

St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Stillwater, Minnesota
April 19, 2026
Third Sunday of Easter



Your presence at worship is important to God and to us! Whether you are a first-time visitor, frequent participant, neighbor, member, or friend, please take a moment as you prepare for worship to share some information on the "Welcome to Worship" card included with your bulletin. Place it in the offering plate at the time the offering is received.

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.

The assembly **speaks** or **sings** the bold responses.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.



Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

ELW page 94

Gathering Song

ELW Hymn 384

"That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"

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

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.



WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Pages 119-120

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Today's reading is 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.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116:12-14, 17-19

A soloist sings the refrain first, then all sing, as indicated (R)

Now to God I make my vows with all the
peo-ple of God. Now to God I make my vows
with all the peo-ple of God.

I love God because God has heard my voice, heard my cry.

I love God, I will call on his name for all my life, for **R**

What shall I offer back to God for all his lavish gifts,

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call God's name. Oh, **R**

Precious is the death of faithful ones in God's eyes,

Holy One, you have freed us and broken the snares of death.

Oh, **R**

I will bring God a sacrifice of thanks, Jerusalem.

I will bring thanksgiving from my heart, Jerusalem. Oh, **R**

Second Reading Pew Bible: New Testament Pages 232-233

1 Peter 1:17-23

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.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Page 90

Luke 24:13-35

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus 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 gospel is introduced:

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

Pastor Nathan Baker-Trinity

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day

ELW hymn 377

"Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!"

Prayers of Intercession

After each prayer:
Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

At the conclusion:

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.

Apostles' Creed

ELW page 105

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

All are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.



Announcements

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Our offering is a collection of money for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, as a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts. Your offering and "Welcome to Worship" card may be placed in the offering plate. The QR code on the right may be used if you wish to give electronically.



Offering Song

"Stay with Us"



1 Stay with us, till night has come: our praise to
 2 Walk with us, our spir - its sigh: hear when our
 3 Walk with us, the road will bend: make all our
 4 Talk with us, till we be - hold a joy - ful
 5 Stay with us, till day is done: no tears nor



you this day be sung. Bless our bread, o - pen our
 wea - ry spir - its cry. Feel a - gain our loss, our
 weep - ing, wail - ing end. Wipe our tears, for - give our
 life you will un - fold. Heal our eyes to see the
 dark shall dim the sun. Cheer the heart, your grace im -



eyes: Je - sus, be our great sur - prise.
 pain: Je - sus, take us to your side.
 fears: Je - sus, lift the heav - y cross.
 prize: Je - sus, take us to the light.
 part: Je - sus, bring e - ter - nal life.

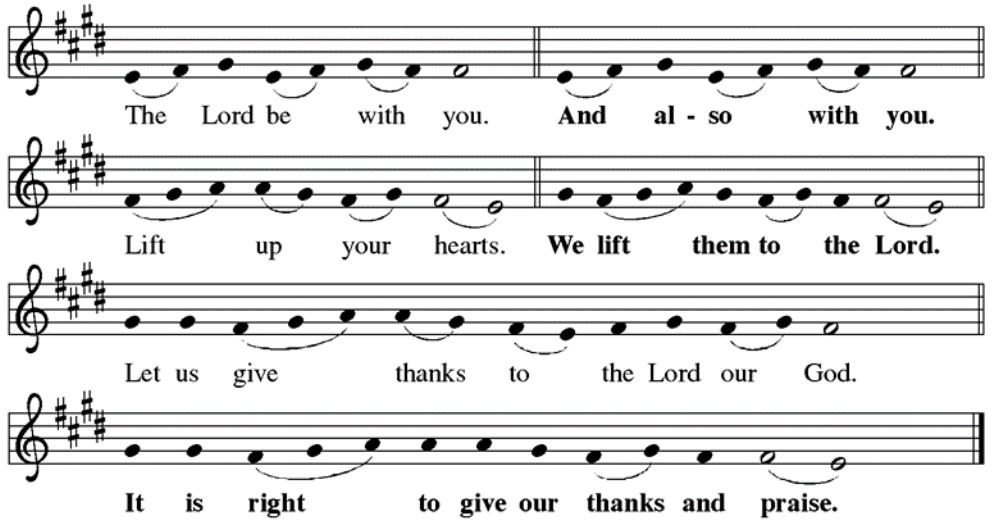
Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



