

The background of the image is a soft, painterly depiction of a sunset or sunrise. The sky transitions from a pale blue at the top to a bright yellow and orange near the horizon. Three birds are silhouetted against the sky, flying in various directions. In the foreground, the silhouettes of tall, thin grasses or reeds are visible, some with small seed heads. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

*Alleluia!*

*Christ is risen!*



## EASTER SUNDAY

everything between  
grief & hope

April 20, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Welcome to people new to this church or faith, long time Lutherans, and Christians from every tradition. Welcome to all who have no church home, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new visitors and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation and marital status, ability and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners and questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate and sorrow, rejoice and recover. This is a place where lives are made new. Welcome on this day.

**Please fill out the “Worship Slip” and place it in the offering plate during the offering.**

( \* ) Asterisk means, “Please stand as you are able.”

Prelude

“An Easter Fanfare”

Lyra Davidica & Carla J. Giomo, Brass & Organ

## Gathering

### \*Call to Worship

My dear friends,  
we have known grief.  
We have known loss.  
We have known the long road, tired and winding.  
We have whispered prayers on bended knees.  
We have stared at the sky, empty of stars.  
But today—  
**today we know hope.**

Today we know life.

**Today we know the sound of Alleluias.**

Today we know that death does not have the last word.

**Today we know that nothing can separate us  
from the love of God.**

It is Easter.

May hope find you.

And may you know, deep in your bones, that today is a  
new day.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.**

### \*Call to Confession

Faithful friends, today is a joyful day!

If I were to ask you what parts of our service feel joyful,  
you'd probably say the music,  
or the flowers in the sanctuary.

You might say the children,  
the passing of the peace

or the crowded room we are in today.

But it's unlikely that any of you would name  
the prayer of confession we will soon offer,

Because the prayer of confession has a reputation  
for being somber and serious.

But this prayer of confession can feel like a fresh page!

Maybe the prayer of confession can allow us to start again.

When we move closer to God,

we are always met with grace, mercy, and abundant love.

And my friends, *that* is joyful.

That feels like Easter, doesn't it?

So join me in the prayer of confession. It's a joyful day!

### \*Prayer of Confession

The Gospel of Luke says: "It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women who told the disciples of the resurrection.

But these words seemed to the disciples an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

But Peter got up and ran to the tomb."<sup>1</sup>

**Forgive us, God,  
when good news lands in our lap  
and we refuse to believe it.**

**Forgive us, God,  
when grief and fear crowd out  
any room in our hearts for hope.**

**Forgive us, God,  
when we dismiss the stories of others  
and minimize the voices of our neighbors.**

When our world teeters between grief and hope,  
show us how to be like Peter.

**Show us how to hold onto hope.**

**Show us how to run toward you. Amen.**

### \*Words of Forgiveness

Family of Faith,

At first, the disciples didn't believe that Jesus had risen.  
They stayed locked in an upper room, shaking and afraid.  
Peter was the only exception.

But Jesus loves us on our best days and our worst days.

**God's grace exists for us when we are hopeful  
and when we're grieving,  
when we're shouting and when we're silent,**

when we're full of faith and when we're full of fear.  
God's grace exists for us on the best days,  
the worst days, and every day in between.  
Thanks be to God for this good news!  
Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

\*Opening Hymn

*"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"* Red #365

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

*Women only:*

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

*Men only:*

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!  
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!  
Praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

\*Greeting

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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**

\*Prayer of the Day

## God's Word

Children's Time

Pastor Jim

God Stories

Congregation

First Reading

Isaiah 65:17-25

Use pew Bible

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-4

Celebrate pg. 2

\*Gospel Hymn

"Day of Delight" Blue # 933  
Good News Singers

\*Gospel Reading

Luke 24:1-12

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Matthew the 28th Chapter

**C: Glory to you, O God.**

*(The Gospel is read)*

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

\*Hymn of the Day

*“Now the Green Blade Rises”*

Red #379

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,  
Thinking that he would never wake again,  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain,  
He that for three days in the grave had lain;  
Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
Your touch can call us back to life again,  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

\*Prayer for Illumination

God of Alleluias and empty tombs,  
God of garden plots and good news,  
it is Easter.

It is *finally* Easter.

