stein Ann Stiff, Mother of Andrea Woerpel Sandra Van Remmen Prosser, friend of Carol & Don Manning

Billy Waters, husband of Darlene Waters & Stepdad of Lori Salas

Susan White, sister of Sally Kowalewski Cohen Zettle, family of Pam Young

Rev. Brian Hooper, Pastor - 262-271-8913 Tabitha Moldenhauer, Music Director Mark Breutzmann, Saturday Musician Jim Hennessy, Church Maintenance Bonnie Zimmermann, Ministry Assistant
Office phone - 414-421-3543
email - office@ssmelca.org
Website – www.ssmelca.org
Facebook - https://m.facebook.com/SSMELCA/

ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>Food donations for April will benefit the Unity</u> food pantry. We will be collecting non-perishable food items that are not past their expiration date throughout the month. If you prefer, a monetary donation given to St. Stephen the Martyr and designated for *Food Ministries* can be made. Your continued support of our food pantry collections is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

<u>Please consider using your special envelopes</u> or making donations marked for these specific days. 60% of the funds collected will go to:

Palm Sunday – Lutheran Social Services Maundy Thursday – ELCA World Hunger Good Friday – Bread of Healing Clinic

Easter – Mbaaseny Parish

The 0ther 40% goes into the general fund. Thank you for your continued support of these missions.

It is also not too late to put your Ash Wednesday or Lent envelopes in. Ash Wednesday funds will be shared with ELCA Disaster Response and Lent envelopes will be shared with Outreach for Hope.

North Cape Lutheran Church will hold their Country Crafts 'n Cook 'n Salad Luncheon event on Saturday, May 3rd. Bake Sale, Crafters, Vendors, Quilt Sale and all you can eat luncheon from 11am to 1pm. See the bulletin board between the offices for more information.

May 4th Mt. Zion Lutheran will host <u>A Conversation on Peace and Justice in Israel and Palestine</u> at 4:30pm. Mt Zion is located in Wauwatosa. For more information see the bulletin board between the offices.

<u>Unity Lutheran Church</u> will hold a plant sale on May 17th from 9am to 12pm and on May 20 from 4pm to 6pm. Plant donations are greatly appreciated. See the bulletin board between the offices for more information.



SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025 4:00 PM ORGAN RECITAL

The congregation welcomes the public to this recital presented by David Jonies, Director of Music and Organist at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago.

A native of Germany, he holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the Hochschule für Musik in Würzburg and the Performer's Certificate from the Royal Academy of Music in London. His teachers have included James O'Donnell, David Titterington, Günther Kaunzinger, and Gerhard Weinberger.

Described as a "gem" (The American Organist) and an "impeccable" performer (Bonner Generalanzeiger), David enjoys an excellent reputation among his colleagues as a concert organist and church musician. Known for his wide range of repertoire, David was awarded the 1st prize at the 1999 Landau International Organ Competition.

International concert appearances include Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, Westminster Abbey and the London Handel Festival in the U. K., the Pusan Bach Festival in South Korea, the Cathedral at Budejovice in the Czech Republic, the Bluval Music Festival and the Cathedrals of Bamberg, Mainz, Passau and Trier in Germany.

In the United States, he has performed at Chicago's Orchestra Hall with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, at Marcus Center with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, at the Cathedrals of Seattle, Helena, Pittsburgh, Hartford, Sioux City, and Houston, and recitals and workshops for American Guild of Organists.

St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church

6101 S 51st St. Greendale, WI

Free and Open to the Public



414-421-3543 ssmelca.org office@ssmelca.org

FREE WILL DONATIONS TO SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES WILL BE TAKEN AT THE DOOR



Tett: Cyrill A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.
Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Mckhior Vulpius, 1570–1615
Tet 0 1952, ren. 1990 /śww.s. Avoier & Madew, admir. Biope Publishing Company, Carol Steam, IL 60188, All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

Text O John B. Geyer.

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Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

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Test: Carl B. Gurve, 1763–1841; v. June L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt. Music: FRED TIL BOD, Ludvig M. Lindonan, 1812–1887