

SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SANTA CLARITA, CA

EASTER SUNDAY

The Day of Resurrection

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026
9 AM & 11 AM

Grounded by Tradition + Striving for Justice + Growing in Faith

st-stephens.org

EASTER FLOWERS
Given to the glory of God and...

In Loving Memory of:

Julianna Witter and Judy Hoffman	by	Julie Witter
Mom and Dad Gregor and Mom and Dad Yackel	by	Bob & Ginny Gregor
Max & Delilah Grzybowski, The Rev. Canon		
Dr. Kenneth Higginbotham, Ethel "Pat"		
Higginbotham, Scott K. Higginbotham	by	Mary Jo & Ken Higginbotham
My beloved husband, Jeffrey Stephen Gibbons &		
my wonderful sister, Sharon Legg	by	Colleen Gibbons
Hilary Louise Shaw	by	Diane Shaw
Kim Bailey, brother of Rosa Holdredge	by	Rosa & Richard Holdredge
Our parents, Bob & Patricia Raub, Elizabeth &		
Jack Clampitt, and Monte & Anne Ramirez	by	Bob & Kelsey Raub
Russell Boyington, stepdad & grandfather to		
the Sena-Cario Family	by	Cheryl Sena
Susan Barlow and Bruce Lent-Koop	by	Helen & Jeff Barlow
My mother, Tracy McFarland, who touched so many		
lives with her kindness, love, and generosity	by	Joey Bultman
Carol Miniajluk, Gillian Lucker	by	Stevan Plote
Margaret Morrow	by	Robin & Dave Morrow
Jean Montella, Jeanne Long, Stan Long and		
our grandparents	by	Rev. Christopher & Erick
Thomas Reece Adkins	by	Richard Adkins
Doel Joaquin	by	Carol, Nick and Avery Vestuto
Melissa Lackman & James Lackman	by	Vernon Lackman
Julia W. Jay (Judy)	by	Julia & Jim George
Our parents, brothers, sisters & nephew who have		
gone before us!	by	Marv & Miriam Aardahl
Lella Dvorak	by	Mary Roberti
Our parents, Lee & Marvin Moore and		
Claire & Don Schlaman	by	Shari & Brett Schlaman

In Thanksgiving for:

The blessing of being at St. Stephen's	by	Joanie Stanzione
My grandchildren and the ability to visit them		
very soon	by	Mary Mercogliano
Tony Montella and our families	by	Rev. Christopher & Erick
We are grateful for the community of		
St. Stephen's	by	Amy, Joe, and River
For my daughter, Ash Lawson	by	Greg Dilger
Our daughter Claire, our family & friends and our		
blessed life here in Santa Clarita	by	Shari & Brett Schlaman

We thank Moon Valley Nurseries in Fillmore for providing palms for Palm Sunday.

Prelude

Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring

J. S. Bach

Brass Quintet: Michael Scanza, Trumpet, Hannah Mitchell, Trumpet, Cheyenne Halderman, French Horn, Levy Barlevy, Trombone, Lorenzo Mendoza, Trombone, Andrew Greenberg, Timpani

Introit

Easter Introit

John Ferguson

St. Stephen's Parish Choir

Please stand as you are able.

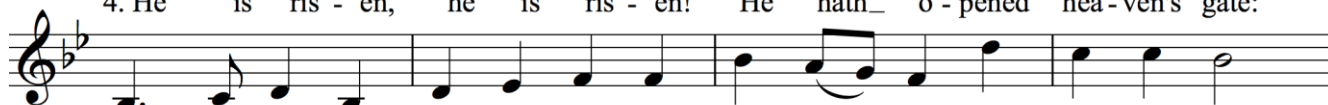
Entrance Hymn #180

"He is risen"

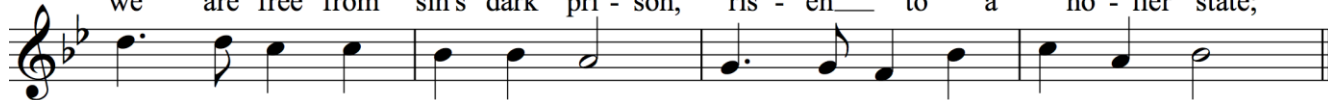
Unser Herrscher



1. He is ris - en, he is ris - en! Tell it out with joy - ful voice:
2. Come, ye sad and fear - ful - heart - ed, with glad smile and ra - diant brow!
3. Come, with high and ho - ly hymn - ing, hail our Lord's tri - um - phant day;
4. He is ris - en, he is ris - en! He hath o - pened hea - ven's gate:



