



SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II  
SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Opening Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #205 - Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!* (verses 1-3)

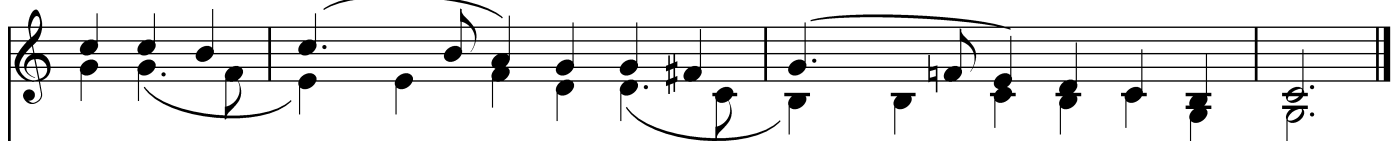


1 Good Chris - tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the  
\*2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Sing songs of  
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that



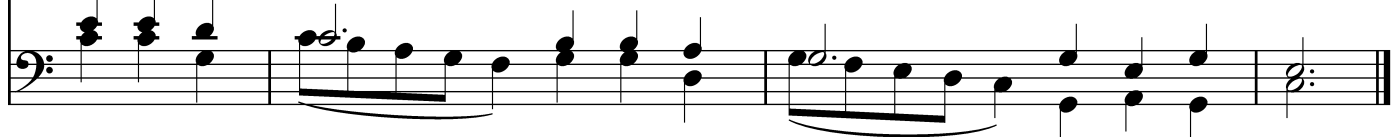
1 tri - umph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:  
2 praise a - long his way; let all the earth re - joice and say:  
3 life which can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Words: Cyril A. Alington (1872-1955), alt. St. 5, Norman Mealy (1923-1987). Copyright © 1958, renewal 1986, by Hope Publishing company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. St.5, Copyright © 1971 by Walton Music Corporation. Used by permission. Music: *Gelobt sei Gott*, Melchior Vulpius (1560?-1616).

*In place of the above, from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*The Celebrant may say*

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 Lord. **Amen.**

*When appointed, the following hymn or some other song of praise is sung or said, all standing*

***Glory to God in the highest,***

***and peace to God's people on earth.***

***Lord God, heavenly King,***

***almighty God and Father,***

***we worship you, we give you thanks,***

***we praise you for your glory.***

***Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,***

***Lord God, Lamb of God,***

***you take away the sin of the world:***

***have mercy on us;***

***you are seated at the right hand of the Father:***

***receive our prayer.***

***For you alone are the Holy One,***

***you alone are the Lord,***

***you alone are the Most High,***

***Jesus Christ,***

***with the Holy Spirit,***

***in the glory of God the Father. Amen.***

### **The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant*     The Lord be with you.

***People***     ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant*     Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear His voice we may know Him who calls us each by name, and follow where He leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.*** **[The people may be seated for the readings]**

### **A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (4:5 – 12),**

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the

name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.  
This Jesus is

the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals  
by which we must be saved."

*Reader*        *The Word of the Lord*

*People*        *Thanks be to God*

### **Psalm 23**

1 The Lord is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

### **A Reading from The First Letter of John (3:16 – 24),**

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our  
lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods  
and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

*Reader*            *The Word of the Lord*

*People*            *Thanks be to God*

**Sequence Hymn: *Lift Every Voice and Sing* #104 - The Lord Is My Shepherd**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ Lord is my Shep-herd, no want shall I know;  
 2. Through the val - ley and shad - ow my death though I stray;  
 3. In the midst of af - flic - tion my ta - ble is spread;  
 4. Let \_\_\_\_\_ good - ness and mer - cy, my boun - ti - ful God,

1. I feed in green pas - tures, safe - fold - ed I rest; \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Since thou art my guard - ian, no e - vil I fear; \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. With bless - ings un - meas - ured my cup run - neth o'er; \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. Still fol - low my steps till I meet Thee a - bove; \_\_\_\_\_

