

Sunday, April 19, 2026
Third Sunday of Easter, Year A

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
You lead us beside still waters.
We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.
We thank you for the waters that nourish us.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn ELW 377 Alleluia! Jesus is Risen vs. 1-3

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.

KYRIE & HYMN OF PRAISE - Bonnie Drewes, page 4

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

O God, your Child comes to all disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see the living Christ at work in the world around us. We ask this in the name of the one who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

KIDS SERMON

First Reading: 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.

“Therefore, let the whole House of Israel know beyond any doubt that God made this Jesus—whom you crucified—both Messiah and Sovereign.”

When they heard this, they were deeply shaken. They asked Peter and the other disciples, “What are we to do?” Peter replied, “You must repent and be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus the Messiah, that your sins may be forgiven; then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. It was to you and your children that the promise was made, and to all those still far off whom our God calls.” In support of his testimony, Peter used many other arguments and kept saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation!” They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptized. That very day about three thousand were added to the number of those converted.

The word of God for the people of God,

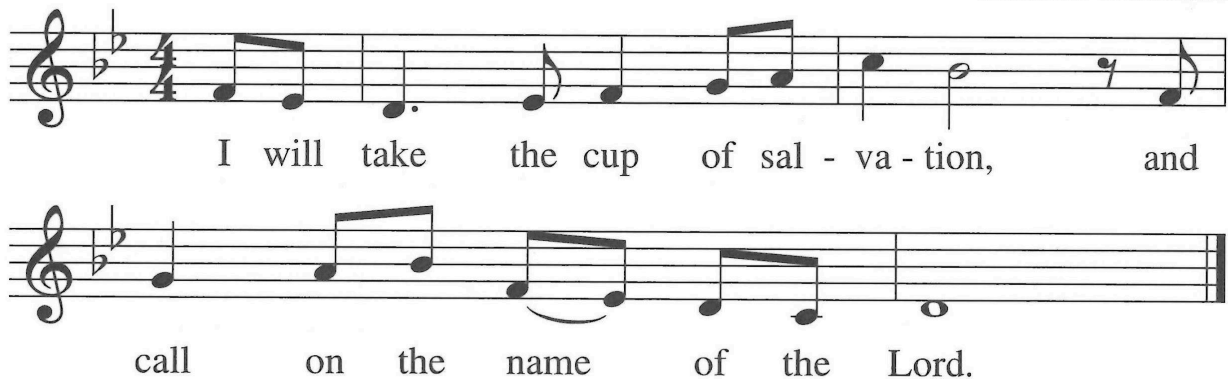
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

Ps. 116

Michel Guimont



I will take the cup of sal - va - tion, and
call on the name of the Lord.

How can I repay the LORD
for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the LORD's name. R.

O precious in the eyes of the LORD
is the death of the faithful.

Your servant, LORD, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds. R.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the LORD's name.
My vows to the LORD I will fulfill
before all the people. R.

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SECOND READING: 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.

When you pray, you call on Abba God, who judges everyone impartially on the basis of their actions. Since this is so, conduct yourselves reverently during your sojourn in a foreign land. Realize that you were delivered from the futile way of life your ancestors handed on to you, not by any diminishable sum of gold or silver but by Christ's blood, which is beyond all price: the blood of a spotless, unblemished lamb foreknown before the world's foundation and revealed for your sake in these last days. It is through Christ that you are believers in God, the God who raised Christ from the dead into glory. Your faith and hope, then, are centered in God.

By obedience to the truth you have purified yourselves for a genuine love of your sisters and brothers. Therefore love one another constantly, from the heart. Your rebirth has come not from a perishable seed but from an imperishable one—the living and enduring word of God.

The word of God for the people of God,
Thanks be to God.

I invite you to stand in body or spirit for the Gospel Acclamation:
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - Bonnie Drewes, page 5

GOSPEL: 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.