he has burst his three days' pri - son; let the whole wide earth re - joice:
Death's long sha - dows have de - part - ed; Je - sus' woes are o - ver now,
not one dark - some cloud is dim - ming yon - der glo - rious morn - ing ray,
we are free from sin's dark pri - son, ris - en to a ho - lier state;



death is con - quered, we are free, Christ has won the vic - to - ry.
and the pas - sion that he bore; sin and pain can vex no more.
break - ing o'er the pur - ple east, sym - bol of our Eas - ter feast.
and a bright - er Eas - ter beam on our long - ing eyes shall stream.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Priest: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Glo-ry to God in the high- est, and peace to his peo-ple on
 earth. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa- ther, we
 wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je- sus
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa- ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the
 sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
 right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
 For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the
 Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je- sus Christ, with the Ho - ly -
 Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of
 God the Fa - ther. A - - men.

The Collect of the Day

Priest: God be with you.
 People: **And also with you.**
 Priest: Let us pray.

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of His resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LESSONS

The First Reading Jeremiah 31:1-6

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus says the Lord: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merry-makers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let Israel now proclaim, *
"His mercy endures for ever."
- 14 The Lord is my strength and my song, *
and he has become my salvation.
- 15 There is a sound of exultation and victory *
in the tents of the righteous:
- 16 "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! *
the right hand of the Lord is exalted!
the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"
- 17 I shall not die, but live, *
and declare the works of the Lord.
- 18 The Lord has punished me sorely, *
but he did not hand me over to death.
- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the Lord.
- 20 "This is the gate of the Lord; *
he who is righteous may enter."
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have become my salvation.

- 22 The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the Lord's doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24 On this day the Lord has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

The Second Reading Acts 10:34-43

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Gradual Hymn

A Repeating Alleluia

Hampton

Repeat until cue

Al - le - lu - ia

Al - le - lu - ia, - - - Al - le - lu - ia,

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

The Gospel Reading John 20:1-18

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Priest: The Gospel of the Savior.

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

Please be seated.

The Sermon

The Very Rev. Christopher Montella
Rector

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Please stand as you are able.

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in God's holy Catholic Church.

Priest: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People: **I do.**

Priest: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
People: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Priest: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: **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.**

Priest: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Priest: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Priest: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Priest: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Priest: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Priest:

May Almighty God, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by grace, in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

The people remain standing as they are able while the clergy move about the church sprinkling the congregation with holy water.

Prayers of the People

Jesus Christ is risen today, our triumphant holy day. Alleluia! So let us pray to our Savior, saying, "Risen Christ, to you we give undying praise."

Heavenly King, for us you endured the cross and the grave. When we were yet sinners, you redeemed and saved us. May we sing your eternal praises everywhere we go.

Silence

Intercessor: Risen Christ,

People: **To you we give undying praise.**

Incarnate Love, where hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain, call forth new life by your touch. Bring forth life in the barren places of your world.

Silence

Intercessor: Risen Christ,

People: To you we give undying praise.

Author of Life, you are the ruler of creation. All things created on earth sing to your glory. From the death of the winter, raise the fair beauty of earth.

Silence

Intercessor: Risen Christ,

People: To you we give undying praise.

Resurrected One, bring our neighbors from sadness into joy. Where they live in darkness, brighten their lives with a day of splendor and give to all that peace that passes human knowing.

The congregation may add their own thanksgivings.

Silence

Intercessor: Risen Christ,

People: To you we give undying praise.

Triumphant God, gladden the faces of all who are sad and fearful-hearted. May they rejoice in your victory over sin and pain — even as they share in your glorious triumph. We pray for all those on the prayer list, especially Shireen, Sara, Caroline, Linda, Carlos, Fred, Jim, and Rosemary.

The congregation may add their own petitions.

Silence

Intercessor: Risen Christ,

People: To you we give undying praise.

Risen Christ, you have opened heaven's gate. You have freed us from the power of sin and death. Through your resurrection, you give us the promise of resurrection to a holier state. Bless the dying and the dead, especially Ken Tuck.

Silence

Intercessor: Risen Christ,

People: To you we give undying praise.

