



*Two witnesses learn from the Risen Lord at Emmaus.*

*St. Luke 24:13-35*

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**Saint Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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**The Third Sunday of Easter**

**April 18-19, 2026**

**5:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.**

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## AS WE GATHER

Whether we will admit it or not, many of us are logophiles, which means that we love words. All of us have far more words in our vocabularies than we use in our daily conversation. We know what the words mean but for some reason we do not say them much. Words come into and go out of fashion and usage. One of those words that are not used much anymore is *gladsome*. It appears in several hymns of the Christmas season and is in the first line of the ancient evening hymn “O Gladsome Light, O Grace” (LSB 888), which dates back to the fourth century AD and was originally in the Greek language. It describes Jesus as being the ultimate gladsome light with these words: “O gladsome Light, O Grace of God the Father’s face, eternal splendor wearing: celestial, holy, blest, our Savior Jesus Christ, joyful in Thine appearing!” (LSB 888:1). Jesus, the risen Lord, is the light that brings gladness to each hour of the day. We are blessed in that we can always rejoice in His brightness!

## PRELUDE

“This Joyful Eastertide” ..... *Jonathan Kohrs*

“Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide,” BWV 649 ..... *J. S. Bach*

“Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious” ..... *Paul Manz*

# ✠ The Gathering ✠

## BELL AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

### EASTER GREETING

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*(We rise.)*

### OPENING HYMN

“This Joyful Eastertide” ..... **LSB 482**

*Hymns are found in this worship bulletin beginning on Page 11.*

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

*Matthew 28:18-20*

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*1 John 1:8-9*

*Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.*

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*John 20:19-23*

People: **Amen.**

# ✠ The Service of the Word ✠

## INTROIT



*Psalm 133; antiphon: Ps. 133:1*

**Cantor:** Behold, how good and pleas- | ant it is\*  
when brothers dwell in | unity!

**People:** It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of | Aaron,\*  
running down on the collar | of his robes!  
It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of | Zion!\*  
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life for- | evermore.  
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.  
Behold, how good and pleas- | ant it is\*  
when brothers dwell in | unity!

## KYRIE ~ Lord Have Mercy

**Pastor:** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**People:** Amen.

## HYMN OF PRAISE This is the Feast



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



**B** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are His.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -

lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to

God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,

for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*Silence is kept.*

Pastor: O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

(We are seated.)

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

(Peter preaches to the people gathered in Jerusalem.)

Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (ESV)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL**

*adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

Pastor: Christ has risen from the dead.

**People: God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor,**

Pastor: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

**People He has put all things under his feet.**

**EPISTLE** I Peter 1:17-25

(Peter writes that we are redeemed by the blood of Christ.)

If you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for

“All flesh is like grass  
and all its glory like the flower of grass.  
The grass withers,  
and the flower falls,  
but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

And this word is the good news that was preached to you. ((ESV)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

(We rise.)

**ALLELUIA** ..... John 6:68

**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.  
 People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** St. Luke 24:13-35  
 (Two witnesses learn from the Risen Lord at Emmaus.)

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up 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 happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even 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 him they did not see." And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. (ESV)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
 People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*(We are seated.)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**  
 "Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide"..... **LSB 585**

**SERMON**

*(We rise.)*

## NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\text{\textcircled{X}}$  of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS

Pastor: Lord in Your mercy,  
People: Hear our prayer.

*(Refer to The Bridge Builder for the complete Prayer List)*

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

*(We are seated.)*

## OFFERING AND SIGNING OF THE FELLOWSHIP BOOK

*(Please sign the fellowship book located in your pew and pass it to your neighbor.)*

## OFFERTORY (SATURDAY AND SUNDAY)



What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

## ✠ The Lord's Supper ✠

(We rise.)

### PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

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

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

Psalm 136

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary... evermore praising You and singing:



## SANCTUS (Holy, Holy, Holy)

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name  
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LSB 178

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

## THE SACRED WORDS OF CHRIST

### PAX DOMINI (The Peace of the Lord)

John 20:19

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

*We greet one another with the peace of the Lord.*

**AGNUS DEI** (*Lamb of God*)

John 1:29

**C** Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;  
 have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
 sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of  
 God, You take a-way the sin of the world;  
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

(We are seated.)

