

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

April 19, 2026

10:30 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 ✘

Gathering Song

GRATITUDE

Brandon Lake

All my words fall short, I got nothing new
How could I express, All my gratitude

I could sing these songs, As I often do
But every song must end, And You never do

CHORUS So I throw up my hands, And praise You again and again
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah, hallelujah
And I know it's not much, But I've nothing else fit for a king
Except for a heart singing hallelujah, Hallelujah

I've got one response
I've got just one move
With my arms stretched wide
I will worship You (**CHORUS**)

Come on my soul, Oh don't you get shy on me
Lift up your song 'Cause you've got a lion inside of those lungs
Get up and praise the Lord (Sing 3 times)

(CHORUS)

Benjamin Hastings, Brandon Lake, Dante Bowe CCLI Song #7158417 © 2019 Bethel Worship Publishing; Brandon Lake Music; Maverick City Publishing; Maverick City Publishing Worldwide; SHOUT!
Music Publishing Australia; Bethel Music Publishing All rights reserved. Invocation

Pastoral Greeting



Opening Song

FOREVER

Tomlin

**Give thanks to the Lord—Our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good He is above all things
His love endures forever—Sing praise sing praise**

**With a mighty hand—And an outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn—His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise**

**Forever God is faithful—Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us—Forever forever**

**From the rising to the setting sun—His love endures forever
And by the grace of God—We will carry on
His love endures forever—Sing praise sing praise**

CCLI Song # 3148428 Chris Tomlin © 2001 Rising Springs Music; Vamos Publishing; worshiptogether.com songs For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1903595

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.

☩ **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 Holy Gospel.

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



On the Road to Emmaus

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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Song of the Day IN CHRIST ALONE

Townend—Getty

In Christ alone my hope is found.
He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh.
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid, Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then, bursting forth in glorious Day,
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death.
This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand.
'Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

CCLI Song # 3350395 Keith Getty | Stuart Townend © 2001 Thankyou Music Ltd For use solely with the SongSelect®
Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1903595

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 *(collected in the back)*

✠ **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

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**



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

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

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.**



DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Song **AMAZING GRACE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE)** Tomlin

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
Was blind but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.

**CHORUS My chains are gone. I've been set free,
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy rains,
Unending love, amazing grace.**

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures. **CHORUS X2**

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine.
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine, Will be forever mine.
You are forever mine.

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken. I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me because You died and rose again.

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken. I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me because You died and rose again.

CHORUS

Amazing love, how can it be That You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true; It's my joy to honor You.
In all I do I honor You. **(REPEAT)**

You are my King. You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King. Jesus, You are my King. **(CHORUS)**

CCLI Song # 2456623 Billy J. Foote © 1996 worshiptogether.com songs For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](#). All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1903595

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 Song **GLORIOUS DAY**

Stanfill / Ingram / Smith

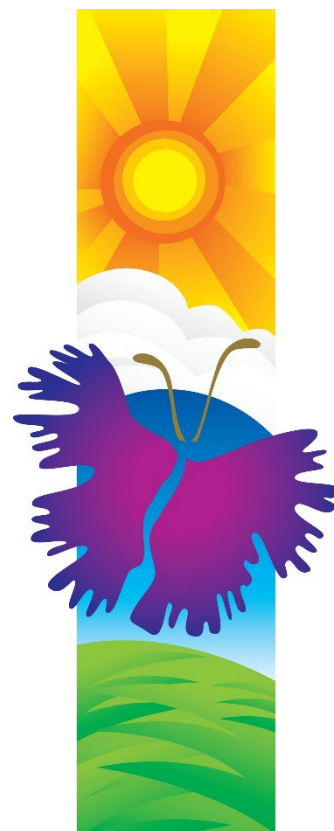
I was buried beneath my shame
Who could carry that kind of weight
It was my tomb 'til I met You

I was breathing but not alive
All my failures I tried to hide
It was my tomb 'til I met You

CHORUS: You called my name (and)
I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day
You called my name (and) I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day

Now Your mercy has saved my soul
Now Your freedom is all that I know
The old made new Jesus when I met You... **Chorus**

I needed rescue my sin was heavy
But chains break at the weight of Your glory
I needed shelter I was an orphan
Now You call me a citizen of Heaven



When I was broken You were my healing
Now Your love is the air that I'm breathing
I have a future my eyes are open, cause when You called my name... **Chorus**

CCLI Song # 7081388 Jason Ingram | Jonathan Smith | Kristian Stanfill | Sean Curran © 2017 KPS 1.0; sixsteps Music; sixsteps Songs; Sounds Of Jericho; Worship Together Music; worshiptogether.com songs; Fellow Ships Music; Hickory Bill Doc; So Essential Tunes For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](#). All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1903595

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace.
Serve the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.



“Did not our **hearts**
burn within us ...
while **he opened** to us
the **Scriptures?**”

Luke 24:32, ESV

SERVING IN WORSHIP

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

✠ ✠ ✠

Ascension Lutheran Church
1701 West Caley Avenue, Littleton, Colorado 80120
www.alutheran.org
(303) 794-4636 office@alutheran.org
Extended Day Preschool
303-730-2514 director@alcpreschool.com