Celebrant

God of life, we thank you for the mystery planted in us, the paradox of life from death and community from scattered disciples. We praise you for the dying which saves us from death and for the rising which brings us life. We pray, as we live, through Jesus the risen one, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Priest: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Members of the congregation who are joining us via livestream are encouraged to post "Peace be with you" in the comments or to use the "like" or "love" reaction button to take part in the virtual exchange of God's peace with the rest of the congregation at this time.

Please be seated.

Welcome and Announcements

We are pleased to celebrate the following birthdays: Jay Clark & Mary McCracken on April 5th, Andrew Aston on April 6th, Mary Mercogliano on April 8th, Luke Bridgeford on April 9th, Jared Simmons on April 10th and Michael Richards on April 11th.

Offertory Prayer

The People remain seated and say together:

Loving God, you alone are the source of every good gift. Everything we have, and all that we are, comes from you. Now, help us to be grateful, accountable, and, with praise and thanksgiving, to give of ourselves generously, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offertory

An Easter Cry of Praise
St. Stephen's Parish Choir

Joel Raney

Please stand as you are able.

Doxology

Old 100th

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures,
here be - low. Praise God, you hosts in heav'n a -
bove; Praise God the Trin - i - ty of Love. A - men.

G D Em Bm G D G D Em
C G D Em D G Am G/B C F#dim/A
Em D/F# G C#dim/ED C G/D D7 G G7 C G

Sursum Corda S 120

Celebrant: Ho - ly God be ___ with you. **ALL:** And ___ al - so with you. *Celebrant:* Lift ___ up your hearts. ___
ALL: We lift ___ them to ___ our God. ___ *Celebrant:* Let us give thanks ___ to our Ho - ly God.
ALL: It is right ___ to give God thanks ___ and praise. ___

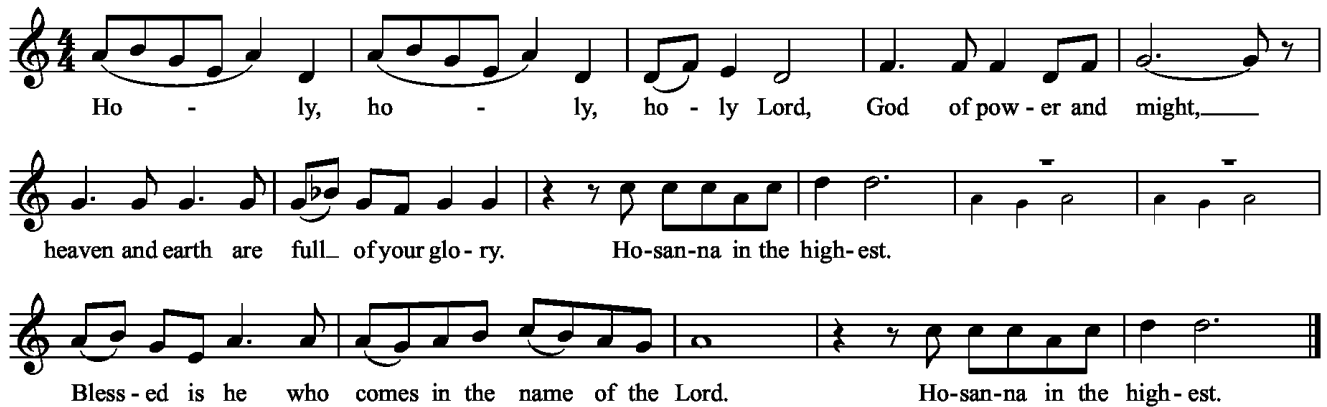
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Savior; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus #S128

Mathias



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, —
heaven 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.

Standing or kneeling as you are able.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Creator of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy

Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with Stephen and all your saints into the realm of your eternal joy.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

Great Amen from Mass of Creation

Marty Haugen

A - men, a - men, a - men!

A - men, a - men, a - men!

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Please remain standing during the Fraction Anthem.

Fraction Hymn #S 154

Hurd

Cantor will sing the refrain first, followed by the congregation.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to receive communion. The table we set belongs to God. Wherever you find yourself on your spiritual journey you are welcome to receive the Bread and Wine made holy.

The church teaches that temporal isolation cannot constrain the sacrament's ineffable power. Calling us to "massive, corporate, spiritual communion,"

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Priest and People say together:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Please be seated.

Please follow usher instructions for taking communion.

Communion

Please stand as you are able.