1. He lead - eth my soul where the still wa - ters flow, \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Thy rod shall de - fend me, thy staff be my stay; \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. With per - fume and oil thou a - noint - est my head; \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. I seek by the path which my an - ces - tors trod, \_\_\_\_\_

1. Re - stores me when wan-d'ring, re - deems when op - pressed;  
 2. No harm can be - fall, with my com - fort - er near;  
 3. O what shall I ask of thy prov - i - dence more?  
 4. Through the land of their so - journ, thy king - dom of love;

1. Re - stores me when wan-d'ring, re - deems when op - pressed.  
 2. No harm can be - fall, with my com - fort - er near.  
 3. O what shall I ask of thy prov - i - dence more?  
 4. Through the land of their so - journ, thy king - dom of love.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854). Music: Thomas Koschat (1845-1914).

**[Please stand for the proclamation of the Gospel]**

*Priest*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (10:11 - 18)  
*People*            ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So, there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

*Reader*            The Gospel of the Lord  
*People*            ***Praise to you, Lord Christ***

**Sermon**

## **The Nicene Creed [Please stand, as you are able]**

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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

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.

With the Father and the Son, He is worshiped and glorified.

He 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.

## **The Prayers of the People – Form VI [The people may be seated]**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

***For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.***

For this community, the nation, and the world;

***For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.***

For the just and proper use of your creation;

***For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.***

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

***For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.***

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

***For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.***

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Marty our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

***For all who serve God in God's Church.***

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

On the Anglican Cycle of Prayers, we pray for The Anglican Church of Australia.

On the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Calvary, Red Lodge and the Rev. Aimee Altizer, Rector and the Rev. Hank Tuell, Deacon. We also pray for Camp Marshall.

Within our parish family, we pray for Candace, Danielle, Doug, Jari, Jennie, Jerry, Justin, Laura, Libby, Linda, Michael, Nancy, and Richard. We also pray for our hosts and partners - the staff and community members of Saint John's United.

*A Collect for Regular Use during Sunday Worship by Congregations in Discernment*

Blessed God, you make all things new: Guide us as we seek your will for a new community of Word and Sacrament, that it may be leaven for the world's bread, and wine of delight for hearts

in need; a gathering strong for service and glad in praise; and a people listening and responding to your presence in their midst; through Jesus our Redeemer and steadfast companion. **Amen.**

Hear us, Lord;  
***For your mercy is great.***

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.  
*Silence*

*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
***And praise your Name for ever and ever.***

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.  
*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
***Who put their trust in you.***

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people [Please stand, as you are able]*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People***      ***And also with you.***

## **Offertory Sentences**

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due His Name; bring offerings and come into His courts.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Psalm 96:8, Ephesians 5:2*

**If you need or prefer a gluten-free communion wafer, please let the usher or reader know at this time.**



**Offertory Hymn: Wonder Love and Praise #831 - Ubi caritas** (repeat as many times as needed)

*Descant*

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,  
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke a - lo - ha

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,  
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke a - lo - ha

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.  
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke A - kua nō.

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i <sup>3</sup> - bi est.  
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke A - kua nō.

*Translation: Where true charity and love abide, God is there.*

Words: Latin, 8th c., tr. Malcolm Naea Chun (b. 1954). Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994).

**Anthem**

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise  
 him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
 heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)  
 Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

## HOLY COMMUNION - Eucharistic Prayer D [Please stand, as you are able]

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* ***We lift them to the Lord.***

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

*Celebrant and People*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, hea - ven 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.\_\_\_\_\_

*Then the Celebrant continues*

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again, you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, He lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor He proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose, He gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for Him who died and rose for us, He sent the Holy Spirit, His own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for Him to be glorified by you, His heavenly Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end; at supper with them He 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and His descent among the dead, proclaiming His resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting His coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*Celebrant and People*

***We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.***

*The Celebrant continues*

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*Officiant and People*

***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

*This setting is not used in Lent.*

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.

