

Sunday, April 27, 2025 Second Sunday of Easter

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe,

the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

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.

Coffee Hour. We hope that you will join us for coffee and conversation in the lobby following the worship service.

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 270 South Broadway + Hicksville NY 11801 Church Office: Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office: 516/931-0710 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.**

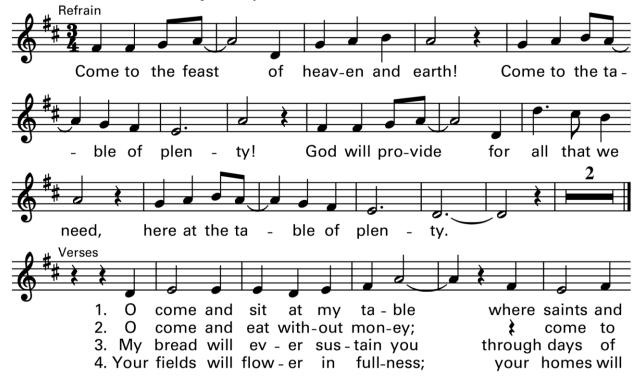
P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

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: Table of Plenty ~ Dan Schutte



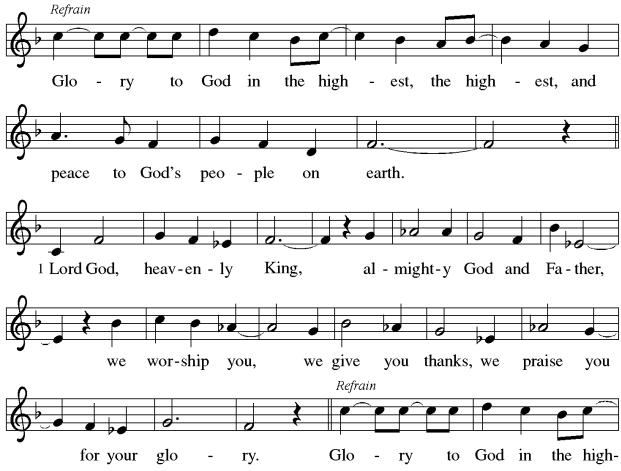


4. har-vest, will send my rain on the soil.

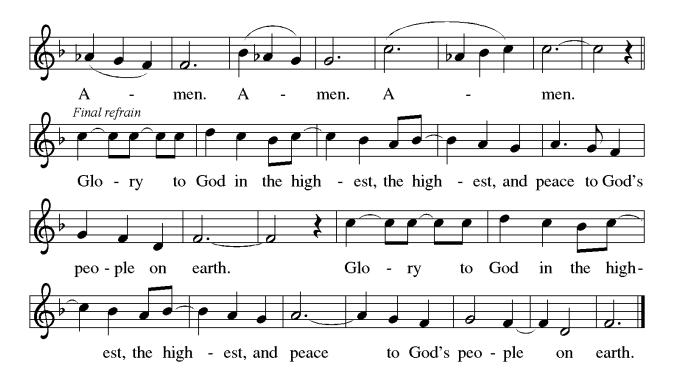
GREETING

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE







PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

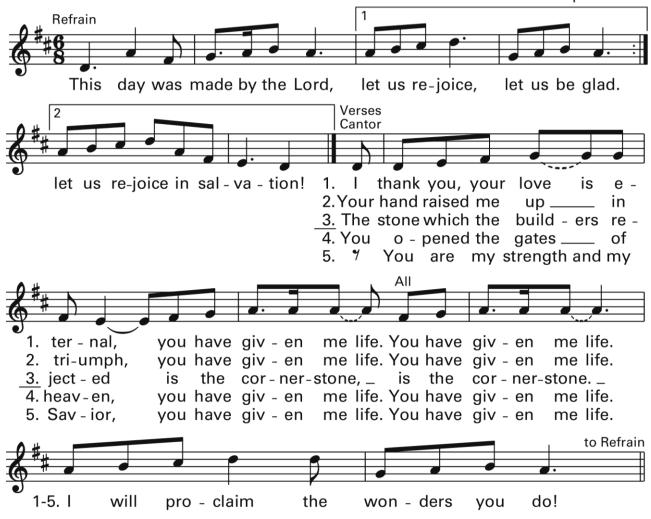
+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32

A reading from Acts.

²⁷ When they had brought [the apostles], they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."...The word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

PSALM: This Day Was Made by the Lord ~ Christopher Walker



SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

A reading from Revelation.

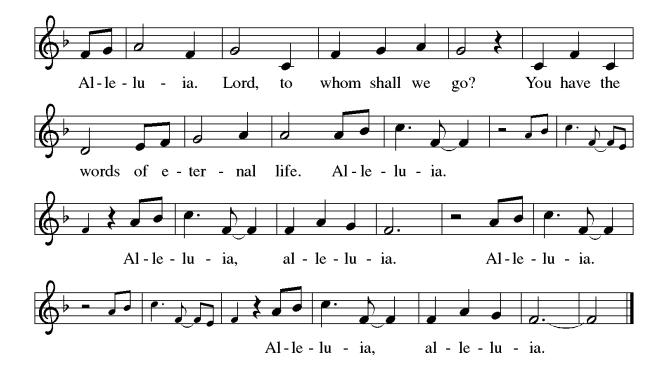
⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him,

and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.....The word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

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

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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."