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

May God, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead, open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life. **Amen.**

May Jesus, who in bursting from the grave won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith. **Amen.**

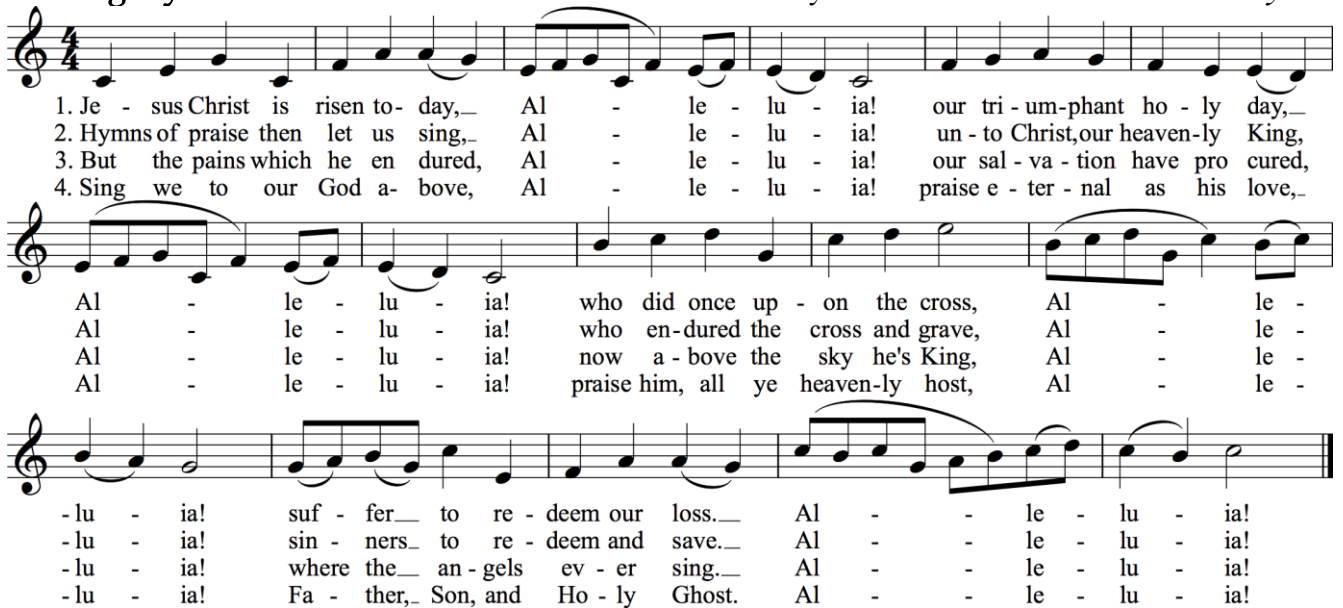
May the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Christ, empower you and fill you with his peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the one, holy and undivided Trinity be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn #207

“Jesus Christ is risen today”

Easter Hymn



1. Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia! our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, -
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia! un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King,
3. But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia! our sal - va - tion have pro - cured,
4. Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia! praise e - ter - nal as his love, -

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

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

Benediction

Hallelujah Chorus
St. Stephen's Parish Choir

Handel

Dismissal

Priest: Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

From The Hymnal, 1982: #207 "Jesus Christ is risen today", Words Latin, 14th cent., tr. Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt. St. 4, Charles Wesley (1707-1788); Music: *Easter Hymn*, from Lyra Davidica, 1708, adapt. *The Compleat Psalmist*, 1749, alt. #S 128 Title: The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord; *Sancus*, Music: William Mathias (b. 1934), Copyright © 1976, Oxford University Press, Inc.
#S 120 Title: The Holy Eucharist II, Lift up your hearts; *Suscum corda*, #180 "He is risen", Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt. Music: *Unser Herrscher*, Joachim Neander (1650-1680), #S 278 Glory to God, *Gloria in excelsis*, Canticle 20, Setting William Mathias (b. 1934), #s 154 Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover, Setting From *New Plainsong* David Hurd (b. 1950)
A Repeating Alleluia, Written by Calvin Hampton, arr. by Sheldon Curry, Copyright © 1983, 2011, Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp., a Division of Alfred Music Publishing Co., Inc. All Rights Reserved including Public Performance.
The Great Amen from Mass of Creation by Mary Haugen © 1984, G.L.A. Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission.
Doxology - Music: Old 100^s, melody from *Pseumes oclante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. After Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561).