



APRIL 19, 2026 | 9:00 AM | THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON
LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU'RE WELCOME HERE!

Technical Directors: Jody Meyer, Corey Dornbrack
Organist: Darlene Johnson
Music Director: Tiffany Bucheger
Faith Formation Director: Kari Weiland

EARTH DAY



On most Sundays, children will begin in worship and be dismissed to their Sunday School classes after the "Time for All Ages."

For those children staying in worship, please use the bookmarks available to mark the pages for today's hymns. Go through the bulletin with your children and circle the things in which they might be interested (Children's time, hymns, helping with the offering). Mark the bulletin with symbols for when it is time to be quiet and listen, join in the hymn, read a prayer aloud, etc.

POINTS TO PONDER PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Meister Eckhart, 14th century
"God is at home; it is we who have gone for a walk."

*** Invites those comfortably able to do so to stand.**

Quick and Easy Electronic Giving!!

To give an offering to the church, text **"SAINTSTEPHENS" to 73256** to give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply. **OR Scan the QR Code** to be connected to our website.



SOMETHING TO INSPIRE

PRELUDE

* GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God our Father and Mother, and the embracing fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Brothers and sisters.

If you lift your net and it is empty, Come here!

We'll cast it out again into Christ's abundance.

If you open your eyes but do not recognize the Holy One, Come here!

We'll find the Risen Christ in all Creation.

If your life is filled with mourning, Come here!

Christ is leading a dance of joy.

Come here, sisters and brothers!

To give blessing and honor and glory to God!

* CELEBRATION HYMN *"Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna"* #222

PASSING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

LESSON FROM THE EARLY CHURCH Acts 2:14a, 36-41

* HYMN OF THE DAY *"Creative God, You Spread the Earth"* #697

THE GOOD NEWS Luke 24:13-35

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before

God and all the people,²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning,²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.”²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them.³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the good news.

In this truth we find eternal life.

MESSAGE 4 Gospels and a Resurrection

SPECIAL MUSIC *“Hope Will Rise Again”* Video

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

LORD’S PRAYER

MISSION MOMENT NAMI Northwoods

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

“Come Sing a Song of Harvest” vs. 3 & 4 #719

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1976

Music: Melchior Vulpius, 1609

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PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Most loving God - as you have given yourself to us in Christ Jesus,
now let us give ourselves to you:

We give you our bodies that they may be vessels for your Spirit; we give you our souls that they maybe made pure by your grace; we give you our hearts that we may always love you and we give you our minds that they may always be full of your wisdom. Receive all that we offer and use it for your honor and glory. Amen

* SENDING HYMN *"When in Awe of God's Creation"* #688

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

God has done great things for us, and we rejoice.
Let us go forth from this place to do great things
in the name of Christ, whose call leads us to restoration and new life
Amen.

Go now, in the assurance that the God of Abundance created you, that Jesus Christ leads you in God's way, and that the Holy Spirit upholds and empowers you to remember.

Thanks be to God.

* RESPONSE *"Go to the World"* vs. 1 & 2

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993
Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958
Text © 1991 GIA Publications
Music © Oxford University Press



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

TAKING THE LESSONS HOME

When Sue had a daycare business at home, one of the little girls was a member of our congregation where we usually had Hawaiian bread for Communion. At lunch, the little 4-year-old took a bite of a Hawaiian roll and said, “Oh, Sue. This body of Christ is delicious.”

Communion is certainly a special meal. Every meal, however, has the potential to unlock memories of special meals past. Try donning a priestly mantle this week and at the beginning of a meal, lift up a roll, biscuit or piece of bread and break it. Say that breaking the bread reminds us that Jesus is present with us at every meal—and in all the ordinary moments of life. Ask your children if the meal that evening reminds them of any special meals in recent memory. Let them answer and share your own memories:

“Even though we didn’t grill it, this hamburger reminds me of the wonderful cookouts we had at Grandma and Grandpa’s house.”

“This roll reminds me of the special cinnamon rolls my grandmother would bake for Thanksgiving dinners.”

“This broccoli reminds me of my brother trying to hide the broccoli under his napkin when we were kids.”

Continue the conversation by asking if anything that happened that day reminded them that God was present with them. How did they feel? How did they respond?

And enjoy the meal!

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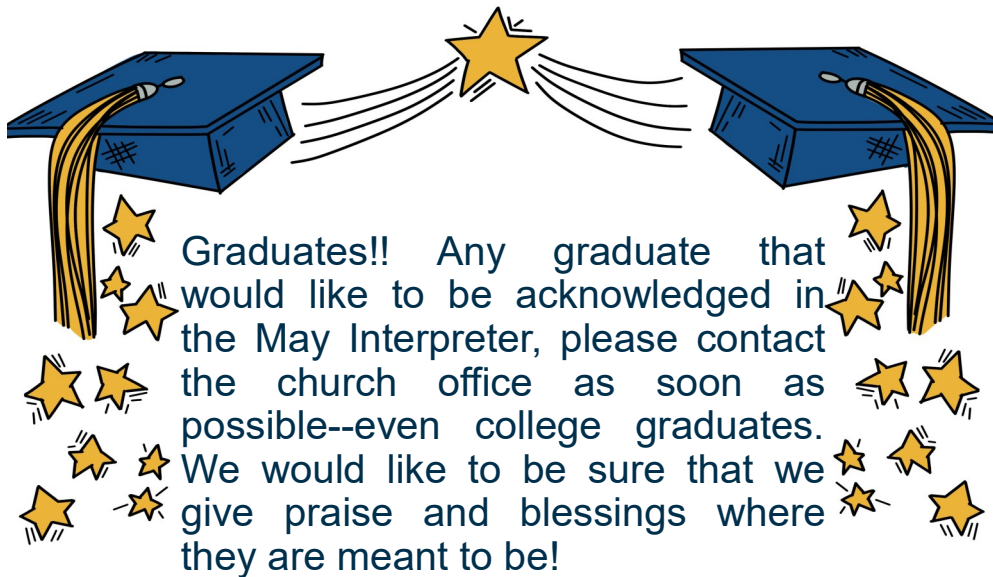


THANK YOU!

Musicians today are Darlene Johnson and Terry Krueger.

Rose on the altar in honor of the birth of our newest grandson, Finn Wilder Golisch, parents Luke & Jess, from Jodi & Kevin Golisch.

Livestream is sponsored in honor of the veterans who have served our country, from Corey & Cathy Dornbrack.



We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our Green Team members Gordon & Laura Bertagnoli and Mike & Glynis Schroeder for the lovely, fresh tomato plants!



Rev. Mike Southcombe	Senior Minister	mike@ststephensucc.net
Terra Holdridge	Administrative Director	terra@ststephensucc.net
Kari Weiland	Christian Education Director	kari@ststephensucc.net
Kimberly McCaskill	Administrative Assistant	kimberly@ststephensucc.net
Tiffany Bucheger	Music Director	tiffany@ststephensucc.net
Timothy Ruprecht	Facilities Manager	
Darlene Johnson	Organist	