

# Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry

## Third Sunday of Easter - April 19, 2026

*Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life*

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### INTRODUCTION

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 Lord's day.

**SERVING TODAY:** *Presider/Preacher: Chad Huebner; Organist: George Weckman; Choir Director: Christian Yoder; Choir Accompanist: Donnalee Yoder; Pianist: Patricia Cambridge; Asst/Lector: Mim Almquist; Livestream: Sam Hanson; Greeter: Cathi Schwalbaugh, Ushers: Dan Snoddy, Wanda Weinberg; Time with Children: Puppets!; Acolyte: Elizabeth; Tray Server: Marilyn Shealy*

### WELCOME

**(PLEASE POWER OFF OR AIRPLANE MODE YOUR DEVICES)**

*Here in Athens, in SE Ohio, we are occupying the traditional homeland of the Shawnee people. Before the Shawnee, this land was occupied by the Osage people, and by the Adena, Hopewell and Fort Ancient cultures.*

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*).

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,  
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG

### *As We Gather at Your Table (ELW 522)*



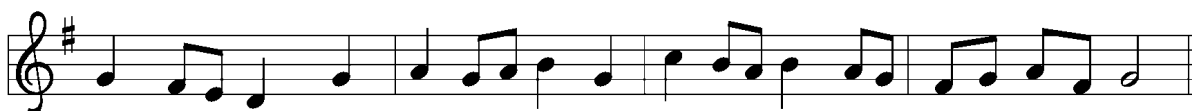
- 1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
- 2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
- 3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um-phiant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.  
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

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## 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

## All Glory Be To God On High (ELW 410)



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, who has the world be -  
 2 O Fa - ther, for your lord - ship true we give you praise and  
 3 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's  
 4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, per - fect gift, who brings us con - so -



friend - ed; to us no harm shall now come nigh, the  
 hon - or; we wor - ship you; we trust in you; we  
 au - thor, re - deem - er of your wan - d'ring ones, and  
 la - tion: to men and wom - en saved by Christ as -



strife at last is end - ed. God shows good-will to  
 give you thanks for - ev - er. Your will is per - fect,  
 source of all true plea - sure; O Lamb of God, O  
 sure your in - spi - ra - tion. Through sick - ness, need, and



one and all, and peace when trou - bled sin - ners call. Thank  
 and your might re - lent - less - ly con - firms the right; your  
 Lord di - vine, con - form our lives to your de - sign, and  
 bit - ter death, grant us your warm, life - giv - ing breath; our



God for grace and mer - cy!  
 lord - ship is our bless - ing.  
 on us all have mer - cy.  
 lives are in your keep - ing. A - - men.

Text: Nikolaus Decius, 1485–1550; tr. composite

Music: ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH, plainsong; adapt. Nikolaus Decius

Text st. 1 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress; sts. 2–4 © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

Let us pray.

**O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41**

A reading from Acts.

<sup>14a</sup> Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: <sup>36</sup> “Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” <sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” <sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23**

A reading from 1 Peter.

<sup>17</sup> If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup> You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup> He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup> You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

## ACCLAMATION Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray (ELW 743)



1 Now to the Ho - ly Spir - it let us pray  
2 O sweet - est Love, your grace on us be - stow;  
3 Tran - scen - dent com - fort in our ev - 'ry need,  
4 Shine in our hearts, O Spir - it, pre - cious light,



for true faith, most need - ed on our way:  
set our hearts with sa - cred fire a - glow,  
help us nei - ther scorn nor death to heed,  
that we Je - sus Christ may know a - right,



Guide us and de - fend us when life is end - ing  
that with hearts u - nit - ed we love each oth - er,  
that we may not fal - ter, nor cour - age fail us  
cling - ing to our Sav - ior, whose blood has bought us,



and our jour - ney home - ward is tend - ing. Lord, have mer - cy!  
ev - 'ry strang - er, sis - ter, and broth - er. Lord, have mer - cy!  
when the foe shall taunt and as - sail us. Lord, have mer - cy!  
who to our true home - land has brought us. Lord, have mer - cy!

Text: Medieval German *Leise*, st. 1; Martin Luther, 1483–1546, sts. 2–4; tr. composite  
Music: NUN BITTEN WIR, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524  
Text sts. 1, 4 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Text sts. 2, 3 © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

## GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

The holy gospel according to Luke.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

<sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” <sup>19</sup> He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem

Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.<sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning,<sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.<sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.”<sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!<sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”<sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.<sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them.<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.<sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.<sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”<sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.<sup>34</sup> They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”<sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### *We Who Once Were Dead (ELW 495)*



- 1 We who once were dead now live, ful - ly know - ing Je - sus  
2 We were lost in night, but you sought and found us. Give us  
3 He be - came our bread; Je - sus died to save us. On him  
4 Let us share the pain you en - dured in dy - ing; we shall



as our head. Life is o - ver - flow - ing when he breaks the bread.  
strength to fight; death is all a - round us. Je - sus, be our light.  
we are fed, eat - ing what he gave us, ris - ing from the dead.  
then re - main liv - ing; death de - fy - ing, we shall rise a - gain.

- 5 Jesus, you were dead,  
but you rose and, living,  
made yourself our bread,  
in your goodness giving  
life though we were dead.
- 6 This is your design;  
in this meal we meet you.  
Be our bread and wine,  
Jesus, we entreat you.  
This shall be our sign.

Text: Muus Jacobse, 1909–1972; tr. composite

Music: MIDDEN IN DE DOOD, Rik Veelenturf, b. 1936

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## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the mighty acts of God who has delivered his people from sin and death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Let us lift our voices and pray.

Risen Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

Let us give thanks to God for the multitude of blessings he showers upon us:

For our lives and the lives of those we love,  
For the beauty of this home God has created for us,  
For our families and friendships,  
Let us give thanks to the God of life.

Risen Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the church, that it may carry forward works of God:

For our clergy and bishops,  
For the many lay people who serve the church,  
For those gathered here in worship and prayer this morning.

Risen Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the nations and the peoples of the world, that the powers that oppress and destroy may decline and that justice, peace and prosperity be lifted up. Let us pray for the

people of Gaza, The West Bank, Israel, Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Syria, Sudan, Myanmar, Russia and Ukraine, that they may soon, once again, live in peace.  
Risen Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who are sick, those who suffer, those who struggle and those who have died. And let us also pray for their families and caregivers. May the hope born of Easter give them peace.  
Risen Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

Lord God, hear these, the prayers of your people. Infuse a measure of patience in us, a confident expectation of your promises. Strengthen us in body, mind and spirit, and bring us comfort, Lord, with your unending love.

**AMEN**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

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**ANTHEM**

*I Heard A Forest Praying* Christian Yoder

CLC Choir

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927  
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of love,  
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.  
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.  
Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;  
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

### **DIALOGUE**

Merciful God,  
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.  
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day  
when we will hunger and thirst no more.  
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,  
that goodness and mercy may follow us  
and bless the world you love.  
In the name of Jesus,  
**Amen.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.  
**Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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.**

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the table of new life.  
Receive the risen Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### **COMMUNION**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy One,  
through this meal you have made your home among us  
and are making all things new.  
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,  
to love our enemies,  
and to bring your healing to the nations.  
In the name of Jesus,  
**Amen.**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **BLESSING**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom  
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.  
The God of life,  
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**

**Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing (ELW 389)**



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789

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**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**