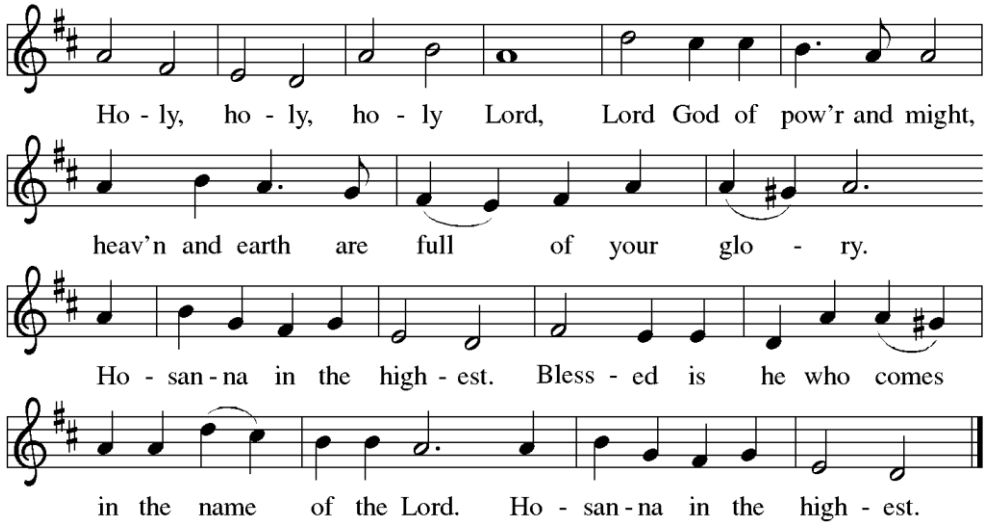
Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 indeed right, our duty and our joy . . .

. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe . . .

In the night in which he was betrayed . . .

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks . . .

(Continued on the next page.) 7

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

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.



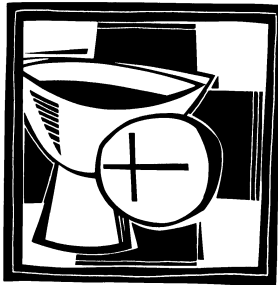
Communion

We celebrate at an open communion table. All who hear our Lord's invitation are welcome to participate. Receive the bread first with an open hand and eat immediately, followed by the juice (white) or wine (red). Gluten-free bread is available at the front end of the center aisle. Please indicate to an usher if you need to receive communion from your pew. Children who have received age-appropriate instruction are welcome to commune. If you prefer instead to receive a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your shoulders.

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

and each person may respond:

Amen.



Communion Song

"We Come to the Hungry Feast"

ELW hymn 479

"Come, Let Us Eat"

ELW hymn 491

Prayer After Communion

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection, you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Charge and Blessing

Go out into the world in peace;
have courage;
hold on to what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak, and help the suffering;
honor all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Song

ELW hymn 619

Stanzas 1 through 4.

"I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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DAILY PRAYER

Prayer by Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109)



Lord, make me taste by love what I taste by knowledge; let me know by love what I know by understanding. I owe you more than my whole self, but I have no more, and by myself I cannot render the whole of it to you. Draw me to you, Lord, in the fullness of your love. I am wholly yours by creation; make me all yours, too, in love.

CONNECTIONS WITH THE LITURGY

Walking Together



Every communion service repeats the story of Emmaus in Luke's gospel: we are walking together, we welcome a stranger, we hear the word, we share the meal, we recognize at our table the risen Christ, and we go to tell others. The frontispiece for the Holy Communion section of Evangelical Lutheran Worship (see page 89) depicts the couple of Emmaus at table with the risen Christ. The art was drawn by the contemporary Chinese artist He Qi.

LIFE ON EARTH Earth Awakens



The second reading from 1 Peter calls the faithful to reject the “futile ways inherited from your ancestors.” One such way of life that we now are called to reject is the careless misuse of the resources of the earth. We are “born anew”: how will that new life be manifest in our care for the earth?

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

April 21st

Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109

This eleventh-century monk was one of the greatest theologians of the Middle Ages. He is remembered for emphasizing the maternal aspects of God, and for the theory that the Son of God became human in order to make the necessary payment for our sin.

April 23rd

Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960

Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.

April 25th

Mark, Evangelist

He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

The Way of Resurrection

In some Bibles the subheading for today's gospel reading is "The Road to Emmaus." Although this is a suitable description, we could also call it "The Way to Emmaus." On the road or way to Emmaus, two disciples encounter the risen Christ. Notice that as Jesus accompanies them, he meets them where they are, holds their heartache, questions their assumptions, challenges their perspectives, and ultimately guides them deep into God's word. All this happens on the way!

Only one of the two companions on the way with Jesus is named: Cleopas. Why is the other disciple's identity a mystery? Luke may be using a clever storytelling device, one designed for readers to see themselves as part of the narrative. In that case, you may be the unnamed disciple in this Jesus story! (Aren't we all disciples on the way, accompanied by Jesus on the journey of Easter faith?)

Eventually, after Jesus blesses and breaks bread at a meal, the two disciples finally recognize him. Their hearts are kindled with faith and activated by the word of God encountered on the way with Jesus. It is no surprise that they hit the road again, racing back to Jerusalem to tell the others what just happened on the way.

From the very beginning, the way of faith in Christ has been a movement of resurrection promise. This movement has never stopped sharing the grace and love of God with everyone it encounters along the way. We are called to join this movement, with all our heartaches, assumptions, and misunderstandings. We are not people with all the answers, but sojourners or pilgrims on the way.