

Sunday, April 20, 2025 Easter Sunday

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the

liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

WELCOME! We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

Worshiping. Today's service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

Communion: Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

270 South Broadway + Hicksville NY 11801

Church Office: 516/931-0710 Hours Mon-Fri, 10 am - 2 pm

Mason Griffin, Minister of Music

Barbara Barcavage, Church Council President (*email* ststephenstreasurer1@gmail.com)

Kate Lenzo, Parish Administrator (email ststephenoffice@msn.com)

Church Website www.ststephenshicksville.com

Join us on Facebook: St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Hicksville, NY

+ GATHERING +

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **C** Amen.

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

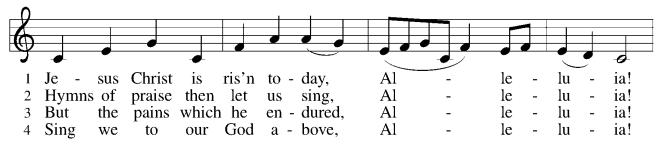
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

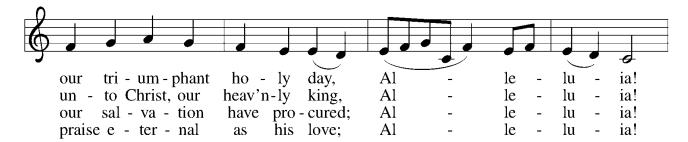
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

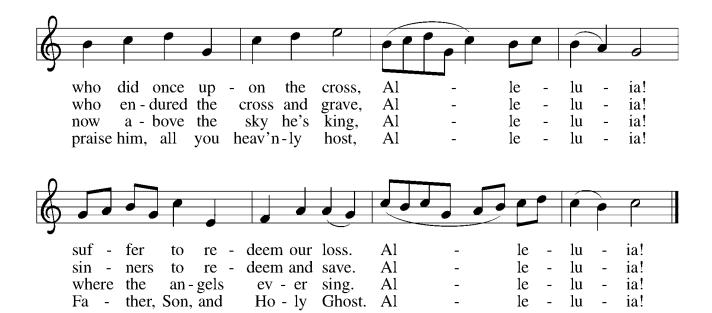
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C** Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (ELW 365)



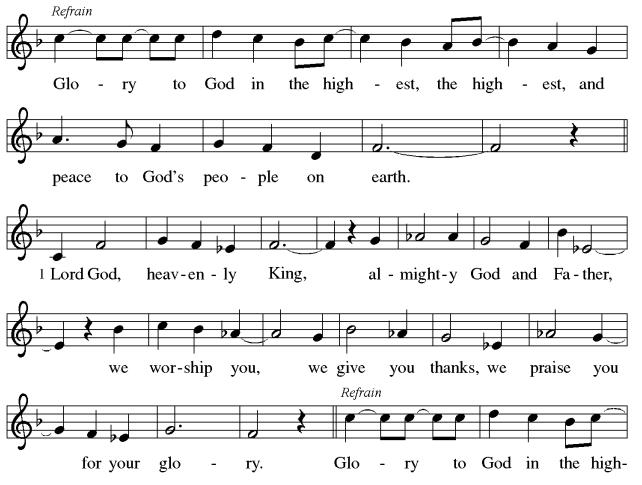




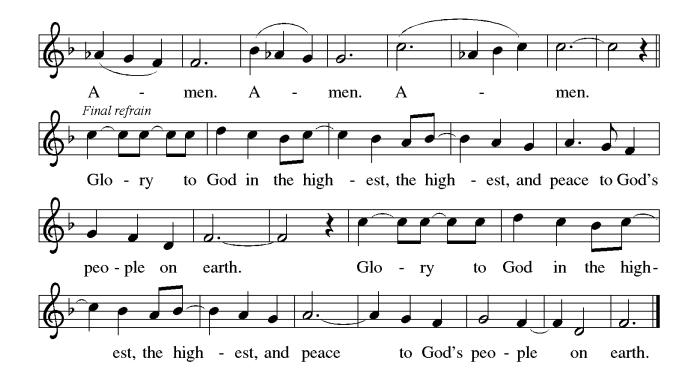
GREETING

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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE







PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

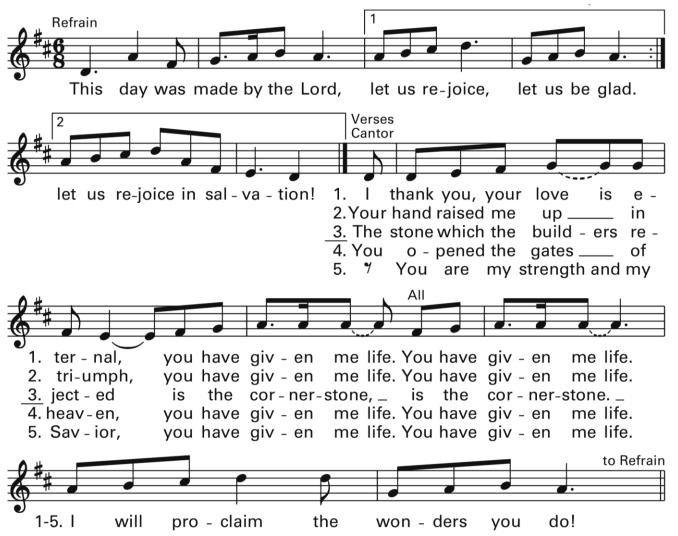
+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

A reading from Acts.

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how 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. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not 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. ⁴²He 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. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." ...The word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 - *This Day Was Made by the Lord* ~ Christopher Walker



SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

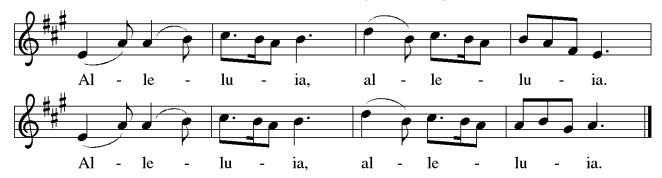
A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹ For since death came through a human, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human, ²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³ But each in its own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Celtic Alleluia (ELW 174)



GOSPEL: Luke 24:1-12

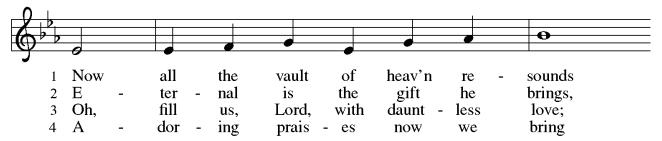
P The holy gospel according to Luke. C Glory to you, O Lord

¹ On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again." ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened. The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds (ELW 367)





PROFESSION OF FAITH

- P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.
- P Do you renounce the devil and all the powers that defy God?
- C I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
- C I renounce them.
- P Do you believe in God the Father?
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C 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.
- P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- C I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- A God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.
- A Kindle new life in your church. Encourage all who seek creative ways to share the good news of Christ's resurrection. Bless mission developers and new ministries, that their work plant seeds that flourish. God of grace, C hear our prayer.
- A Nourish new life in all of creation. Shower forests and grasslands, deserts, and mountains with life-giving rains. Grant us delight in your glory that shows forth in all that grows this season. God of grace, C hear our prayer.
- A Empower new life among the nations. As you raised Jesus from the dead, bring new hope for peace and reconciliation in places of war and strife (*places or situations may be named*). Raise up leaders who are steadfast in their commitment to justice and transformation. God of grace, C hear our prayer.
- A Bring new hope among all who are in need, especially neighbors without homes or food, and those whose housing or food supply is at risk. Bring healing to all who are fearful, ill, or grieving (*especially*). God of grace, **C** hear our prayer.
- A Awaken new life in this place. Open our hearts to ways you are calling us to be at work in the world and our community (*communities and neighborhoods may be named*). Give us courage to boldly share your love for all people beyond our walls. God of grace, **C** hear our prayer.
- A Trusting in the promises of the resurrection, we remember with thanksgiving our beloved dead. Sustain us with a living hope until we are reunited with them and all the saints at the heavenly banquet. God of grace, **C** hear our prayer.
- A We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. C hear our prayer.