When the world is full of grief and heartache,  
When the world is full of violence and oppression,  
When the world is full of loss and separation,

(next pg)

we long for this day  
because Easter sings a different song.  
Easter sings a song of hope.  
Easter sings a song of new life.  
Easter sings a song of love that makes you  
want to jump out of your chair  
and run barefoot to the tomb.  
Easter smells of fresh flowers and baked bread.  
It sounds like trumpets and laughter.  
It feels like a crowded table and a warm hug.  
Yes, Easter sings a different song.  
So in a world full of grief,  
help us to cling to Easter's hope.  
When the world seems full of grief,  
help us hear this story of good news.  
When things seem to get overwhelming,  
we're ready to jump out of our chairs  
and run barefoot to the tomb.  
With hope we pray, with hope we listen. **Amen.**

### \*Affirmation of Faith

In the dark before dawn,  
**we believe that God is alive.**  
In the midst of our grief,  
**we believe the Spirit is at work.**  
In the chaos of our broken world,  
**we believe that love is on the loose.**  
For no stone could keep God at bay,  
**and no violence could keep God's love from us.**  
So today we sing,



***Alleluia!***

For somewhere in between our belief and doubt,

**hope lives.**

Christ has died,

**and Christ has also risen. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*The Prayers of the Church

Celebrate, Page 4

\* Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

Offering — We honor and worship God by returning some of the gifts with which we have been blessed.

“Earth, Earth Awake and Sing”

**Good News Singers**

\*Offertory Prayer

P: Giver of life,

**C: We bring to your table what we have, gifts from you,  
the one who makes all things new.**

**With these signs we bring ourselves,**

**that we may carry to the world**

**the love of your Son,**

**Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## \*A Prayer of Invocation

God meets us in the night—  
**before the sun rises,  
before the wound heals,  
before there are answers,  
before there is closure.**

God meets us in the light—  
**where joy is effervescent,  
where laughter is contagious,  
where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,  
where people gather around tables.**

God meets us in between—  
**at the edge of the water,  
at the beginning of the wilderness,  
at the start of something new,  
on the edge of faith.**

And if God meets us in all those places,  
**then surely God meets us everywhere—  
at the water's edge, at the start of something new,  
after the baptism, and before the call.**

We are not alone. God is all around.  
**We worship the God of everything.**

\*Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father, in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is 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.

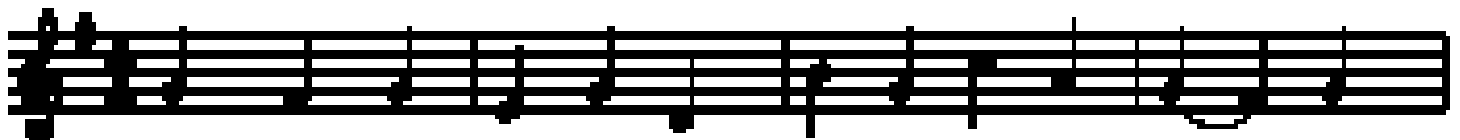
\*A Benediction

As you leave this place,  
may you find God in every messy middle.  
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.  
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,  
and therefore, you contain multitudes.  
So may you move through this world with an open heart,  
with a curious mind, and with the confidence  
that you do not go alone.  
God is with you in the mountains, in the valleys,  
and everywhere in between.  
Believe that good news, and go + in peace. **Amen.**

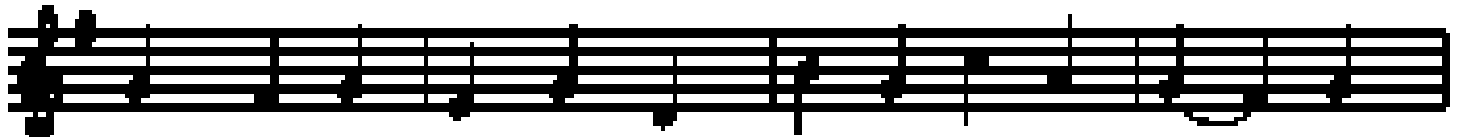
\*Closing Hymn “Come Christians Join to Sing”  
Choir & Brass & Congregation

