



SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL AND  
 BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCHES  
 HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II  
 SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026  
 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



Processional Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #192 - This joyful Eastertide*

*Unison or harmony*

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and  
 2 Death's flood hath lost its chill, since Je - sus crossed the  
 3 My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a sea - son

sor - row! My Love, the Cru - ci - fied, hath  
 riv - er: Lord of all life, from ill my  
 slum - ber, till trump from east to west shall

*Refrain*

sprung to life this mor - row.  
 pass - ing life de - liv - er. Had Christ, that once was  
 wake the dead in num - ber.

slain, ne'er burst his three-day pri - son, our faith had been in

vain; but now is Christ a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a -

ris - en, a - ris - en.

Words: George R. Woodward (1848-1934), alt. By permission of A.R. Mowbray and Co Ltd. From *The Cowley Carol Book* by G.R. Woodward and C. Wood. Music: *Vruechten*, melody from *Psalmen*, 1685; harm. Charles Wood (1866-1926).

*Celebrant*  
*People*

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

*The PEOPLE then 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.*

*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.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **The Word of God**

**A Reading from the Book of Acts (2:14a, 22 – 32),**

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God

with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover my flesh will live in hope.  
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.  
You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

***People***            **Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm 16**

1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; \*  
I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord,  
my good above all other."

***2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, \*  
upon those who are noble among the people.***

3 But those who run after other gods \*  
shall have their troubles multiplied.

***4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, \*  
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.***

5 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; \*  
it is you who uphold my lot.

***6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; \*  
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.***

7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; \*  
my heart teaches me, night after night.

***8 I have set the Lord always before me; \*  
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.***

9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; \*  
my body also shall rest in hope.

***10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, \*  
nor let your holy one see the Pit.***

11 You will show me the path of life; \*  
in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

**A Reading from the First Letter of Peter (1:3 – 9),**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith-- being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire-- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.  
***People***           **Thanks be to God**

## Sequence Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #209 - We walk by faith, and not by sight*

1 We walk by faith, and not by sight; no  
 2 We may not touch his hands and side, nor  
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
 4 that, when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words we hear from him who spoke as  
 fol - low where he trod; but in his prom - ise  
 may our faith a - bound, to call on you when  
 realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you

none e'er spoke; but we be - lieve him near.  
 we re - jice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
 you are near, and seek where you are found:  
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Words: Henry Alford (1810-1871), alt. Music: *St. Botolph*, Gordon Slater (1896-1979). By permission of Oxford University Press.

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

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (20:19 - 31)

*People* ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

## Sermon

**The Nicene Creed** (from *Enriching Our Worship*) [**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,  
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,  
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.*

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

*Deacon or other leader*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

***Hear our prayer.***

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

***Hear our prayer.***

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

***Hear our prayer.***

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

Within our parish family, we pray for **Rob, DeVona & family, Leon & family, Lyle, Lisa & Lindsey, Pastor Kim & Terri, Eva, Josh, Sally, Bill & Lisa, Amanda & family, Danielle, Jamie & family, Jennifer, Karly, Katie, Laura, Lyndsee & family, Libby, and Lynn.** We also pray for the staff and community members of Saint John's United.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*Prayer In Times of Conflict*

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*For Prisons and Correctional Institutions*

Lord Jesus, for our sake you were condemned as a criminal: Visit our jails and prisons with your pity and judgment. Remember all prisoners, and bring the guilty to repentance and amendment of life according to your will, and give them hope for their future. When any are held unjustly, bring them release; forgive us, and teach us to improve our justice. Remember those who work in these institutions; keep them humane and compassionate; and save them from becoming brutal or callous. And since what we do for those in prison, O Lord, we do for you, constrain us to improve their lot. All this we ask for your mercy's sake. **Amen.**