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

- "Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious" ..... LSB 548
- "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" ..... LSB 633

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: THANK THE LORD**

**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what  
 He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -  
 joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-  
 es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
 giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.  
Heavenly Father, whose Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, rose victorious from the dead, conquering for us death and the grave and opening to us the gates of everlasting life, we praise you for bestowing upon us, through the gift of this Sacrament, the blessing of His death and resurrection victory. Grant that through it, we may be strengthened always to love and serve You – in this life and in the life to come. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

**BENEDICTION AND EASTER ACCLAMATION**

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

**People:** Amen.

**Pastor:** Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**People:** He is risen, indeed. Alleluia.

**CLOSING HYMN**

**“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”** ..... **LSB 919**

**SILENT PRAYER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**POSTLUDE “Abide, O Dearest Jesus”** ..... **Johann Gottfried Walther**

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*Reaching the lost and encouraging the found  
With the saving grace of Jesus Christ*

**“This Joyful Eastertide” ..... LSB 482**



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide A - way with sin and  
 2 Death's flood has lost its chill Since Je - sus crossed the  
 3 My flesh in hope shall rest And for a sea - son



sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,  
 riv - er; Lov - er of souls, from ill  
 slum - ber Till trump from east to west

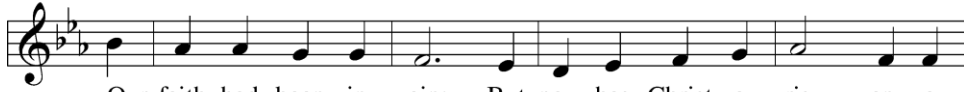


Has sprung to life this mor - row:  
 My pass - ing soul de - liv - er:  
 Shall wake the dead in num - ber:

*Refrain*



Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day pris - on,



Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en; But now has Christ a - ris - en!

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**“Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious”** ..... LSB 548



1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, vic - to - rious! Thanks to Thee, O  
 2 Thou hast died for my trans - gres - sion, All my sins on  
 3 For the joy Thine ad - vent gave me, For Thy ho - ly,



Lord of Life! Death hath now no pow - er o'er us,  
 Thee were laid; Thou hast won for me sal - va - tion,  
 pre - cious Word; For Thy Bap - tism, which doth save me,



Thou hast con-quired in the strife. Thanks be - cause Thou didst a -  
 On the cross my debt was paid. From the grave I shall a -  
 For Thy blest Com - mu - nion board; For Thy death, the bit - ter



rise And hast o - pened par - a - dise! None can ful - ly  
 rise And shall meet Thee in the skies. Death it - self is  
 scorn, For Thy res - ur - rec - tion morn, Lord, I thank Thee



sing the glo - ry Of the res - ur - rec - tion sto - ry.  
 tran - si - to - ry; I shall lift my head in glo - ry.  
 and ex - tol Thee, And in heav'n I shall be - hold Thee.

Text and tune: Public domain



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, with us a - bide, For round us  
2 In these last days of great dis - tress Grant us, dear  
3 To hope grown dim, to hearts turned cold Speak tongues of  
4 May glo - rious truths that we have heard, The bright sword



falls the e - ven - tide. O let Your Word,  
Lord, true stead - fast - ness That we keep pure  
fire and make us bold To shine Your Word  
of Your might - y Word, Spurn Sa - tan that



that sav - ing light, Shine forth un - dimmed in - to the night.  
till life is spent Your ho - ly Word and Sac - ra - ment.  
of sav - ing grace In - to each dark and love - less place.  
Your Church be strong, Bold, u - ni - fied in act and song.

5 Restrain, O Lord, the human pride  
That seeks to thrust Your truth aside  
Or with some man-made thoughts or things  
Would dim the words Your Spirit sings.

6 Stay with us, Lord, and keep us true;  
Preserve our faith our whole life through—  
Your Word alone our heart's defense,  
The Church's glorious confidence.

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1 At the Lamb’s high feast we sing Praise to  
 2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His  
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death’s dread  
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide  
 sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—  
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael’s hosts tri - um-phant go  
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pier - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,  
 Hell’s fierce pow’rs beneath You lie;  
 You have conquered in the fight,  
 You have brought us life and light.  
 Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,  
 Now no more the grave enthrall;  
 You have opened paradise,  
 And Your saints in You shall rise.  
 Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!  
 This alone can sin destroy;  
 From sin’s pow’r, Lord, set us free,  
 Newborn souls in You to be.  
 Alleluia!

△ 8 Father, who the crown shall give,  
 Savior, by whose death we live,  
 Spirit, guide through all our days:  
 Three in One, Your name we praise.  
 Alleluia!

Text and tune: Public domain

**“Abide, O Dearest Jesus” ..... LSB 919**



1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us with Your grace  
2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us with Your Word,  
3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness A - mong us, pre - cious Light;  
4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us, boun - teous Lord;



That Sa - tan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.  
And thus now and here - af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.  
Your truth di - rect and keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.  
Let us in grace and wis - dom Grow dai - ly through Your Word.

5 Abide with Your protection  
Among us, Lord, our strength,  
Lest world and Satan fell us  
And overcome at length.

6 Abide, O faithful Savior,  
Among us with Your love;  
Grant steadfastness and help us  
To reach our home above.

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