

# St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

## Third Sunday of Easter

### April 19, 2026 - 9:30 a.m.

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*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.*

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# WELCOME

Please stand

## GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

## OPENING HYMN

### Just a Closer Walk With Thee ELW 697



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

Please be seated

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: In the name of † the One  
who was, who is, and who is to come.

**C: Amen.**

P: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,  
and called to live new life,  
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*

Holy God,  
we give you thanks for your cleansing waters,  
waters that make us your own,  
that restore to wholeness,  
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

**C: make us one as you are one.**

P: We give you thanks for your healing waters,  
waters that strengthen us in faith and trust,  
and give new life to your servants;  
waters that extend your boundless love  
and cross barriers of our own making.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

**C: make us one as you are one.**

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that open hearts through your Word,  
and give a voice in the night to those who are burdened;  
waters that set us on a new path,  
rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

**C: make us one as you are one.**

P: Grant us grace, love, and faith, O Living One,  
that our every day is shaped by these waters  
and your Word that makes us alive in you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**C: 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.**

*Please be seated*

## FIRST READING

**Acts 2:14a, 36-41**

A: A reading from the Book of Acts, the second chapter.

<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.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

## SECOND READING

## Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

A: A reading from Psalm 116.

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

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

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

**C: <sup>4</sup> Then I called upon the name of the Lord:  
“O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”**

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

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

A: <sup>14</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all God’s people.

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

A: <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.

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

A: <sup>18</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all God’s people,

**C: <sup>19</sup> in the courts of the Lord’s house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, give thanks to the ris-en Lord;  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give praise to his name.  
Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
Je - sus has died and has ris - en. *Refrain*

## GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C: **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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## MESSAGE

### HYMN

### Prayer of St. Francis



1 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.  
 2 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.  
 4 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.



Where there is ha - tred, let me bring your love;  
 Where there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope;  
 It is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned,

*Last time to coda* ⊕



where there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord;  
 where there is dark - ness, . . . . . on - ly light;  
 in giv - ing of our - selves that we re -



and where there's doubt, true faith in you.  
 and where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.

2

3 O Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so

much to be con - soled as to con - sole, to be

un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be

*D.C. (stanza 4) al coda*

loved as to love with all my soul.

⊕ *Coda*

ceive, and in dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

## THE PRAYERS

P: 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.*

P: ...Merciful God,

**C: Hear our prayer**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

## THE OFFERING

## INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL

## PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

*In gratitude to God we give out of the abundance that God has given us.*

*Please stand*

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: 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,

**C: Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P: Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving Noah and all creatures from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea to a land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for his death and resurrection that reconciled all things to you. Praise to you for your Holy Spirit poured out on all nations, inspiring us to love, live, and serve.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: Empower our celebration with your Holy Spirit, feed us with your life, fire us with your love, confront us with your justice, and make us one in the body of Christ.

**C: Amen.**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

*Please be seated*

## **COMMUNION**

*This is God's table so all are welcome to join the feast.*

*Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.*

P: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: 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,

**C: Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please stand*

## **BLESSING**

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

## This Little Light of Mine ELW 677



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

## DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord! Alleluia!

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### St. Matthew's Staff

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