PEACE

- P The peace of Christ be with you always. C And also with you.
- P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

+ MEAL +

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG: Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

- P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts. C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

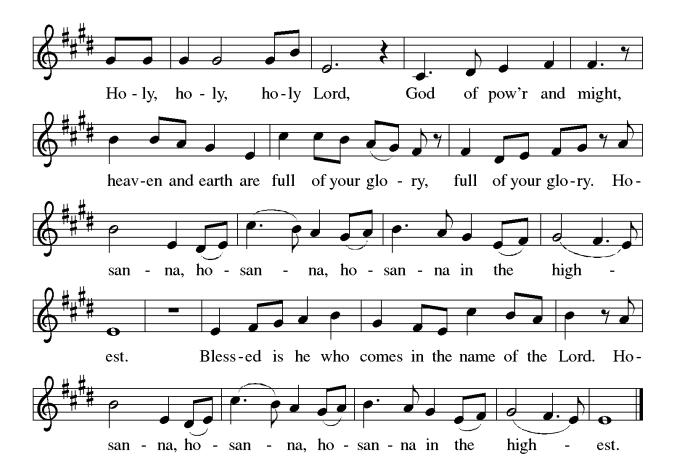
P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures,

and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens ad the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

- C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.
- C Come, Holy Spirit.
- P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. C Come, Holy Spirit.
- P With St. Stephen and your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **C Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

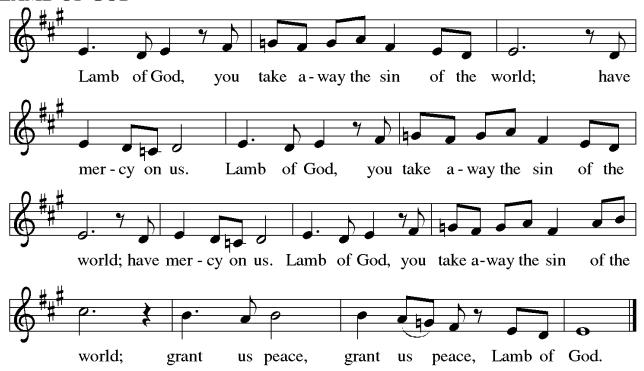
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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 ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. C Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD



SONG DURING COMMUNION:

Christ Arose! (ELW 294)





PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. C Amen.

+ SENDING +

P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.

BLESSING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen! C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always. C Amen.

SENDING SONG: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (ELW 836)



- 1 Joy ful, joy ful we a dore thee, God of glo ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv ing and for giv ing, ev er bless-ing, ev er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, praising thee, their sun a - bove. stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise. well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way. Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea, Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the of day. light chant-ing bird, and flow-ing foun-tain call us to re joice in thee. teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di-vine!

DISMISSAL

A Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Upcoming Commemorations

Olavus Petri, priest, died 1552; Laurentius Petri, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1573; renewers of the church

Saturday, April 19, 2025

These two brothers studied with Luther at the University of Wittenberg and then returned to their native Sweden to introduce the Lutheran reforms. Olavus published a catechism and hymnal; Laurentius was a professor who defended the office of bishop and later became one.

Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109 Monday, April 21, 2025

This eleventh-century monk was one of the greatest theologians of the Middle Ages. He is remembered for emphasizing the maternal aspects of God, and for the theory that the Son of God became human in order to make the necessary payment for our sin.

Day of the Creation (Día de la Creación) (LLC) Tuesday, April 22, 2025

This observance invites us to notice and give God thanks for the wonders of the created universe. As stewards of that creation, we are also challenged to be careful in our use of it.

Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960 Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.

Mark, Evangelist Friday, April 25, 2025

He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written.

Announcements for the week of *April 20, 2025*

Sanctuary Lamp Candle for April is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Rosalie Langbehn on her birthday given by Lauren & William Artus.

Please join us in welcoming Pastor Moira Ahearne! Pastor Moira will be our stated supply Pastor, leading us in worship each Sunday beginning today.

WE OFFER OUR ALLELUIAS for everyone who helped prepare and participate in our Holy Week and Easter celebrations at St. Stephen's:

- ♦ To our staff for the extra time and care put into this season: for planning many worship services, creating extra bulletins, coordinating volunteers, cleaning and sprucing up.
- ◆ To our musicians & choir for providing us with beautiful music.
- ◆ To our Altar Guild and the many volunteers who transformed our worship space many times over the Great Three Days, enhancing our experience of Jesus' final days and beautifying our space to reflect our Easter joy.
- ◆ To our property committee and gardeners for the beautiful grounds, repairs, and continual maintenance.
- ◆ To the many who served in worship: assisting ministers, lectors, acolytes, ushers, greeters and special readers.

~Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet for April - June is available in the Narthex. Please consider hosting a coffee hour by suppling refreshments and/or serving.

 \sim A chart on the lobby bulletin board allows us to designate weekly <u>Sunday service</u> altar flowers or the monthly sanctuary lamp candle as special memorial/in honor of gifts. Use the envelopes provided to forward the gift (\$25.00 for flowers; \$15.00 for candle). Be sure to include information concerning who is being honored/memorialized by your gift as well as your name, address and telephone number. You may also contact the church office at 516/931-0710.

~ Boy Scout Troop 291 will be holding their **Family Pasta Night** on April 27th at 4:00. Ticket / reservation forms can be found on the table in the narthex.

~ The WELCA conference Bible study next Wednesday, April 16th, at 10 am. The location will be at St. David's, Massapequa Park. The last session on faithfulness will be looking at two people, Jairus and the nameless faithful woman. If you subscribe to Gather magazine, you will find it in the Mar/Apr/May issue.

As you plan ahead, please make a note to join WELCA at Cedar Creek Park in Seaford on Wednesday, May 21, at 10 o'clock, for the next Bible study. The bad weather backup site will be St. David's. Watch for more details as the date nears. The theme will be "Receiving the Spirit's flame", and that study is also in the Mar/Apr/May issue of Gather magazine.

PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK (April 20th - April 27th)

<u>DAY</u> <u>EVENT</u> <u>TIME</u>

Sunday, April 20 th	Easter Sunday	Holy Communion 9:00 am
	H.S.S Yoga	10:00 am
	Satsang with a Smile	2:30 pm
Tuesday, April 22 nd	Back to Basics	7:00 pm
Wednesday, April 23 rd	N.A.	7:00 pm
Thursday April 24 th	Church Council Meeting	7:00 pm
Sunday, April 27 th	Second Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion 9:00 am
	Boy Scouts Pasta Dinner	2:00 - 9:00 pm

SERVING AT WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, 9:00 AM

ASSISTING MINISTER: Beth Feeney LECTOR: Bill Artus

ACOLYTE: Gavin Barone, Kiko Reyes

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Mason Griffin USHERS: Tyler LaVorgna

GREETER: Ilse Zeeck

AUDIO/VISUAL: Tyler LaVorgna ALTAR GUILD: Beth Feeney



PARISH PRAYER LIST

If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member's name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. <u>Please remember to keep the office updated.</u>

PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION

Vinny Aiello

Bill Artus

Lauren Artus

Dottie Eberhardt

Jane Ebersberger

Barbara & Roger Engert

Richard Engert

Pastor Ron Klose

Claire and John Parrett

Ilona Riggers

Lenny Schiliro

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES

Vinny Aiello (husband of Laureen Aiello)

Fred Barrell (brother-in-law of Paul and Susan Portz)

Joe DiSalvo (cousin of Maureen O'Brien)

James Ebersberger (brother of Jane Ebersberger)

Jim Fritz (cousin of Lauren Artus and John Langbehn)

Lucky Hagner (beloved new dog of Joan Hagner)

Vicki Maurer (daughter-in-law of Nan and Bob Maurer)

John Peck (nephew of Christel LaVorgna)

Tom Portz (brother of Paul Portz)

Jean Riolo (mother of Christine Carlson)

William Stanton (cousin of Kellie Barone)

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS

Rich Carlstrom (friend of the Staton family)

Maryellen Collins (friend of the Staton family)

Cheryl Glasini (friend of the Ahlers-Pendas family)

John Judge (friend of Jane Ebersberger)

Jim Lasurdo (friend of the Maurer family)

Ellen Motoi (friend of Maureen O'Brien)

Betty, John & Mary Beth Ott (friends of Jane Ebersberger)

Martina Schmid (former member of the congregation)

John Sheridan (friend of Bob and Nan Maurer)