May 4, 2025 10:00 AM

The Third Sunday of Easter



St. Stephen's in-the-Field Episcopal Church

7269 Santa Teresa Boulevard San Jose, CA 95139 (408) 629-1836 www.ssitf.org

We the people of Saint Stephen's in-the-Field seek to know Christ, to share Christ, and to serve Christ, recognizing his presence in all people, and reaching out in love to each other and to the world around us.

When communion is served, Jesus is the host of this meal and everyone is welcome at God's table. We have bread, and you may choose either red wine or white grape juice. If you choose not to have the bread and wine, you may come up for a blessing, or you may simply remain in your seat.

WORD OF GOD

Opening Hymn



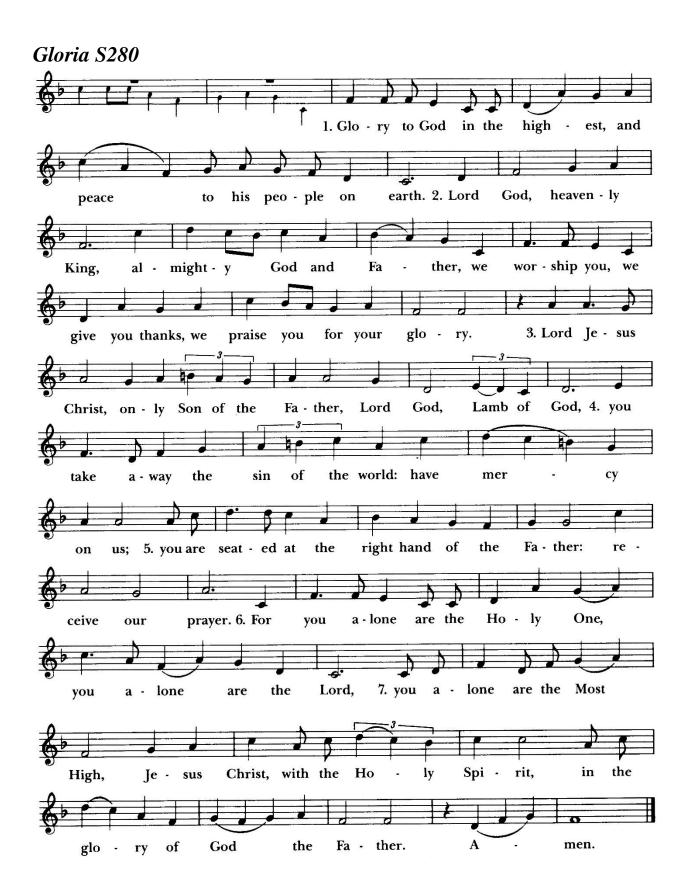
Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.*People:* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Collect for Purity

All

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



Collect of the Day

Celebrant:God be with you.People:And also with you.Celebrant:Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

First Reading

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm:

- 1 I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up * and have not let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 O LORD my God, I cried out to you, * and you restored me to health.
- 3 You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; * you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.
- 4 Sing to the LORD, you servants of his; * give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.
- 5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, * his favor for a lifetime.

Acts 9:1-6

Psalm 30

- 6 Weeping may spend the night, * but joy comes in the morning.
- 7 While I felt secure, I said,
 "I shall never be disturbed. *
 You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."
- 8 Then you hid your face, * and I was filled with fear.
- 9 I cried to you, O LORD; * I pleaded with the Lord, saying,
- 10 "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? * will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?
- 11 Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me; * O LORD, be my helper."
- 12 You have turned my wailing into dancing; * you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.
- 13 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; * O LORD my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

Second Reading

Revelation 5:11-14

I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

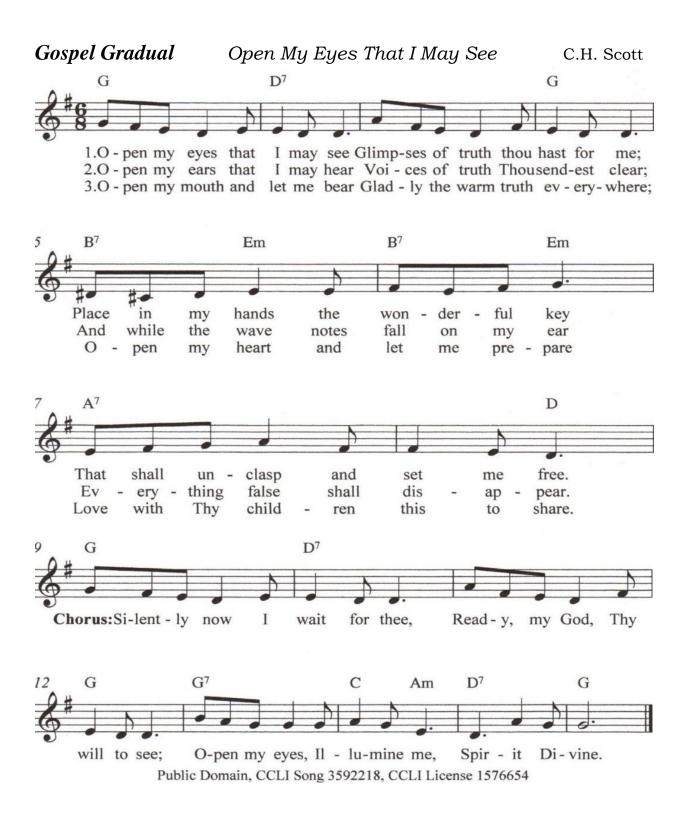
"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb

be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: Thanks be to God.



Gospel Reading

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.*All:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

Celebrant:The Gospel of the Savior.All:Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Nicene Creed

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.

Prayers of the People (Form III)

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Leader:	Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
People:	That we all may be one.
Leader:	Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
People:	That your Name may be glorified by all people.
Leader:	We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
People:	That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.
Leader:	We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
People:	That may be justice and peace on the earth.
Leader:	Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
People:	That our works may find favor in your sight.
Leader:	Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
People:	That they may be delivered from their distress.
Leader:	Give to the departed eternal rest.
People:	Let light perpetual shine upon them.
Leader:	We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People:	May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.
Leader:	Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
	The People may add their own petitions, silently or aloud.
Celebrant	: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

The Peace

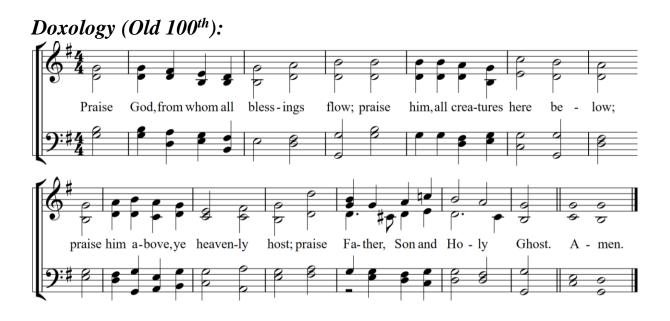
Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Exchange peace.

Hymn 213 v1-3





THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

EOW Prayer 2

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 him our thanks and praise.

Celebrant

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep

and brought all things into being:

sun, moon, and stars;

earth, winds, and waters;

and every living thing.

You made us in your image,

and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;

and yet, as a mother cares for her children,

you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us

to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord Sanctus

Setting from *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert, arr. Richard Proulx



S130

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.

He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you:

This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with St. Stephen and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

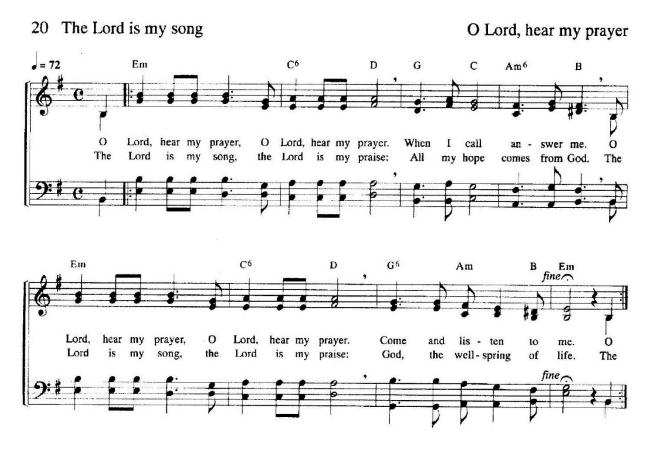
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.*People:* We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.



Post Communion Prayer

Please stand

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

Birthday Blessing: Watch over your birthday *children*, O Lord; as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Anniversary Blessing: O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in and through you what is well-pleasing in His sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen**.





The Dismissal

Celebrant:	Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
People:	Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Mark your calendar

- Sunday, May 11 The service on Mother's Day will be at New Creation, 10 am
- Wednesday Book Group, every Wednesday morning at St. John's, 11am
- Wednesday, May 7 St. Stephen's Lazy Dog Fundraiser, all day

Vestry Members

Janet Thorsrud, *Senior Warden* • Anthony Francis • Andy Lief, *Treasurer/Finance* • Maggie Stedman, *Clerk*