That same day, two of the disciples were making their way to a village called Emmaus—which was about seven miles from Jerusalem— discussing all that had happened as they went. While they were discussing these things, Jesus approached and began to walk along with them, though they were kept from recognizing Jesus, who asked them, “What are you two discussing as you go your way?” They stopped and looked sad. One of them, Cleopas by name, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who doesn’t know the things that have happened these past few days?” Jesus said to them, “What things?” They said, “About Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet powerful in word and deed in the eyes of God and all the people— how our chief priests and leaders delivered him up to be condemned to death and crucified him. We were hoping that he was the One who would set Israel free. Besides all this, today—the third day since these things happened— some women of our group have just brought us some astonishing news. They were at the tomb before dawn and didn’t find the body; they returned and informed us that they had seen a vision of angels, who declared that Jesus was alive. Some of our number went to the tomb and found it to be just as the women said, but they didn’t find Jesus.” Then Jesus said to them, “What little sense you have! How slow you are to believe all that the prophets have announced! Didn’t the Messiah have to undergo all this to enter into glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the

prophets, Jesus interpreted for them every passage of scripture which referred to the Messiah.

By now they were near the village they were going to, and Jesus appeared to be going further. But they said eagerly, “Stay with us. It’s nearly evening—the day is practically over.” So the savior went in and stayed with them. After sitting down with them to eat, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, then broke the bread and began to distribute it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus, who immediately vanished from their sight. They said to one another, “Weren’t our hearts burning inside us as this one talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?” They got up immediately and returned to Jerusalem, where they found the Eleven and the rest of the company assembled. They were greeted with, “Christ has risen! It’s true! Jesus has appeared to Simon!” Then the travelers recounted what had happened on the road, and how they had come to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY W&P 113 Open our eyes, Lord

We will now take a moment of reflection, to listen to the spirit. This is also a time to prepare our hearts for the offering. We all have so much to share: time, talent, tithe. In the bulletins, there is a piece called Joyful Giving to share what you will give the community this week. Those slips can be placed in the offering basket.

TIME OF REFLECTION

OFFERING **Offertory, Bonnie Drewes, page 7**

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.

You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

Living Savior, just as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Gather us at your table, that we recognize you in the breaking of the bread. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Almighty God, you provide for the needs of all creation. Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting, and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance. Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there is violence, sow peace. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Heal those who are sick. Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Gracious One, you have made us your own through the gift of baptism. Unite us in genuine love for one another and uphold this community in your name. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

We also ask that you be with those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts, especially (PRAYER LIST)... Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Eternal Light, we give thanks for all who have nurtured your church's life in ages past. Bring us at last with them to the brightness of your glorious presence.
Merciful God, receive our prayer.

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.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (Sung, Bonnie Drewes, page 8)

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

On Easter morning, the women went looking for Jesus. The angel said he was not in the tomb, so they ran, afraid yet filled with joy. They sought after him. They hurried to Galilee, looking for their risen Christ. And in their seeking, the text tells us: "Suddenly, Jesus met them" (*Matthew 28:9*).

Jesus met the women in their seeking.

Jesus met them in their moment of fear and grief.

Jesus met them when they felt lost.

Jesus met them and provided hope.

Friends, if like the women you are seeking Christ, if you have known grief or fear, if you have ever felt lost, or if you are in need of some hope, then come to this Table.

All are welcome here.

For just as Jesus met the women in their seeking, I am confident that Jesus meets us here, saying, "Do not be afraid."

Here at this table we remember that final meal, where Jesus gathered with his friends, followers and loved ones, even the one who was to betray him. And at that table he took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Holy One, through this meal we remember the promise of Easter: death does not have the last word. So may we live like that is true. May we speak this hope to our neighbors. May we look for you in our midst. May we see you at this Table, in this ordinary bread and cup. And may we always remember: alleluias came after the grave. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As we live like Easter people, let us continue to pray the words Jesus taught us to pray, in the language or version of our hearts:

Heavenly God, giver of life, holy is your name. Your realm come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For you reign in power and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Distribution

Communion Hymns ELW 485 I am the Bread of Life

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Blessing

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the embodiment of unfathomable love and grace,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
‡ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Song Bonnie Drewes, page 10-11**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**