

**ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD/EASTER  
Sunday, April 5, 2026 9:30am**



*This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.*

*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:** “Easter Song” -arr. Michael Ryan

Handbell Choir

**WELCOME**

**P:** “Alleluia! Christ is Risen!”

**C:** “He is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!”

**CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 118:1-2, 22-24**

**P:** Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;

**C:** **God’s mercy endures forever.**

**P:** Let Israel now declare,

**C:** “**God’s mercy endures forever.**”

**P:** The stone that the builders rejected

**C:** **has become the chief cornerstone.**

**P:** By the Lord has this been done;

**C:** **it is marvelous in our eyes.**

**P:** This is the day that the Lord has made;

**C:** **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

Alex Dollar

**OPENING HYMN: ELW #365 “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”**

**GREETING**

**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.**

# THIS IS THE FEAST

*Refrain*

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Continued on next page*

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain  
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**C: O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43**

*Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, receives forgiveness of sins through his name.*

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> 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; <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> 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. <sup>42</sup> 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. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

**L: The word of the Lord**

**C: Thanks be to God**

**SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4**

*Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.*

<sup>1</sup> If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup> for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

**L:** The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW HYMN #372 Christ is Arisen**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10**

*Sorrow gives way to “fear and great joy” when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!*

**P:** The holy gospel according to Matthew

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup> After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” <sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

**P:** The gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you, O Christ**

**MESSAGE:** “Easter Earthquake”

Rev. Brian Hooper

**HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #363 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain**

## NICENE CREED *(Please stand)*

**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 and the Son, 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each petition will end with the words “Merciful God”. Following each petition the congregation will respond “receive our prayer”.*

## SHARING OF PEACE

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** And also with you.

**ANTHEM:** “This is the Day” -Mozart



*for Google*



*for iPhone*

## OFFERING

*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](http://ssmelca.org). or use the QR codes listed here:*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

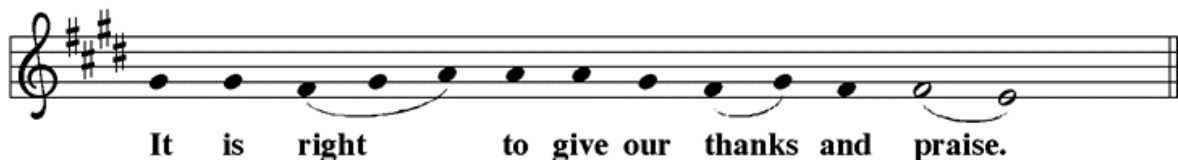
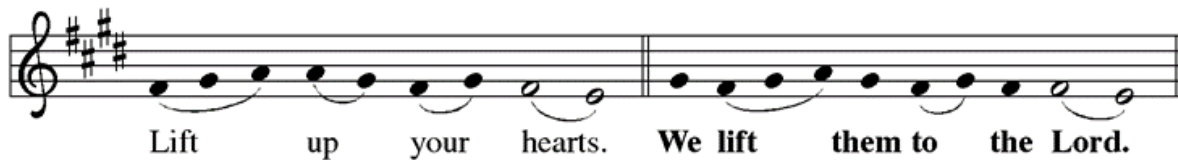
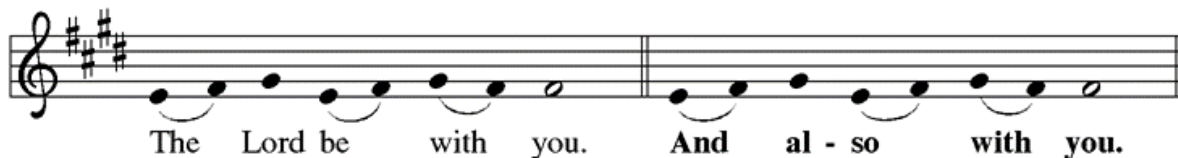
**P:** Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more.

Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

**C: Amen.**

## CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



**P:** God, we thank you, for you create us in love, and each moment you re-create us.

**C:** **You create us in the image of your love, and claim us as your Beloved.**

**P:** When we are lost and imprisoned you stay with us;  
you overcome the forces of death and oppression, and set us free.

**C:** **By the mystery of your grace you have raised Christ from the dead,  
and raised us to newness of life.**

**P:** From the power of death you have set us free.

**C:** **From our fear and the failure of our love you save us,  
and accompany us toward your peace.**

**Therefore with all Creation we sing your praise.**

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE 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.

## LAMB OF GOD



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 HYMNS ELW #378 Awake. My Heart, With Gladness

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P:** Gracious God, we thank you for this mystery in which you have given yourself to us. You have fed us with the body of the risen Christ, the bread of life, life that is eternal, and deeply beautiful. By the grace of these gifts, may the power of resurrection be within us. Send us out into the world, unafraid, to give of ourselves; to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, in the name and the Spirit of the risen Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit forever.

