

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

April 18-19, 2026

4:00 p.m. Saturday and 8:00 a.m. Sunday



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

EASTER LIGHT – GLADSOME LIGHT

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!

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Prelude "We Know That Christ is Raised" (Theme and Finale) Michael Burkhardt

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn "We Know that Christ is Raised" *LSB 603*

Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 113:1–4; 56:12–13*

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD!

People: **Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!**

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!

People: **The LORD is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens!**

Pastor: I must perform my vows to You, O God; I will render thank offerings to You.

People: **For You have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.**



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us come before God in true repentance, seeking His mercy and forgiveness.

O God our Father, we admit and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought and in word and in deed.

People: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: We confess that we have not lived as Your followers but have sought to go our own ways in directions that have not brought glory to You or blessing to others.

People: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: We confess that Your love has not reached others through us in every situation, admitting with guilt that there have been times in which we have been loveless, thoughtless, and judgmental toward others, unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

People: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: We confess that Your will has not been our priority at all times and that we have not always been defenders of the weak and helpless in our circle of family, neighbors, and friends, and beyond.

People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: We confess that we have not used every opportunity given to us to witness to the resurrection faith that is ours and have at times been slow to speak of the hope that is ours in Christ.

People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May the God of peace sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

People: Amen.

KYRIE "Lord, Have Mercy" *LSB 152*

HYMN OF PRAISE (Divine Service, Setting One) "This is the Feast" *LSB 155*



☩ **WORD** ☩

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

(Peter preaches to the people gathered in Jerusalem.)

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: 1 Peter 1:17-25

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

And 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 the sake of you 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.”**

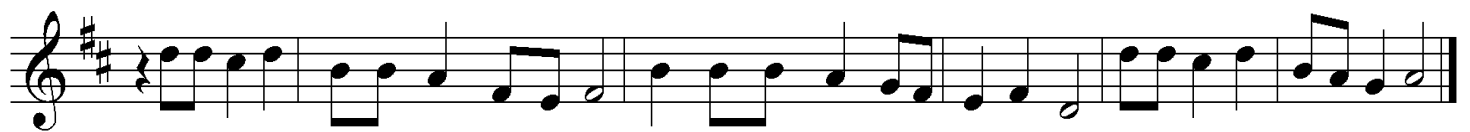
And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise for the Verse and the Holy Gospel.

VERSE *John 6:68*



Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Holy Gospel: 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.



On the Road to Emmaus

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day "All Christians Who Have Been Baptized"

LSB 596
(Verses 1-4)

Sermon "What Is Easter to You?"

Pastor John Larson
Text: Luke 24:13-35

THE APOSTLES' CREED

(found on the back cover of the hymnal)

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy ...

People: Hear our prayer.

Sharing of the Peace

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

People: And also with you.

You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using...Peace be with you!

Offering (4:00 pm – collected in the back;
8:00 – collected in the pews)

Offering Music (8:00)

“We Know That Christ is Raised” (Pastorale)
Michael Burkhardt



Sacrament of Communion

✠ HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION ✠

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 160

Proper Preface

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, whose love daily attends us and whose peace blesses us in countless ways. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we worthily receive the bread and wine, that is the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of the full salvation He has won for us. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. Unite us with all who gather with us at Your Table here and with all in Your glorious presence who now feast at Your eternal table in the courts of heaven. Together with them we join in praising You with song:

Sanctus (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 161

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer *Matthew 6:9-13*

People: **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.**

Agnus Dei (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 163



DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Special Organ Music “This Joyful Eastertide” Michael Burkhardt

Hymn “This Joyful Eastertide” *LSB 482*

Hymn “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness” *LSB 563*

General Communion Blessing

Benediction (Divine Service, Setting One)

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 ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen**

Closing Hymn “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord” *LSB 352*

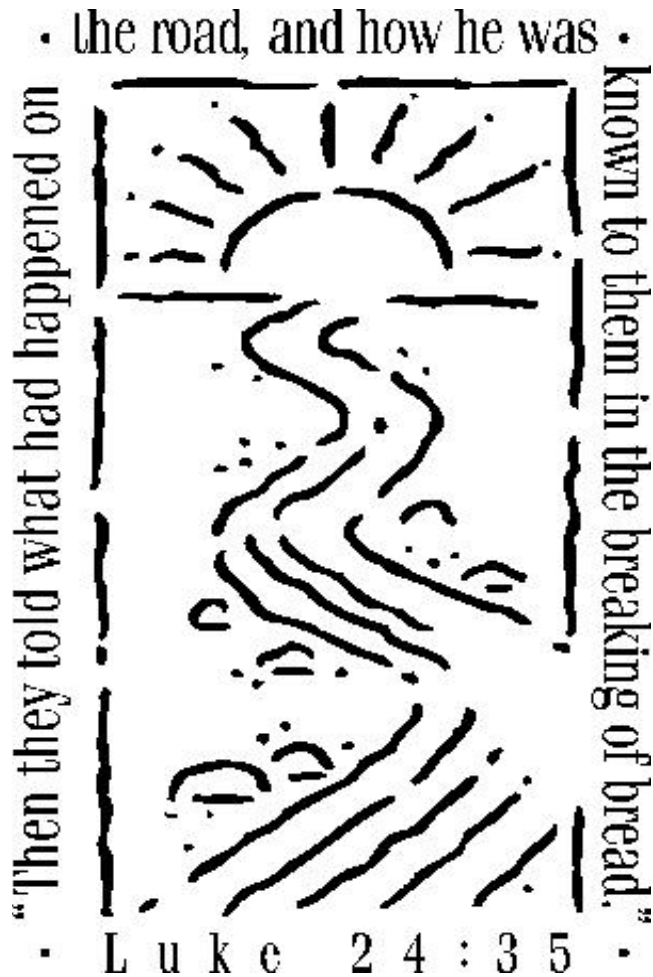
Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace.
 Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord” (Opus 17) Paul Manz



SERVING IN WORSHIP

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|---|---|
| OFFICIANT / PREACHER | Pastor John Larson |
| MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST | Michael Zehnder |
| CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER | Ann Kirkpatrick |
| YOUTH PRAISE BAND LEADER | Stephanie Roettjer |
| ELDERS | 4:00 pm Jim Wert; 8:00 am Benjamin Dallet; 10:30 am David Pearman |
| ACOLYTE | 8:00 am Benjamin Dallet; 10:30 am Abby Williams |
| LECTORS | 4:00 pm Curt Engle; 8:00 am David Kaiser; 10:30 am Sherry Hitztaler |
| COMMUNION SERVERS | 4:00 pm Curt Engle; 10:30 am Sherry Hitztaler |
| ALTAR GUILD | Tanya Schmitt, Charmaine Rohde |

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