*Celebrant then says*

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 at the Lord's Table.***

*Communion in one kind (the bread or the wine) is just as valid as communion in both kinds.*

*If you would like to receive a blessing instead of receiving communion, simply come forward with your arms crossed.*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

**Post-Communion Prayer [People may stand or kneel]**

***Almighty and everliving God,***

***we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food***

***of the most precious Body and Blood***

***of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;***

***and for assuring us in these holy mysteries***

***that we are living members of the Body of your Son,***

***and heirs of your eternal kingdom.***

***And now, Father, send us out***

***to do the work you have given us to do,***

***to love and serve you***

***as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.***

***To Him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,***

***be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.***

**Blessing**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

**Announcements**

## Recessional Hymn: *My Heart Sings Out* #104 - You are my shepherd

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 6/8 time. It consists of three staves. The first staff is the *Refrain*: "You are my shep-herd, you are my friend. I want to fol-low you". The second staff contains the *To verses* section: "al - ways, — just to fol - low my friend." and a *Final ending* section. The third staff is the *D.C.* section with four verses:

- 1 I have all I need. You are my shep-herd, your hand is with me.
- 2 When path-ways are dark, you are there guid-ing me, keep-ing me safe.
- 3 You give me to eat. You make me wel-come, you fill me with joy.
- 4 Your good-ness I know. Your love will be with me all of my life.

Words and Music: Christopher Walker (b. 1947) © 1988 OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland OR 97213 [www.ocp.org]. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*Celebrant  
People*

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
*Thanks be to God.*

## Alleluia! The Lord is Risen!

We are now in the Easter Season. During this time of new life and new opportunities, we are called on to reflect on the mission of the Church. At the same time, we are also in a key time of transition as the people of St. Stephen's. As we continue to live into our new realities as a community of faith, we are called on to reflect on who we want to be as a worshipping community. The question we now face is, what do we want to do and be? We are called on **to be a mission-minded or missional people** as followers of Christ. So, the question for all of us is what sort of ministries do we want to be involved with?

Each year the Episcopal Church asks congregations about the Outreach Ministries and Volunteer Activities they are involved in. Here are some of those they list:

- Food pantry, soup kitchen, or meal projects
- Sustainable food garden/cooperative
- Day care, preschool, before- or after-school programs
- Tutoring or literacy programs
- Health programs (parish nurse, clinics, health education, etc.)
- Community organizing, organized social issue advocacy
- Job placement, job training, employment counseling
- Building projects (such as Habitat for Humanity)
- Support groups (bereavement, divorce, job loss, 12-step, etc.)
- Programs for the elderly and homebound persons
- Clothes closet, thrift store
- Homeless or no-freeze shelter
- Overseas sponsorships, microloans, Heifer Project, Haiti relief
- Refugee resettlement

On Easter Sunday, I began asking those in attendance to think about what they want us to be involved in.

**We continue to need your input.** Please feel free to share it with me or through one of the following means.

Lovingly yours in Christ,  
Father Stephen  
[stephend79@gmail.com](mailto:stephend79@gmail.com)  
Cell: (304) 633-6454

Or through these options...

Office email: [ststephensmt@gmail.com](mailto:ststephensmt@gmail.com)

Office Phone: (406) 259-5017

Lance Doerr, Senior Warden

[ldoerr53@gmail.com](mailto:ldoerr53@gmail.com)



*The Good Shepherd (Le bon pasteur) by James Tissot, 1886 - 1894*

---

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church is a part of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana

Office and Mailing Address:

**1645 Avenue D, Suite D**

**Billings, Montana 59102**

Office Phone: (406) 259-5017

Email: [ststephensmt@gmail.com](mailto:ststephensmt@gmail.com)

Visit us on the web at [ststephensbillings.org](http://ststephensbillings.org)

All hymns used under license using *ritesong* from Church Publishing, Inc. CCLI License #1370116



*Donate via PayPal*