

Sunday Worship Service – April 19, 2026
Third Sunday of Easter
Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book – Holy Communion Setting 7

Words of Welcome by Pastor

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Statement

Introduction to the Theme of the Bible Readings*

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread.

Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured.

The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Sunday.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
 let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,
 for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
 in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,

like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.

Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.

Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.

Cleanse our hearts. **Shower us with life.**

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God, now and forever. Amen.

#522 Gathering Hymn "As We Gather at Your Table"

- 1. As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
 help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.**

- Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
 teach us through this holy banquet how to make love's vict'ry known.
2. Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
 send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
 Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
 may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.
 3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
 where triumphant love will welcome those who had been last and least.
 There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
 as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

p.175 **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.**

p.175 **Kyrie**

Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.
 Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.
 Christ, have mercy on us; O Christ, have mercy.
 Christ, have mercy on us; O Christ, have mercy.
 Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.
 Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.
 O Lord, have mercy.

p.176 **Canticle of Praise "Gloria"**

Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!
 Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!
 And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.
 And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.

Prayer of the Day*

Fellow Traveller, you meet us as we walk the roads of life and reveal to us
 mighty things. You call us to change our lives and to depend upon you.
 You teach us the greatest, deepest mysteries, and reveal the truth of your
 promised grace. Open our ears to hear your words, and open our hearts
 to burn with your truth, that mutual love may burst forth among all
 people here on earth. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

In this reading from the book of Acts, we hear the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

A reading from Acts, chapter 2:

Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. Peter raised his voice and declared,

"Therefore, let all Israel know beyond question that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

When the crowd heard this, they were deeply troubled. They said to Peter and the other apostles, "What should we do?"

Peter replied, "Change your hearts and lives. Each of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you, your children, and for all who are far away—as many as God invites." With many other words Peter testified to them and encouraged them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." Those who accepted Peter's message were baptized. God brought about three thousand people into the community on that day.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23

In this reading from 1st Peter, the imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

A reading from 1st Peter, chapter 1:

Since you call upon God who judges all people according to their actions without favoritism, you should conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your dwelling in a strange land. Live in this way, knowing that you were not liberated by perishable things like silver or gold from the

empty lifestyle you inherited from your ancestors. Instead, you were liberated by the precious blood of Christ, like that of a flawless, spotless lamb. Christ was chosen before the creation of the world, but was only revealed at the end of time. This was done for you, who through Christ are faithful to the God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory.

So now, your faith and hope should rest in God.

As you set yourselves apart by your obedience to the truth so that you might have genuine affection for your fellow believers, love each other deeply and earnestly. Do this because you have been given new birth—not from the type of seed that decays but from seed that doesn't.

This seed is God's life-giving and enduring word.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

p.179 **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:13-35

In the gospel of Luke, we hear the colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. The gospel reading answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 24th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey.

They were prevented from recognizing him.

Jesus said to them, "What are you talking about as you walk along?"

They stopped, their faces downcast.

The one named Cleopas replied, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?"

Jesus said to them, "What things?"

They said to him, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago.

But there's more: Some women from our group have left us stunned.

They went to the tomb early this morning and didn't find his body.

They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn't see him."

Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. Wasn't it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?"

Then Jesus interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

When they came to Emmaus, Jesus acted as if he was going on ahead.

But they urged him, saying, "Stay with us. It's nearly evening, and the day is almost over." So Jesus went in to stay with them.

After Jesus took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight.

They said to each other, "Weren't our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?"

They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying to each other, "The Lord really has risen! He appeared to Simon!" Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread.