**C:** Amen.

## **BLESSING**

**P:** May the Almighty, who shaped the earth and kindled the lights of heaven, renew you in the image of God

**C: Amen.**

**P:** May Christ, who shattered the chains of death, lead you forward in freedom.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** May the Spirit, who breathes forth resurrection power, fill your hearts with boundless joy

**C: Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN ELW #376 Thine is the Glory**

## **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: “Toccata” -Charles-Marie Widor**

*From sundaysandseasons.com*

*Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.*

## **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.

***Thank you to Emily Reinholz  
for contributing her musical talents to our Easter worship.***

***THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN WORSHIP***

**Ushers:** Dennis Lucchesi, John Muroi, Jim Palasz, Bob Resmussen

**Reader:** Bonnie Daleness

**Communion Set Up:** Jason & Tracy Covert

**Communion Servers:** Jason & Tracy Covert, Cathy Peterson, Denise Sanders

| <b><i>This week at SSM</i></b> |                |                     |  |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Wednesday, 4/8</b>          | <b>10:15am</b> | Women's Bible Study |  |
| <b>Thursday, 4/9</b>           | <b>6:30pm</b>  | Confirmation Class  |  |
| <b>Saturday, 4/11</b>          | <b>5:00pm</b>  | Worship             | Ushers: Dan & Cheryl Stefanski                               |
|                                |                |                     | Reader: Patti Nelson   |
|                                |                |                     | Communion Set Up: Bonnie Court                               |
|                                |                |                     | Communion Server: Patti Nelson                               |
|                                | <b>6:30pm</b>  | Youth Gathering     |  |
| <b>Sunday, 4/12</b>            | <b>9:30am</b>  | Worship             | Ushers: Pat & Shelley Burns, Nancy Mineau,<br>Penny Whitmore |
|                                |                |                     | Reader: Mary Luedtke   |
|                                |                |                     | Communion" Julie Starks                                      |
|                                |                | Sunday School       |  |

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

***Thank you to all who contributed flowers to our Easter services:***

Given by:

Debbie, Vic & Samir Barth

Carolyn Birk

in memory of David Birk

Jean Brownell

in memory of Bob Brownell

Bonnie Court

in honor of family

Julie Herman

in memory of grandparents

Karen & John Hoffman

in memory of family members who have passed

Dick & Betty Kroll

in honor of the Easter season

Nancy Mineau

in thanks for God's grace

Faith O'Connell

in honor of grandchildren

Cathy Peterson

in honor of Billy & Nola Cooper and in memory of passed loved ones

Sandy Petricek

in thanks for Larry's recovery from the November accident

Denise & Eric Sanders

in honor of the Resurrection of Our Lord

Jerry Seroka

Nancy Schneider

in memory of El Schneider

The Schuchardt family

in memory of Ron & Pat Nefstead and Angeline & Chester Lukaszewicz

Julie Starks

in memory of Paul Eklund and in thanks for the SSM generosity in giving to local food pantries

Sue & Larry Stasiewski

in memory of parents

Dan & Cheryl Stefanski

in honor of all loved ones

Sandy Wesolowski

in memory of Bill Wesolowski & Iola Sawicki

Kipp & Bonnie Zimmermann

in memory of loved ones



## HYMN ELW #365 Jesus Christ is Risen Today

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4  
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

## HYMN ELW #372 Christ is Arisen

- 1 Christ is arisen  
from the grave's dark prison.  
So let our joy rise full and free;  
Christ our comfort true will be.  
Alleluia!
  
- 2 Were Christ not arisen,  
then death were still our prison.  
Now, with him to life restored,  
we praise the Father of our Lord.  
Alleluia!
  
- 3 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
So let our joy rise full and free;  
Christ our comfort true will be.  
Alleluia!

Text: German hymn, c. 1100; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909-1967

Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

## HYMN ELW #363 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!  
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,  
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,  
4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,  
5 Al - le - lu - ia! now we cry to our Lord im - mor - tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,  
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en,  
with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;  
nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold you as a mor - tal:  
who tri - um - phant burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal;



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;  
All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing  
comes to glad Jer - u - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion  
but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing  
Al - le - lu - ia! with the Son God the Fa - ther prais - ing;



led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
from the Light to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
wel - comes in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!  
your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.  
Al - le - lu - ia! yet a - gain to the Spir - it rais - ing.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, 1490–1547

## HYMN ELW # 378 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness



1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, see what to - day is done;  
2 Now hell, its prince, the dev - il, of all their pow'r are shorn;  
3 This is a sight that glad - dens—what peace it does im - part!  
4 Now I will cling for - ev - er to Christ, my Sav - ior true;  
5 Christ brings me to the por - tal that leads to bliss un - told,



now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, comes forth the glo - rious sun.  
now I am safe from e - vil, and sin I laugh to scorn.  
Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens the joy with - in my heart.  
my Lord will leave me nev - er, what - e'er he pass - es through.  
where-on this rhyme im - mor - tal is found in script of gold:



My Sav - ior there was laid where our bed must be made  
For Christ a - gain is free; in glo - rious vic - to - ry  
No gloom shall ev - er shake, no foe shall ev - er take,  
He rends death's i - ron chain; he breaks through sin and pain;  
“Who there my cross has shared finds here a crown pre - pared;



when, as on wings in flight, we soar to realms of light.  
he who is strong to save has tri - umphed o'er the grave.  
the hope which God's own Son in love for me has won.  
he shat - ters hell's grim thrall; I fol - low him through all.  
who there with me has died shall here be glo - ri - fied.”

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. John Kelly, 1833–1890, alt.  
Music: AUF, AUF, MEIN HERZ, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

## HYMN ELW #376 Thine is the Glory



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness  
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

*Refrain*

where thy bod - y lay.  
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939  
 Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759