



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 4, 2025 - 10am

Reaching
out in the Spirit

STEPHEN'S WITNESS

The manifestation of God's word continually evolves as God's people evolve.

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Rejoice in God's Saints

Hymn 418

- 1 Rejoice in God's saints today and all days! A world without saints forgets how to praise. Their faith in acquiring the habit of prayer, their depth of adoring, Lord, help us to share.
- 2 Some march with events to turn them God's way; some need to withdraw, the better to pray;
some carry the gospel through fire and through flood: our world is their parish, their purpose is God.
- 3 Rejoice in those saints, unpraised and unknown, who bear someone's cross, or shoulder their own:
they share our complaining, our comforts, our cares: what patience in caring, what courage is theirs!
- 4 Rejoice in God's saints today and all days! A world without saints forgets how to praise. In loving, in living, they prove it is true: their way of self-giving, Lord, leads us to you.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

*Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength
And honor and blessing and glory are his.*

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia!

*Sing with all the people of God,
And join in the hymn of all creation.
Blessing and honor and glory and might
Be to God and the Lamb, forever. Amen.*

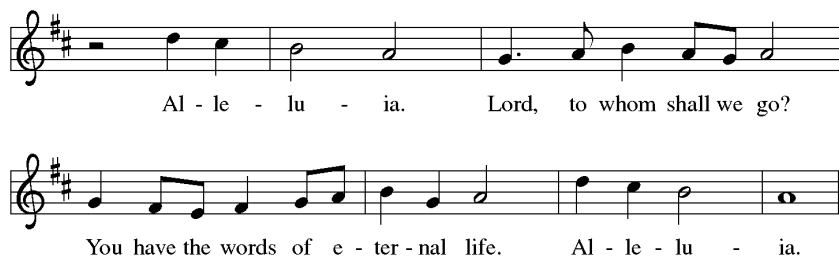
*This is the feast of victory for our God,
For the lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia! Alleluia!!*

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray, **So often when we hear testimony, even from those we know and trust, we doubt the truth of your presence in our lives. Forgive us for our stubborn shortsightedness, and open our hearts to recognize the truth of your love for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Welcome and Greeting

Gospel Acclamation *stand*



Gospel Lesson

Luke 23:33-47

The gospel according to St. Luke, the 23rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Lesson

Acts 6:1—7:2a, 44-60

¹Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. ²And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, ⁴while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." ⁵What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. ¹⁰But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. ¹¹Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." ¹²They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. ¹³They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying

things against this holy place and the law; ¹⁴for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us." ¹⁵And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

¹Then the high priest asked him, "Are these things so?" ²And Stephen replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me. The God of glory appeared to our ancestor Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, ⁴⁴Our ancestors had the tent of testimony in the wilderness, as God directed when he spoke to Moses, ordering him to make it according to the pattern he had seen. ⁴⁵Our ancestors in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our ancestors. And it was there until the time of David, ⁴⁶who found favor with God and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the house of Jacob. ⁴⁷But it was Solomon who built a house for him. ⁴⁸Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with human hands as the prophet says,

⁴⁹Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool.

What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest?

⁵⁰Did not my hand make all these things?"

⁵¹You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. ⁵²Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. ⁵³You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it."

⁵⁴When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. ⁵⁵But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶Look, he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn

Praise, Praise! You Are My Rock

Hymn 862

- 1 Praise, praise! You are my rock. The wind, the waves are high.
You hold me when the waves are strong. You hold me lest I die, I die.
Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.
- 2 Praise, praise! You are my rock. My desert sand is dry.
You break the rock, a river flows. You hear me when I cry, I cry.
Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.
- 3 Praise, praise! You are my rock. You calm the fear and pain.
One word of faith and I am well, I rise to praise and walk again.
Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.
- 4 Praise, praise! You are my rock. You host the table set.
We break the bread, we drink the cup; we know whom we have met, have met.
Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.
- 5 Praise, praise! You are my rock. The Easter grave is sealed;
you roll the stone--you, God alone-- then sin and death are healed, are healed.
Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.
- 6 Praise, praise! You are my rock. You stood high on a hill.
A holy cloud: you are on high. Be still, my heart, be still, be still.
Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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. Amen.

