



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 19, 2026

PRELUDE

Christians, to the Paschal Victim (arr. Cathy Moklebust)
Spirit Ringers

WELCOME

MISSION MOMENT

Justice in Action - Karen Statham

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation.

C O Lord, our God, we give you thanks for the gift of baptism.

P O Lord our God, we give you thanks for the new life you raise up in us.

C Empower us to be living signs of your new heaven and new earth as we join your work in the world.

P Blessed be God, who calls us Beloved, + Jesus who bears the cross, and the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Let us confess our sin and acknowledge our brokenness in the presence of God and one another.

Kneel or sit. Silence is kept for reflection.

P Steadfast and faithful God,

C you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the path to join your work in the world; In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P Beloved in Christ, God's grace stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Thine Is the Glory (ELW 376)

**1 Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.**

Refrain

**Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!**

**2 Lo, Jesus meets thee,
risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets thee,**

scatters fear and gloom;
let his church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting! *Refrain*

3 No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee;
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors,
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above. *Refrain*

GREETING

P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

Refrain - All

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev'ry day.

Cantor:

For the peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

**This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,
For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
And honor, blessing, and glory are his. *Refrain***

**Sing with all the people of God,
And join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God
And the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

C **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.**

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14^a, 36-41

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ³⁶ "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive

the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

R Word of God. Word of Life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 116

Refrain Sing after cantor introduction and at R

I will call up-on the Lord who is wor-thy to be praised.

Verses chant responsively

- ¹ I love the Lord, who has¹ heard my voice,
and listened to my¹ supplication,
² **for the Lord has given¹ ear to me**
whenev-¹er I called.
- ³ The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave¹ came upon me;
I came to¹ grief and sorrow.
- ⁴ **Then I called upon the name¹ of the Lord:**
“O Lord, I pray you,¹ save my life.” R
- ¹² How shall I re-¹ pay the Lord
for all the good things God has¹ done for me?
- ¹³ **I will lift the cup¹ of salvation**
and call on the name¹ of the Lord.
- ¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows¹ to the Lord
in the presence of¹ all God’s people.
- ¹⁵ **Precious in your¹ sight, O Lord,**
is the death¹ of your servants.
- ¹⁶ O Lord, truly I¹ am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me¹ from my bonds.
- ¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice¹ of thanksgiving**
and call upon the name¹ of the Lord. R
- ¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows¹ to the Lord
in the presence of¹ all God’s people,
- ¹⁹ **in the courts of¹ the Lord’s house,**
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. ¹Hallelujah! R

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:17-23

¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God. ²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

R Word of God. Word of Life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

KIDS' MESSAGE**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Be not afraid, sing out for joy!

Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid, sing out for joy!

Christ is risen, alleluia!

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-17

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut

down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Guest Preacher: Pastor Mark Lachonce
(Director of the Bethany Beyond the Jordan Baptismal Site)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Stay with Us (WOV 743)

- 1 **Stay with us, till night has come:
our praise to you this day be sung.
Bless our bread, open our eyes:
Jesus, be our great surprise.**

- 2 **Walk with us, our spirits sigh:
hear when our weary spirits cry,
feel again our loss, our pain:
Jesus, take us to your side.**

- 3 **Walk with us, the road will bend:
make all our weeping, wailing end.
Wipe our tears, forgive our fears:
Jesus, lift the heavy cross.**

- 4 **Talk with us, till we behold
a joyful life you will unfold:**

**heal our eyes to see the prize:
Jesus, take us to the light.**

**5 Stay with us, till day is done:
no tears nor dark shall dim the sun.
Cheer the heart, your grace impart:
Jesus, bring eternal life.**

APOSTLES' CREED

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS

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

After each petition, respond with, "receive our prayers."

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Recent concerns: Ruby Augustine, Julius Swen, Janice Schnier, Jane Zatechka, Velda Schmidt and Mary Phelan. *Those with ongoing concerns:* Marge Wessels, Pastor Bill Peterson, Mary Brass, Vern Westberg, Michael Dalton and Beth Strasheim. *Those who are part of our homebound community:* Sylvia Kempf, M. Joyce Hansen, Cindy Schuster, Betty Miller, Jeanette Metteer, Dennis Schuster, Rod Price, De Hansen, and Margrett Wehland.

P 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.

C Amen.

PEACE OF CHRIST IS SHARED

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

MUSIC OFFERING

The Power of the Cross - Oh, to See the Dawn (Getty/arr. Tornquist)
Christine Carman, piano

Musical Offering response:

P To God be the glory.

C Amen.

OFFERTORY HYMN

**At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious king,
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from his wounded side.
Alleluia!**

**Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit guide through all our days:
Three in One, your name we praise.
Alleluia!**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray. Risen One,

**C you call us to believe and bear fruit. Make the gifts that we offer here be signs of your
abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true
vine. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed... *(here the minister continues with the proper preface, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

God of Host.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

P We pray in confidence in the words Jesus gave us:

**C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom 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 the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

P Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us,**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us,**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us your peace., grant us your peace.**

COMMUNION MUSIC

Abide, O Dearest Jesus (Melchoir Vulpius)
Jenna Troutman, vocal

COMMUNION HYMNS

Eat This Bread (ELW 472)

"Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst."

Jesus Christ, bread of life,
those who come to you will not hunger.
Jesus Christ, risen Lord,
those who trust in you will not thirst.

This Joyful Eastertide (ELW 391)

- 1 This joyful Eastertide,
away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified,
has sprung to life this morrow.

Refrain

Had Christ, who once was slain,
not burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain.
But now has Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen, arisen.

- 2 My flesh in hope shall rest
and for a season slumber
till trump from east to west
shall wake the dead in number. *Refrain*
- 3 Death's flood has lost its chill
since Jesus crossed the river.

**Lover of souls, from ill
my passing soul deliver. *Refrain***

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

C **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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

P God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Day of Arising (OBS 54)

- 1 Day of arising,
Christ on the roadway,
unknown companion
walks with his own.
When they invite him,
as fades the first day,
and bread is broken,
Christ is made known.

- 2 When we are walking,
doubtful and dreading,
blinded by sadness,
slowness of heart,
yet Christ walks with us
ever awaiting
our invitation:

Stay, do not part.

**3 Lo, I am with you,
 Jesus has spoken.
 This is Christ's promise,
 this is Christ's sign:
 When the church gathers,
 when bread is broken,
 there Christ is with us
 in bread and wine.**

**4 Christ, our companion,
 hope for the journey,
 bread of compassion,
 open our eyes.
 Grant us your vision,
 set all hearts burning
 that all creation
 with you may rise.**

DISMISSAL

P Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing (arr. John Behnke)

Lead Pastor: Erin Heidelberger
Associate Pastor: Andrew Kitzing
Cantor: Jenna Troutman
Live Streaming: Brian Niebuhr

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