

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 19, 2026



ST. PAUL'S

Evangelical Lutheran Church

WELCOME

Welcome! We are glad you are joining our community of faith for worship today. Whether you are a long-time Lutheran, or you come from another Christian tradition, or you're wandering or wondering about faith and the church, you are welcome to participate in worship in whatever ways are comfortable for you. If you are new to St. Paul's you can request more information on our web site contact page here:
www.stpaulsbrenham.org/contact

Our worship liturgy is rooted in the ancient church's practice of gathering on Sundays to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus through hearing God's Word and sharing the communion meal in the presence of Christ. We welcome all baptized Christians to receive communion. Children who are communing in other churches are invited to commune here. All who are not receiving are invited to come forward for a blessing—you may indicate you want a blessing by holding your hands together or crossing your arms in front of you.

This bulletin is a helpful guide to our worship liturgy, as are ushers and friendly people gathered here with you to worship God together.

ST. PAUL'S STAFF

Michael Coffey	Lead Pastor
Donna Krueger	Pastor of Care Ministry
Diane Garrett	Organist
Larry Smith	Choir Director
Dr. Sarah Burke	Director of Contemporary Music
Lisa Eben	Financial Director
Thomas Johnson	Communications Coordinator
Anne Briggs	Membership Coordinator
Sarah Zwahr	Director of Youth and Family
Julie Guiberteau	Media Technician
Sandra Ehlinger	Head of Christian Day School

CONTACT US

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*St. Paul's is a congregation of
the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
Learn more at www.elca.org*

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

OFFERING

Offering plates are on the welcome table in the narthex. Feel free to leave your offering there. The offering will be presented during the worship liturgy. You can also make an offering online at www.stpaulsbrenham.org/give

FIRST AID

A First Aid Kit and AED (defibrillator) are located in the closet of the usher room in the Narthex.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

The Strife is O'er

Daniel Burton

SOUNDING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

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 from the Brazos River and Lake Somerville.

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 in 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.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW Setting Three page 140 *This Is the Feast*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Please be seated.

(10:30) DISMISSAL FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 51:1-6

The enduring foundation of God's salvation

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

The cantor sings the refrain, and the congregation repeats it. The psalm is sung responsively.



I will call up - on the name of the LORD.

- ¹ I love the LORD, who has ¹ heard my voice,
and listened to my ¹ supplication,
- ² **for the LORD has given ¹ ear to me
whenever ¹ I called.**
- ³ The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave ¹ came upon me;
I came to ¹ grief and sorrow.
- ⁴ **Then I called upon the name ¹ of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray you, ¹ save my life.” Refrain**
- ¹² How shall I re- ¹ pay the LORD
for all the good things God has ¹ done for me?
- ¹³ **I will lift the cup ¹ of salvation
and call on the name ¹ of the LORD.**
- ¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows ¹ to the LORD
in the presence of ¹ all God’s people.
- ¹⁵ **Precious in your ¹ sight, O LORD,
is the death ¹ of your servants.**
- ¹⁶ O LORD, truly I ¹ am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me ¹ from my bonds.
- ¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice ¹ of thanksgiving
and call upon the name ¹ of the LORD. Refrain**
- ¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows ¹ to the LORD
in the presence of ¹ all God’s people,
- ¹⁹ **in the courts of ¹ the LORD’s house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. ¹ Hallelujah! Refrain**

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.

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person’s work, live in fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹ but with

the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through 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.

²² Now 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. ²³ You

have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 174 *Celtic Alleluia*

The assembly sings the Alleluia. The cantor sings the Gospel verse and the assembly repeats the Alleluia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor: Our hearts | burn within us while you open to | us the scriptures. (Luke 24:32)*

GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹ He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ 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 took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had

indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.

²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” ²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”

²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven

and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the

road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Donna Krueger

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 377 *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!*

APOSTLES' CREED

**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 OF INTERCESSION

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.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet one another with the peace of Christ. After the Peace, please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.
Offering plates are on the welcome table in the narthex before and after the service.*

MUSICAL OFFERING

Werde Munter David Christiansen

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING SONG

ELW 674 stanzas 1, 2 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

OFFERING PRAYER

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.**

DIALOGUE AND PREFACE

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.

It is indeed right... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW Setting Three page 144

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, living, and loving God,
we praise you for creating the heavens
and the earth.

We praise you.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family
through the waters of the flood, for freeing
your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,
and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We bless you.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living
among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry,
and with a love stronger than death,
gave his life for others.

We thank you.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

INVITATION

We welcome all baptized Christians to receive communion. Children who are communing in other churches are invited to commune here. All who are not receiving are invited to come forward for a blessing—you may indicate you want a blessing by holding your hands together or crossing your arms in front of you. Please follow the guidance from the ushers. Gluten-free wafers are available on request.

*Wine is red; grape juice is white. Those unable to come forward,
remain seated and communion will be brought to you.*

In the night in which he was betrayed...

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death
and glorious resurrection, we await your
promised life for all this dying world.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and
cup: carry us in your arms from death to life,
that we may live as your chosen ones,
clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

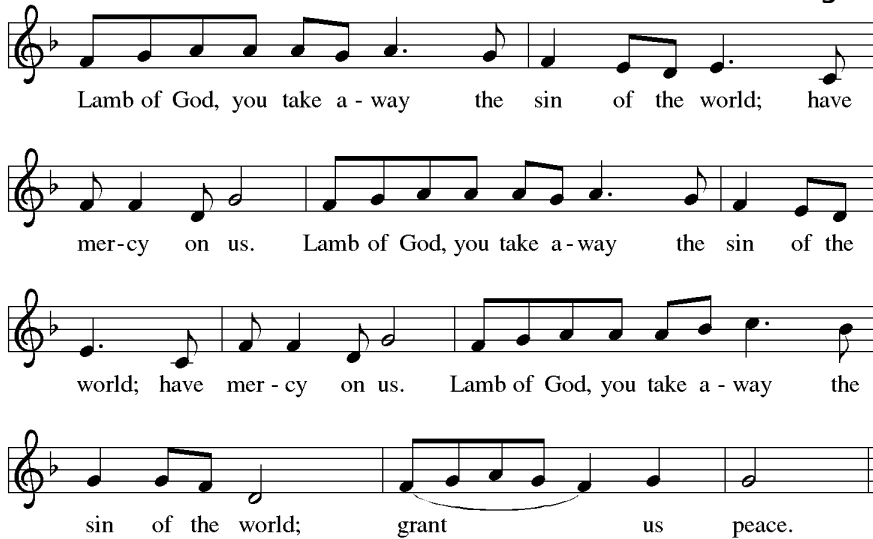
Come, Holy Spirit.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen

LAMB OF GOD

ELW Setting Three page 146



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

David Schelat

SONG

ELW 522 *As We Gather at Your Table*

Please stand as you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

May the presence of the risen Christ in this meal increase your faith and empower your service to neighbors everywhere. **Amen.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

ELW 674 stanza 3 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*
Stanza 3 is on page 7 of this bulletin.

SENDING

BLESSING

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. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

ELW 881 *Let All Things Now Living*

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Postlude on 'Christ the Lord is Risen Today' Richard Brown

GOSPEL MESSAGE

The Way of Resurrection

In some Bibles the subheading for today's gospel reading is "The Road to Emmaus." Although this is a suitable description, we could also call it "The Way to Emmaus." On the road or way to Emmaus, two disciples encounter the risen Christ. Notice that as Jesus accompanies them, he meets them where they are, holds their heartache, questions their assumptions, challenges their perspectives, and ultimately guides them deep into God's word. All this happens on the way!

Only one of the two companions on the way with Jesus is named: Cleopas. Why is the other disciple's identity a mystery? Luke may be using a clever storytelling device, one designed for readers to see themselves as part of the narrative. In that case, you may be the unnamed disciple in this Jesus story! (Aren't we all disciples on the way, accompanied by Jesus on the journey of Easter faith?)

Eventually, after Jesus blesses and breaks bread at a meal, the two disciples finally recognize him. Their hearts are kindled with faith and activated by the word of God encountered on the way with Jesus. It is no surprise that they hit the road again, racing back to Jerusalem to tell the others what just happened on the way.

From the very beginning, the way of faith in Christ has been a movement of resurrection promise. This movement has never stopped sharing the grace and love of God with everyone it encounters along the way. We are called to join this movement, with all our heartaches, assumptions, and misunderstandings. We are not people with all the answers, but sojourners or pilgrims on the way.

COMMEMORATIONS

**Olavus Petri, priest, died 1552; Laurentius Petri, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1573;
renewers of the church**

Sunday, April 19, 2026

These two brothers studied with Luther at the University of Wittenberg and then returned to their native Sweden to introduce the Lutheran reforms. Olavus published a catechism and hymnal; Laurentius was a professor who defended the office of bishop and later became one.

Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

This eleventh-century monk was one of the greatest theologians of the Middle Ages. He is remembered for emphasizing the maternal aspects of God, and for the theory that the Son of God became human in order to make the necessary payment for our sin.

Day of the Creation

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

This observance invites us to notice and give God thanks for the wonders of the created universe. As stewards of that creation, we are also challenged to be careful in our use of it.

Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960

Thursday, April 23, 2026

Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.

Mark, Evangelist

Saturday, April 25, 2026

He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written.