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

Sermon

#479 Hymn of the Day *"We Come to the Hungry Feast"*

1. **We come to the hungry feast hungry for a word of peace.
To hungry hearts unsatisfied the love of God is not denied.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**
2. **We come to the hungry feast hungry for a world released
from hungry folk of ev'ry kind, the poor in body, poor in mind.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**

3. **We come to the hungry feast hungry that the hunger cease,
and knowing, though we eat our fill, the hunger will stay with us still.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**

p.104 **Nicene Creed**

Prayers of Intercession¹

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. *A brief silence.*

Living Savior, just as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Gather us at your table, that we recognize you in the breaking of the bread.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, you provide for the needs of all creation. Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting, and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance. Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there is violence, sow peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Be with those living with dementia, and their family, friends, and caregivers. Heal those who are sick or live with chronic pain or a chronic illness. Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Gracious One, unite us in genuine love for one another and uphold this community in your name. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

¹ <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/DayTexts>

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always! **And also with you!**

Offering and Offering Prayer

Loving God, receive our thanks and praise. For your presence on the road, we thank you. For opening your word to us, we praise you.

For revealing yourself to us in the face of a stranger, we offer you our deepest gratitude. May the gifts of our hands reveal the love in our hearts. Amen.

p.180 **Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is a right, good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you for the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ, who in dying 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 your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

p.181 **Holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power; holy is the Lord.**

Holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power; holy is the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.

Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.

Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer E: The Season of Easter²

Holy, living, and loving God, we raise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending Jesus.

² *With One Voice: Leaders Edition*, Eucharistic Prayer E – The Season of Easter, p.69 (adapted for inclusive language). © 1995 Augsburg Fortress Minneapolis.

We give you thanks for Jesus, who living among us,
Healed the sick, fed the hungry,
and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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, Jesus took the cup,
Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the covenant in my blood,
Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms
from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in Christ.

Through him all honour is yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit, in your
holy church, both now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

Communion Distribution

p.182 ***Lamb of God***

**O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.
 have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
 O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
 Grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

#491 Communion Hymn “Come, Let Us Eat”

1. Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
 Our Lord’s body let us take together,
 Our Lord’s body let us take together.
2. Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
 Jesus’ blood poured let us drink together,
 Jesus’ blood poured let us drink together.
3. In his presence now we meet and rest,
 In his presence now we meet and rest.
 In the presence of our Lord we gather,
 In the presence of our Lord we gather.
4. Rise, then, to spread abroad God’s mighty Word,
 Rise, then, to spread abroad God’s mighty Word.
 Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom,
 Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom.

Communion Blessing

May the love and forgiveness of God, that is present in this meal of bread and wine, strengthen you and nourish you in your journey of faith, confident in God’s unconditional love for you.

Prayer after communion³

Living God, as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord, we have been nourished with the very presence of Christ. Through this meal may we be strengthened to keep your word and to proclaim the power of your love through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Announcements

³ All Creation Sings: Evangelical Lutheran Worship Supplement, p.41, 2020 Augsburg Fortress.

Blessing⁴

Go now as those who have met with Christ
in the morning of this day.

Go now as those whose hearts have burned within them,
as the Scriptures were explained.

Go now as those who have been touched by resurrection.

And may the blessing of God be upon you, body, mind and spirit,
as you leave this place,

In the name of + God the Creator, Jesus our Friend,
and the Holy Spirit, our comforter. Amen.

#364 Sending Hymn “*Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia*” (v.1,4-5)

1. **Christ has arisen, alleluia. Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.
For our redeemer burst from the tomb,
even from death, dispelling its gloom.**

Refrain:

**Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.
Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.
Our sins forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!**

4. **“Go spread the news; he’s not in the grave.
He has arisen, this world to save.
Jesus’ redeeming labors are done.
Even the battle with sin is won.”** (*Refrain*)
5. **Christ has arisen to set us free. Alleluia, to him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;
he reigns triumphant, heavenly king.** (*Refrain*)

Sending

Go in peace, filled with the joy of the risen Christ
to love and serve God through word and deed. **Thanks be to God!**

⁴ Written by Ann Siddall, and posted on the website of the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre. <http://www.stillpointsa.org.au/>