

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

-Acts 6:8 KJV



Third Sunday of Easter Worship Gathering

May 4, 2025

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Ministers, People of LCR

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Vicar John Evans

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A Welcoming Community Making Christ Known Through Worship and Service

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

- ◆ **Breathe**
- ◆ **Ponder:** Whom did you bring with you on your heart today? For what or whom are you feeling thankful? What is making you anxious today? What do you need to confess today?
- ◆ **Be still,** empty your hands, empty your mind, let sounds pass you, wait upon God.

Gathering

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Congregational responses are indented and in bold.

PRELUDE

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of **☩** the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own,
that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name.

Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love
and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path,
rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters
that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

Amen.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the seep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the seep - ter,

his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith the
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the

vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful -
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil - you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful

Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus

out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy Giver and Receiver of life, Your martyr, Stephen, shined with the light of your Holy Spirit.
 When his opponents took his life, he offered up his spirit to you, and prayed mercy for theirs. Make
 Stephen an example of faith and courage for all your followers, for the sake of the one who brought
 light and life to this world, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Word

READING: Acts 6:1-15

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.

The 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah



GOSPEL: Luke 23:33-34

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Vicar John Evans

Lord, You Give the Great Commission



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis-sion: "Heal the sick and
2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
4 Lord, you show us love's true mea-sure: "Fa - ther, what they
5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you

preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,

and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
all that you so free - ly give. May your care and
may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the

to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:
mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

Refrain

With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

APOSTLES CREED

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

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 into hell. 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. 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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: Hear our prayer

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Meal

OFFERING *The giving of our time, talents, and money to the work of Christ's Church is an act of worship. As God has blessed us, let us return thanks to Him.*

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill were gathered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be gathered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with - in our midst, when

2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

may we share the pres - ence of your with love.

Refrain

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider:

Congregation:

Presider:

Congregation:

Presider:

Congregation:

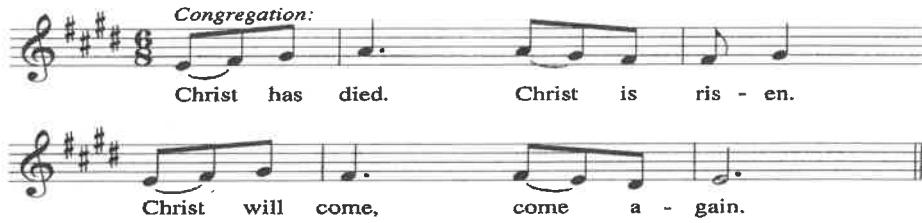
It is our duty and delight . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign... we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Presider: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come, come again.

Congregation:



Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come, come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. ...we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Presider: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Congregation:



A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.
A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, ... with all your saints in light.

Presider: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Congregation:



A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.
A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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, forever and forever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive the Body and Blood of Christ as he comes to us in the Holy Eucharist.

Communion is by common cup or individual glass. Grape juice is also provided for those who prefer it.

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God, you take a way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us, mier-cy on us, world: have mer-cy on us, mier-cy on us, fear: peace: love.

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:

Lamb of God, you take a way the sins of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace.