



## St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

### FEAST OF ELISABETH CRUCIGER

*Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.*

*From Wikipedia*



**Elisabeth Cruciger** (also spelled Kreuziger, Creutziger etc.; née von Meseritz) (c. 1500 - 2 May 1535), a German writer, was the first female poet and hymnwriter of the [Protestant Reformation](#)<sup>[1]</sup> and a friend of [Martin Luther](#).

#### **Life**

Elisabeth von Meseritz was born into a noble family in [Eastern Pomerania](#). While still a child, she became a nun at the Marienbusch Abbey, a [Premonstratensian](#) cloister in [Treptow an der Rega](#). At the cloisters, she learnt of the religious ideas of the Reformation through [Johannes Bugenhagen](#), one of the influential figures in [Lutheranism](#).

In 1522 Elisabeth left the abbey to move to [Wittenberg](#), where she joined Bugenhagen's household. Then

[Continued Pg11](#)

**Wednesday, 3 May 9:30am**

**Announcements and Welcome**

**Rev. Allison Cornell**

## **Salutation**

**Presider:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People:** **The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

**Presider:** 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 you Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria—

H1982 #S-280

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## The Collect of the Day:

Presider: The Lord be with you

**People: And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray

**All: Pour out your Spirit upon all of your sons and daughters,  
Almighty God, that like your servant Elisabeth Cruciger our lips may  
praise you, our lives may bless you, and our worship may give you  
glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word: *(Please be seated for the lessons)*

### First Lesson: A Reading from the Book of Joel (2:23-29):

O children of Zion, be glad  
and rejoice in the Lord your God;  
for he has given the early rain for your  
vindication,  
he has poured down for you abun-  
dant rain,  
the early and the later rain, as be-  
fore.

The threshing floors shall be full of  
grain,  
the vats shall overflow with wine  
and oil.

I will repay you for the years  
that the swarming locust has eaten,  
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cut-  
ter,  
my great army, which I sent  
against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satis-  
fied,  
and praise the name of the Lord  
your God,

who has dealt wondrously with you.

And my people shall never again be  
put to shame.

You shall know that I am in the midst  
of Israel,  
and that I, the Lord, am your God  
and there is no other.

And my people shall never again  
be put to shame.

Then afterward

I will pour out my spirit on all  
flesh;

your sons and your daughters shall  
prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see vi-  
sions.

Even on the male and female slaves,  
in those days, I will pour out my  
spirit.

Reader The Word of the Lord

**People Thanks be to God**

**Psalm: 26:** *(read in unison)*

**1 Give judgment for me, O Lord,  
for I have lived with integrity; \***

**I have trusted in the Lord and  
have not faltered.**

**2 Test me, O Lord, and try me; \*  
examine my heart and my mind.**

**3 For your love is before my eyes; \*  
I have walked faithfully with you.**

**4 I have not sat with the worthless, \*  
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

**5 I have hated the company of evildoers; \*  
I will not sit down with the wicked.**

**6 I will wash my hands in innocence,  
O Lord, \*  
that I may go in procession round  
your altar,**

**7 Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving \*  
and recounting all your wonderful  
deeds.**

**8 Lord, I love the house in which you  
dwell \*  
and the place where your glory  
abides.**

**9 Do not sweep me away with sinners, \*  
nor my life with those who thirst  
for blood,**

**10 Whose hands are full of evil plots, \*  
and their right hand full of bribes.**

**11 As for me, I will live with integrity; \*  
redeem me, O Lord, and have pity  
on me.**

**12 My foot stands on level ground; \*  
in the full assembly I will bless the  
Lord.**

**Gospel Lesson:** *(Please stand as you are able)*

Reader:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke (1:46-55)**

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;  
    he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
    and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
    and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
    in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
    to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord  
**People Praise to you, Lord Christ**

## HOMILY

**Nicene Creed:**           *Traditional Version (Said aloud by all, in unison)*

**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: by the power of the  
Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made  
man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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**

**Leader:** Christ our life, You are alive - in the beauty of the earth:

**People:** **in the rhythm of the seasons, in the mystery of time and space, Alleluia**

**Leader:** Christ our life, You are alive - in the tenderness of touch

**People:** **in the heartbeat of intimacy, in the insights of solitude, Alleluia**

**Leader:** Christ our life, You are alive - in the creative possibility

**People:** **of the hardest conversation, of the dreariest task, of the most threatening event, Alleluia**

**Leader:** Christ our life, You are alive - to offer re-creation

**People:** **to every unhealed hurt, to every deadened place, to every damaged Heart, Alleluia.**

**Leader:** Christ our life, You are alive – to give us encouragement

**People:** **to face our fears, to wrestle with our doubts, to overcome our disappointments, Alleluia.**

**Leader:** You set before us a great choice, death in our souls without you or Life abundantly and eternally with you.

**People:** **Therefore, we choose life.**

**Leader:** The dance of resurrection soars and surges through the whole creation,

**People:** **This is your grace through which we live. So let us live fully and thankfully. Alleluia.**

## **Exchange of the Peace**

Presider *May the peace of Christ be always with you*

All **And also with you.**

*The Ministers and People exchange socially distant signs of peace (peace sign, namaste, virtual hug)*

## **The Offertory:**

Presider Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself as an offering and sacrifice to God.

## **Doxology #380 vs. 3**

**All:        ♪ Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
                 Praise him all creatures here below  
                 Praise him above ye heavenly host  
                 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. ♪**

# The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider *The Lord be with you.*

People **And also with you.**

Presider *Lift up your hearts.*

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Presider:*

*It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.*

*But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Pascal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his*

*rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.*

*Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:*

Sanctus -

Hymnal 1982 #S-129

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Presider continues:*

*Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.*

*He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.*

*On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it*



*to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."*

*After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."*

*Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:*

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

*We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit (+) to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.*

*Sanctify us also (+) that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.*

*All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.*

Presider: *As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,*

**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** (*Presider breaks the consecrated bread*)

Fraction Anthem : Hymnal 1982 #S-154

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
therefore let us keep the feast.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## **Invitation to Communion:**

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died and rose again for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

*(All are invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion in this church. We have two different ways to receive communion. First way = go to the right of the altar, receive the bread, eat the bread, then take a sip of wine from the cup. Second way = go to the left of the altar, receive the bread, dip the bread in the wine in the cup and then eat the bread. If you are not ready to receive the bread and wine, you may come forward and cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing instead. Bread is gluten free).*

## **Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travel, Gratitude**

### **Post Communion Prayer** *(The people stand as they are able.)*

Presider; Let us pray.

**All:**           **Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

**And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

*Presider: May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

## **Dismissal**

Deacon: People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?

**People: We are called to love and serve.**

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in God's Spirit.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (Alleluia!)**

Continued...

in 1524 she married the theologian [Caspar Cruciger](#), a student and an assistant to [Martin Luther](#). Together they had two children: a daughter, Elisabeth, who married Andreas Kegel, the rector of Luther's hometown [Eisleben](#), and then—on Kegel's death—Luther's son Johannes; and a son, [Caspar Cruciger the Younger](#), who succeeded in [Philip Melancthon](#)'s post as professorship at Wittenburg.

Elisabeth Cruciger died in [Wittenberg](#) in 1535.<sup>[4][5]</sup>

Veneration

In 2022, Elisabeth Cruciger was officially added to the [Episcopal Church liturgical calendar](#) with a feast day on 3 May.<sup>[6]</sup>

*From 1517.org*

## **Elisabeth Cruciger: Hymn Writer of the Reformation**

Elisabeth Cruciger is the first female Lutheran hymn writer. In fact, her hymn was included in the very first evangelical hymnal, published in 1524. With her life and her hymn, she becomes a witness, an example, and a proclaimer of the gospel to us almost 500 years later.

Elisabeth Cruciger came from Merseritz in Pomerania, which is now part of Poland. She's usually only known as the wife of Caspar Cruciger, one of Luther's fellow reformers.

But Elisabeth is important in her own right. Her hymn, "The Only Son from Heaven," marks her as the first female Lutheran hymn writer. In fact, Elisabeth's hymn was included in the very first evangelical hymnal, published in 1524.

For centuries scholars asserted that the hymn couldn't have been written by her. They said a woman couldn't have written such a profound text. It must have been some theologically astute man who had the proper training and, apparently, the correct plumbing to think so deeply, so Elisabeth disappeared from view. But when you know Elisabeth Cruciger's history, a deeply faithful, brave, and intelligent woman comes into focus. With her life and her hymn, she becomes a witness, an example, and a proclaimer of the gospel to us almost 500 years later.

In the year 1500, Elisabeth Cruciger began her life in the Pomeranian town of Meseritz, which now lies within Poland's borders. When she was a young girl her parents placed her in a convent. This wasn't unusual. It was an act of piety to give your child to the religious life as a nun or a monk. It earned you merit before God and would help balance your spiritual accounts so that you could enter the heavenly realm when you died. Elisabeth entered the convent school of the Premonstratensians in Treptow on the Baltic Sea and eventually took her vows when she was fifteen.

Her life in the convent wouldn't have been much different from what Luther experienced among the Augustinians. The first worship service of the day was at two in the morning, and the rest of the day was full of prayer, study, and work. There was no time to laze about of an evening. When the sun went down, it was time for bed. Elisabeth's order was known for doing work in the outside world. These religious women supported the priests, took care of vestments and paraments, and helped educate the daughters of the nobility.

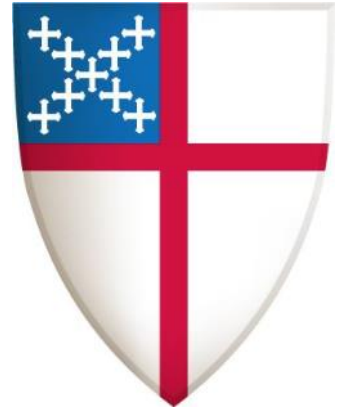
Had Elisabeth's life extended down the same path, we would never have known she existed. But she encountered a young preacher who gave her the gospel in a way that ended her old life and awakened her with grace to a new life that wouldn't let go of her. The preacher was Johannes Bugenhagen, whom Luther and the other reformers affectionately called "Pomeranus." He had become known as a lecturer among the Premonstratensians. He

[Cont. online 1517.org](#)

*Notice: All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry on to the church campus or in to any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.*



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### Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check  here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



Info Update      Giving Envelopes       Mail News Letter     

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(first) (Mid.) (Last)

Hm: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Anv. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
BrthDay \_\_\_\_\_

Adrs: \_\_\_\_\_

City, St., Zip: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_