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

*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.*

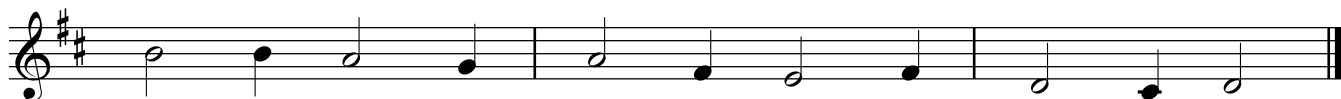
## Offertory Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #193 - That Easter day with joy was bright (verses 1-3)*



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright, the  
2 His ris - en flesh with ra - diance glowed; his  
3 O Je - sus, King of gen - tle - ness, do



1 sun shone out with fair - er light, when, to their long - ing  
2 wound - ed hands and feet he showed; those scars their sol - emn  
3 thou thy - self our hearts pos - sess that we may give thee



1 eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord.  
2 wit - ness gave that Christ was ris - en from the grave.  
3 all our days the will - ing tri - bute of our praise.

Words: Latin, 5th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Puer nobis*, melody from Trier MS., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621); harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern, Revised*, 1950; alt. acc. John F. Erickson (b. 1938).

## HOLY COMMUNION - Eucharistic Prayer C [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.***

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

***Glory to you for ever and ever.***

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

***By your will they were created and have their being.***

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

***Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.***

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages, you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time, you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

***By His blood, He reconciled us.***

***By His wounds, we are healed.***

And therefore, we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

*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* **[People may stand or kneel]**

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by Him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night He was betrayed He took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now His work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
***We celebrate His death and resurrection,  
as we await the day of His coming.***

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in His name.

***Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.***

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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.*

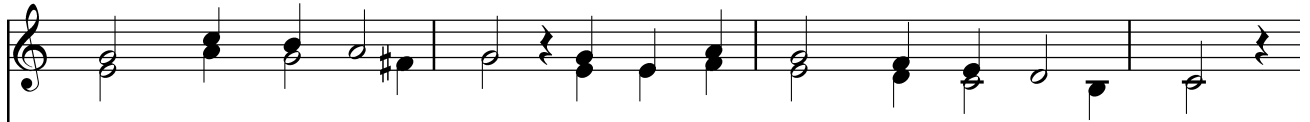
**Blessing**

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.*

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

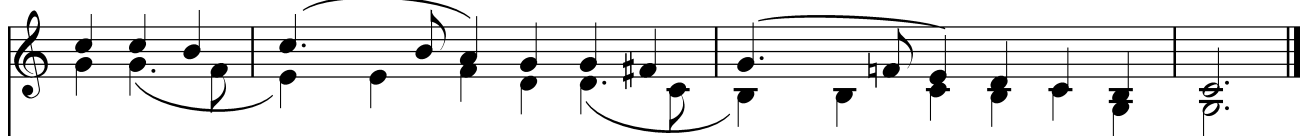


1 Good Chris - tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the  
 \*2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Sing songs of  
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that



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!



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

## A LOGO IDEA... PRODUCED BY CLAUDE AI



### *According to Claude...*

Now let me create a polished YouTube channel logo for a merged Episcopal-Lutheran congregation. I'll design a square SVG logo that elegantly merges the visual identities of both traditions — the Episcopal cross/shield motif and the Lutheran rose/cross — into a unified heraldic emblem.

Here's your merged Episcopal–Lutheran congregation logo. The design layers both traditions' heraldic vocabularies into a unified emblem:

- **Episcopal elements** — the pointed herald's shield form with a red Latin cross on an ivory field, the deep navy ground, and the overall armorial composition.
- **Lutheran elements** — the Luther Rose placed at the center of the cross intersection: the gold outer ring, blue sky ring, white rose petals, red heart, and small black cross — all per Luther's own 1530 description of his seal.
- **Unifying elements** — a deep navy-to-burgundy background, gold filigree and outer ring, a small cross finial crowning the shield.



*“Christ shows himself to Thomas” by Rowan LeCompte and Irene LeCompte*

*Located in the Resurrection Chapel of the Washington National Cathedral*

*also known as the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul in the City and Episcopal Diocese of Washington*



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