COME, CHRISTIANS, JOIN TO SING

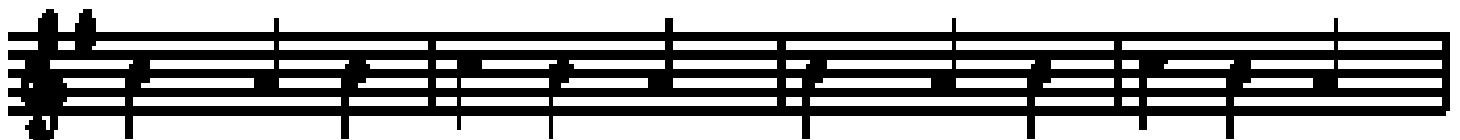
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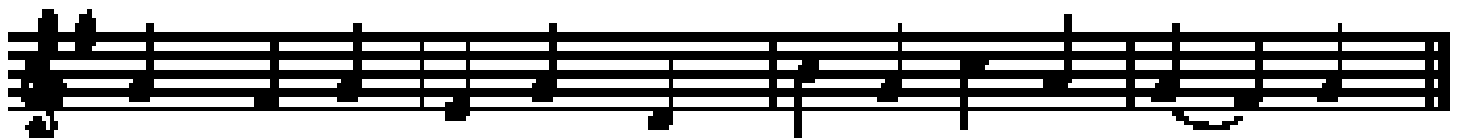
1. Come, Chris-tians, join to sing  
2. Come, lift your hearts on high;    Al - le - lu - ia!    A - men!  
3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain;



1. Loud praise to Christ our King;  
2. Let prais-es fill the sky;    Al - le - lu - ia!    A - men!  
3. Life shall not end the strain;



1. Let all, with heart and voice,    Be - fore his throne re-joice;  
2. He is our guide and friend;    Our cry he will at-tend;  
3. On heav-en's joy - ful shore    His good-ness we'll a - dore,



1. Praise is his gra-cious choice:  
2. His love shall nev - er end:    Al - le - lu - ia!    A - men!  
3. Sing - ing for - ev - er - more:

Text: 66 66 D; Christian Henry Bateman, 1843, alt. Music: Spanish Hymn, source unknown.

Vs. 4 He guides us to the end.  
Now on Heavens throne.  
He guides us to our home  
We live forever more.

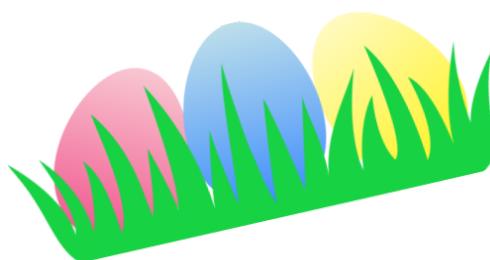
\*Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Go in Peace.  
Share the Good News.

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude “Chris is Risen! Alleluia!”

Meet outside for the **Children’s Egg Hunt!**



**Serving Today**

Reader: Christa Garcia

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

**All That Brass**

Nathan Lapp, trumpet

Raymond Cavlan, trumpet

Anthony Plaza, tenor trombone

Thomas Allen, tenor trombone



# Prayer Request



PRAYERS SHORT TERM: Cassidy, family of George Webber, Sam, Isabelle Hackman, Eric, Ellie, Paula & family, Julia, Jim Aller's family, Margaret, Bill Giles family, Dr. Bruce Dunn's family, Grey, Ruth Stiles, Susan Birkelo Family, James, Riley, Mary Saccullo, Chad Fields, Ana Cardenas, Rose, Levi, Lisa J., John B., Linda, Glosier family, Unemployed, Isaac & Marissa, Chris Powers, Gloria, Marta's parents, Gary & Louse Matz, Nick, James, Mary D., Tom, Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Robbin, Francisco, Michael, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Sierra, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, Alvarado family, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Sandi Csik, Sam, Adolfo, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Nancy, Jane, Barbara Allen, Gary & Marjie Toops, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager.

LONG TERM: Those suffering with Mental Illness, James Sheehan, Biergiel—Colclough family, Carla Brown, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Joel Hurtgamm, Dawit and family (Ethiopia), April McCalmont, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Will, Aaron Johnson, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, Mike, Susan Anderson, Jan Wagner, Richard C., Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, Cabel, Noah, Esdras, Immigrant families, The Homeless, People of Ukraine, People of Palestine/Israel, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, S.S. Senior Housing, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

Please notify when to remove

## New Ways of Giving

Our *Virtual Offering Plate* has been enhanced. We are now able to receive donations made by: credit card, debit card, PayPal and Venmo.