Ministry Announcements

Prayers of Intercession Response: hear our prayer.

LITURGY OF THE MEAL

Offering

www.engagedbygrace.org/offering



Offertory

In Christ Alone

- arr. Mark Hayes

*In Christ alone, my hope is found He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All Here in the love of Christ I stand*

*In Christ alone, who took on flesh Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid Here in the death of Christ I live, I live*

*There in the ground His body lay Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine Bought with the precious blood of Christ*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home Here in the power of Christ I'll stand*

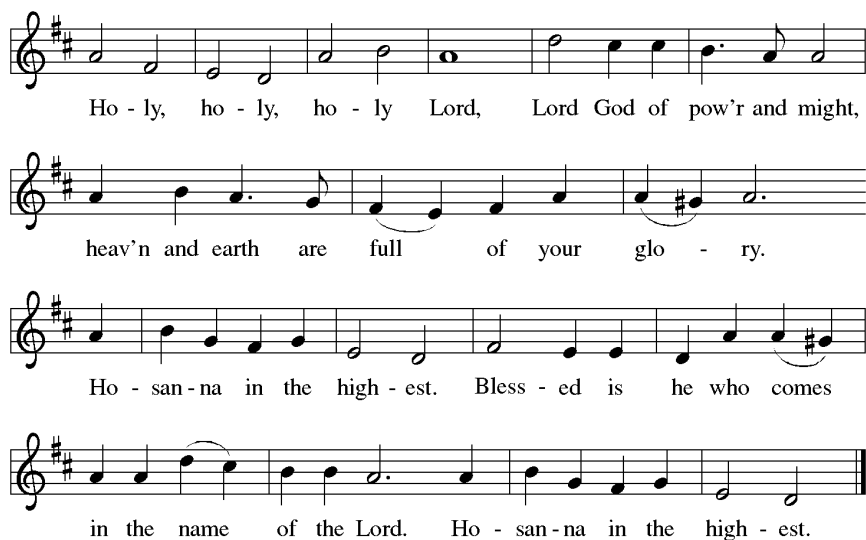
Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord... be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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

Communion

*All baptized believers of Christ as their Savior are invited to the table. Please approach the table as you are ready.
 Children are invited to receive a blessing. You may request gluten-free bread or grape juice by raising a finger to the communion server.*

Blessing

Closing Hymn

Sing with All the Saints in Glory

Hymn 426

- 1 Sing with all the saints in glory, sing the resurrection song!
 Death and sorrow, earth's dark story, to the former days belong.
 All around the clouds are breaking, soon the storms of time shall cease;
 in God's likeness we awaken, knowing everlasting peace.
- 2 Oh, what glory, far exceeding all that eye has yet perceived!
 Holiest hearts for ages pleading never that full joy conceived.
 God has promised, Christ prepares it, there on high our welcome waits.
 Ev'ry humble spirit shares it, Christ has passed the eternal gates.
- 3 Life eternal! heav'n rejoices: Jesus lives who once was dead.
 Shout with joy, O deathless voices! Child of God, lift up your head!
 Life eternal! Oh, what wonders crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
 when, amid earth's closing thunders, saints shall stand before the throne!

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing & Dismissal

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Love everyone always. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Chancel flowers today are given by Beth and Doug Myser in memory of Richard Myser, father of Doug Myser.

Liturgical Ministers

Preacher & Presiding Minister: Pastor Steve Wachtman **Director of Equipping Ministers:** Laura Hudson
Minister of Music: Joshua Brodbeck **Director of Faith Formation:** Noelle Fox

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24318. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.