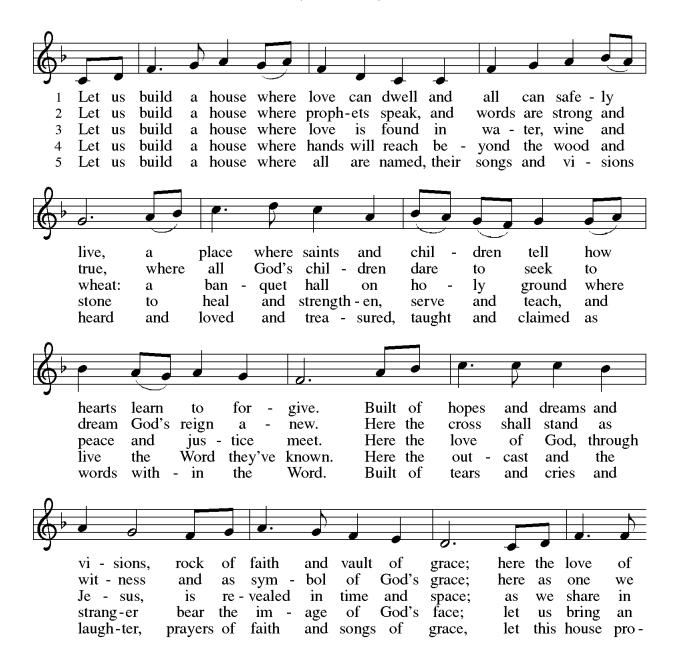
²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ 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."

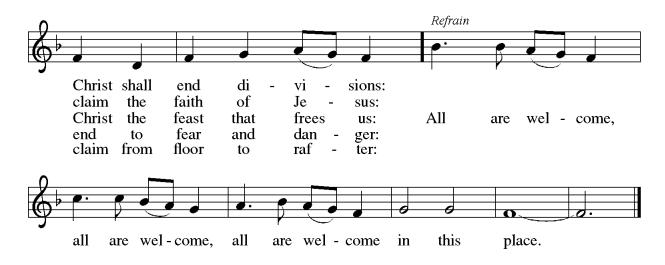
³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY All Are Welcome (ELW 641)





NICENE CREED (ELW p. 189)

A With the whole Church, we confess our faith.

C 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 and the Son, 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.

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 brief silence.

A Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people. Hear us, O God. C Your mercy is great.

A Preserve the earth as a safe home for all creatures. Restore habitats contaminated by pollution or overuse, strengthen efforts to shape more sustainable communities, and make us mindful of the impacts of our daily lives on the well-being of creation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all for whom death is near. Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across differences in race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and economic situation. Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination, and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. Hear us, O God. C Your mercy is great.

A We remember the faithful departed from all times and places. Confident that you are the Alpha and Omega, we pray for your wisdom and guidance until our earthly pilgrimage is complete. Hear us, O God. **C** Your mercy is great.

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 Amen.

PEACE

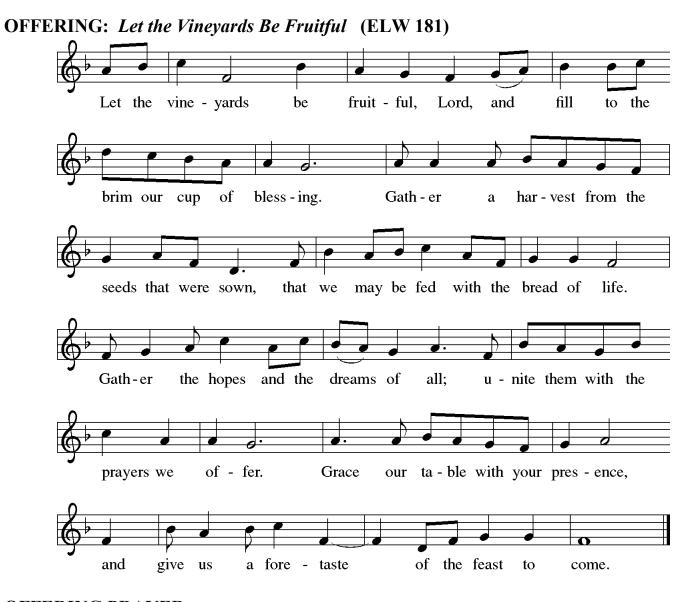
P The peace of Christ be with you always. C And also with you.

P Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ MEAL +



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 You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

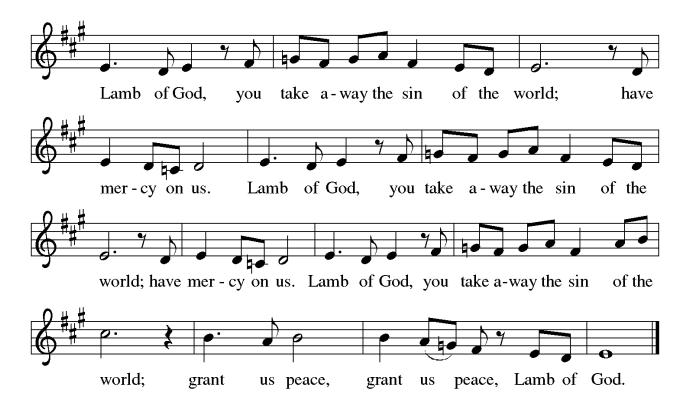
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C 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.

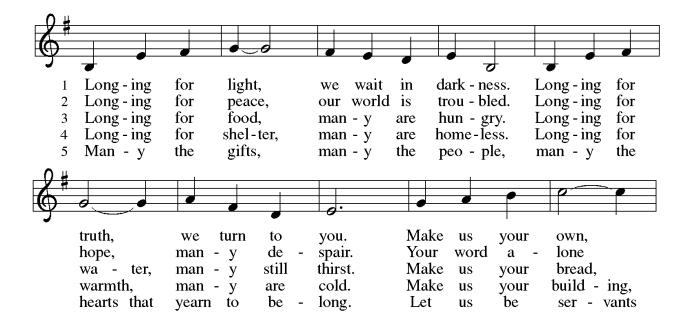
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

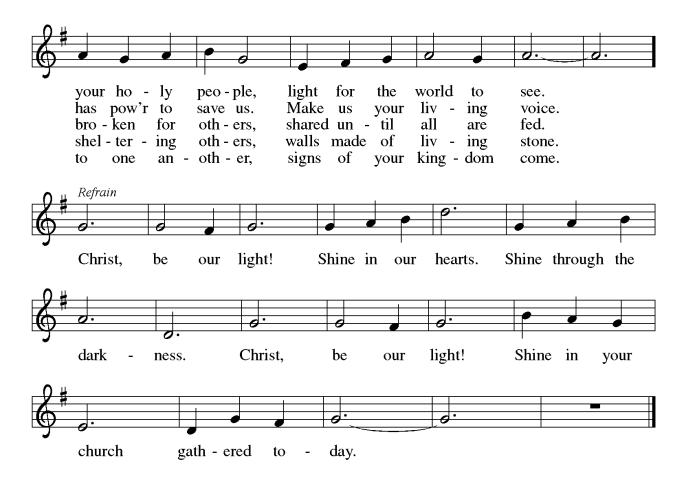
P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. C Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD



SONG DURING COMMUNION: Christ Be Our Light (ELW 715)





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 Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. C Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. C Amen.

P The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. C Amen.

P The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. C Amen.

SENDING SONG: We Are Called (ELW 720) 6 Come! Live in the light! 1 Shine with the joy and the love of the Come! O-pen your heart! Show your. . mer - cy to all those in 2 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be Lord! We called are to be light for the king - dom, to fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as 0 free - dom live in the of the cit - y of God. ha - tred and blind-ness . . . will be . . . more. no sis - ters and broth-ers ... u - nit-ed in love. Refrain We are called to act with jus-tice, called we are to love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -5 oth - er, walk hum - bly with God. to

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Alleluia! C Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Upcoming Commemorations

Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

Philip and James, Apostles Thursday, May 1, 2025

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to "come and see." Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373

Friday, May 2, 2025

Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.

Announcements for the week of April 27, 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.

~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** <u>tonight</u>, April 27th at 4:00. Ticket / reservation forms can be found on the table in the narthex.

~ From the Altar Guild:

Our numbers are few; and the Guild would welcome your assistance. We are a small assembly dedicated to arranging the sanctuary for the Sunday services of Holy Communion, festive worship services, and the Services of Word and Light. Don't feel overwhelmed with what you see as our worship space changes with each season or with the task to be done. The work is done as a team of two or with the entire Altar Guild when necessary, and on occasion with assistance from the Property Committee. It is a labor of love and service to the Lord, a small but important charge. If you are interested, even if you just have questions, you can speak with Lauren, Bill, Beth, or Jane.

DAY	<u>EVENT</u>	TIME
Sunday, April 27 th	2 nd Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion 9:00 am
	Boy Scouts Pasta Dinner	2:00 - 9:00 pm
Tuesday, April 29 th	Back to Basics	7:00 pm
Wednesday, April 30 th	N.A.	7:00 pm
Friday/Saturday	Metropolitan New York	9: 00 am - 5:00 pm
May 2 nd & 3 rd	Synod Assembly	
Sunday, May 4 th	3 rd Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion 9:00 am

PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK (April 27th - May 4th)

SERVING AT WORSHIP TODAY

	Sunday, 9:00 AM
ASSISTING MINISTER:	Barbara Barcavage
LECTOR:	Kevin Dolan
ACOLYTE:	AJ Mangiaracina
MUSIC DIRECTOR:	Mason Griffin
USHERS:	John Musi
GREETER:	Lynn Browning
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)