



**ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
**SERVICE OF THE WORD**  
APRIL 18, 2026 ~ 4:00PM  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



Please respect the beauty of reverence and quiet reflection as we prepare for worship. Turn off phones or silence them.

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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 especially Lake Michigan.  
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** Hymn #377 *"Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!"*

**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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

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

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Therefore, let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." 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?" 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. 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." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.  
Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19** (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

**<sup>2</sup>for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**

<sup>3</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow.

**<sup>4</sup>Then I called upon the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray you, save my life."**

<sup>12</sup>How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things God has done for me?

**<sup>13</sup>I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.**

<sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people.

**<sup>15</sup>Precious in your sight, O LORD, is the death of your servants.**

<sup>16</sup>O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

**<sup>17</sup>I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people,

**<sup>19</sup>in the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

### **Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23**

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. You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. 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. 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. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.  
Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *ELW pg. 216 "Alleluia"*

### **Gospel: Luke 24:13-35**

The holy gospel according to St. Luke the 24th Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. 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?" 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, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 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. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 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. 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." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 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. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. 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?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" 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 our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** Hymn #374 "*Day of Arising*"

### **NICENE CREED**

*With the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of the 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 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**

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.**

### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **OFFERING**

**CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING** *ELW pg. 219 "Salvation belongs to our God..."*

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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.**

### **BLESSING**

Like the women at the tomb on Easter morning, may the resurrected Christ awaken you with curiosity, bless you with hope, and send you out into the world full of new life.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG** Hymn #539 *"Abide, O Dearest Jesus"*

### **DISMISSAL**

We are God's People.

**Followers of Jesus Christ.**

Gifted by the Spirit.

**Go Pray, Go Love, Go Serve. Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

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