There are three choices:

- 1) **Vanco**, our regular electronic giving provider;
- 2) **PayPal/Venmo** for single one-time gifts;
- 3) **PayPal** with the possibility of recurring donations and an option to cover the fees.

All are available at <https://ststephenslutheran.org>  
(click the **Donate Now** button)  
or by scanning this QR code.

Questions: Call Kent Madsen  
or Janet Slay





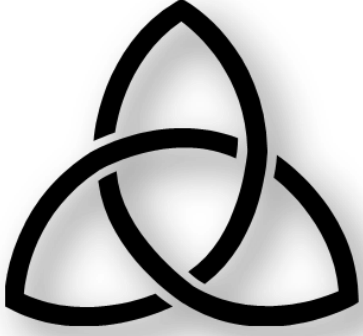
Many Thanks to ~

Janet, Connie, Jeanette & Tom, Margaret & Bill, Doug, Shelly, Christa & Sam, Don & Rosie

all the wonderful volunteers who donated their time and culinary skills to provide us with those fulfilling Soupers !







# Trinity Tuesday

(Pub Theology / Discussion)

**May 6 at 6:30pm**

(First Tuesday of the month)

**Place: Discretion Brewing 41st Ave.**

**1 HOUR**

**1 QUESTION**

**1 DRINK**

**(3-in-1)**

Have you been contemplating coming — - - your curiosity piqued by the, "one question, one drink, and one hour" description?

I decided to give it a shot, and I'm glad I did! I found the informal, non-judgmental gathering to be an intellectually stimulating, fun, social circle. I enjoyed the collaborative pondering of questions (some prepared and some spontaneous) addressed in an open forum, conversational style. The experience was akin to attending a philosophical salon except the topics were theological in nature, reference, and response.

**Essentially, Trinity Tuesday is a safe and welcoming space for collaborative pondering and casual conversation around important topics with theological perspectives.**

No materials necessary. Come as you are. Bring a question if you like. During my first meeting there were six of us in attendance, and only 2 came with prepared questions; however, spontaneous questions were addressed and a pleasurable time was had by all! I've added attendance to my monthly calendar . . . Will you?

- Tara McMilin



## **Zoom with Pastor Jim**

check email on Tues. for link

**Wednesday from 11a -12noon  
and  
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm**

*We will be looking at the upcoming scripture readings for Sunday, to enrich our worship experience and uncover some of the deeper truths of our faith.*

*As we grow in our faith,  
we grow in community.  
Amen!*

# Upcoming Events:

April Benevolence Offering - Habitat for Humanity

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| April 21   | Embroiderers 7:00 pm                             |
| April 22   | No Scouts  |
| April 22   | Newsletter Deadline NOON                         |
| April 23   | Preschool Chapel 10:15 am                        |
| April 23   | Bible Study Resumes Weds. 11:00 am & 7:30 pm     |
| April 24   | Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm Fireside rm |
| April 25   | A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall             |
| April 28   | CDC Board 11:15 am                               |
| April 29   | Newsletter Collating 2:00 pm                     |
| May 1 & 15 | Women's Café Group 6:00 pm Thursdays             |
| May 8      | MMRR Circle 11:00 am (Fireside)                  |
| May 12     | Church Council 6:30 pm                           |
| May 17     | AFC Fundraising Gala                             |
| May 23-26  | Mt. Cross Memorial Day Work Weekend              |

**Pastor's Office Hours Wed & Thurs. 10:00 to 1:00**

## Our Mission Statement

St. Stephen's is a welcoming, healing community who worship God in Christ, nurture people growing in faith, serve others with acceptance and love, invite people to share the joy of the Spirit.

### Reconciling in Christ

*"We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ."*

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Web Address: [www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://www.ststephenslutheran.org)  
Office Hours: Mon.—Fri. Noon—5:00 pm

Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's  
Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp  
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp  
Music Director: Gary Roberts  
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens  
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp  
Custodian: John Hopping  
Powerpoint: Jay Johnston, Kent Madsen & Barbara Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539

*prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*