



April 19, 2026

The Third Sunday of Easter

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Christ Is Our Cornerstone”

♪ Christ is our cornerstone, On Him alone we build; With His true saints alone
The courts of heav’n are filled. On His great love
Our hopes we place Of present grace And joys above.

♪ Here may we gain from heav’n The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv’n, Be with us evermore
Until that day When all the blest To endless rest Are called away.

♪ Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise The Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim In joyful song, Both loud and long, That glorious name.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 912—Text: Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.; Text: Public domain

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!

Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore!

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!

The Lord is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens!

Psalm 113:1-4

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

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

Psalm 56:12-13

Confession and Absolution

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

A Time of Silence

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.

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

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.

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

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.

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

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.

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

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.

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

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. 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.

Amen.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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. Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”

♪ Christ has arisen, alleluia. Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia.

For our Redeemer burst from the tomb, Even from death, dispelling its gloom.

~Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy; Death’s fearful sting He has come to destroy.

Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living! Alleluia!

♪ For three long days the grave did its worst Until its strength by God was dispersed.

He who gives life did death undergo; and in its conquest His might did show. ~Let us...

♪ The angel said to them, “Do not fear! You look for Jesus who is not here.

See for yourselves the tomb is all bare; Only the grave cloths are lying there!” ~Let us...

♪ “Go, spread the news: He’s not in the grave; He has arisen this world to save.

Jesus’ redeeming labors are done; Even the battle with sin is won.” ~Let us...

♪ Christ has arisen; He sets us free; Alleluia, to Him praises be.

Jesus is living! Let us all sing. He reigns triumphant, heavenly King. ~Let us....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, 1938–2021; tr. Howard S. Olson, 1922–2010

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First Reading

Acts 2:14, 36–41

¹⁴But 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.

³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now 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?” ³⁸And 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. ³⁹For 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.” ⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to

exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 Peter 1:17–25

¹⁷And 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, ¹⁸knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹who 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. ²²Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers, and the flower falls,

²⁵but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

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

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“He’s Risen, He’s Risen”

♪ He’s risen, He’s risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened death’s prison, th’ incarnate, true Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.

♪ The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan’s domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
For Jesus was slain whom the evil ones fear.

♪ But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.

♪ O, where is your sting death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden’s door.
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.

Please Stand

♪ Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb Who was slain:
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 24:13–35

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then 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?” ¹⁹And 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, ²⁰and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹But 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. ²²Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³and 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. ²⁴Some 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.” ²⁵And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹but 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. ³⁰When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³²They 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?” ³³And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

Children’s Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“The Strife Is O’er”

~Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

♪ The strife is o’er, the battle done; Now is the victor’s triumph won;
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

♪ The pow’rs of death have done their worst, But Christ their legions hath dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

♪ The three sad days have quickly sped, He rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

♪ He broke the age-bound chains of hell; The bars from heav'ns high portals fell.
Let hymns of praise His triumph tell. Alleluia!

♪ Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee, From death's dread sting Thy servants free
That we may live and sing to Thee. Alleluia!

~Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 464—Text: Symphonia Sirenium Selectarum, 1695, Köln;
tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909, alt.; Text: Public domain*

Proclamation of the Word

“The Walk With Jesus”

Luke 24:13–35

Offering and Musical Offering

Preface *Please Stand*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Colossians 3:1

Let us give thanks to Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Psalms 136

Proper Preface

Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

1 Corinthians 11:26 & Revelation 22:20

O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

The Peace of the Lord

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Your Table I Approach”

♪ Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.

Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

♪ Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;

A contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

♪ Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,

Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

♪ Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;

God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

♪ O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

♪ Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood, O God my peace and light.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 628—Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633–1722;
tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.; Text: Public domain*

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“I Know that My Redeemer Lives” (vv. 1-4 & 8)

♪ I know that my Redeemer lives; What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living head.

♪ He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky; He lives exalted there on high.

♪ He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.

♪ He lives to grant me rich supply; He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint; He lives to hear my soul’s complaint.

♪ He lives, all glory to His name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 461—Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–99, abr.; Text: Public domain

Postlude