

# *3rd Sunday of Easter*

*April 26, 2020*



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Welcome! 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.

This is a special bulletin for Grace Lutheran Church. We have closed the Sanctuary to the general public amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and so for Easter the service will be pre-recorded from the Sanctuary. This bulletin is designed to be used at home by anyone who is baptized serving as the Worship Leader. If you use this bulletin for worship, either by itself or alongside our service on YouTube, please fill out the Attendance Record Form on our website: [GraceCLW.com](http://GraceCLW.com)

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Worship Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Congregation: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Worship Leader: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the worship leader gives thanks.*

Worship Leader: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

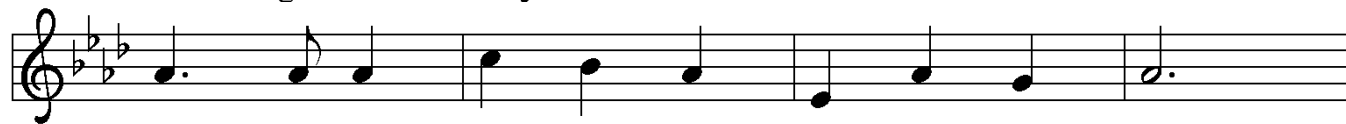
**Congregation: Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG

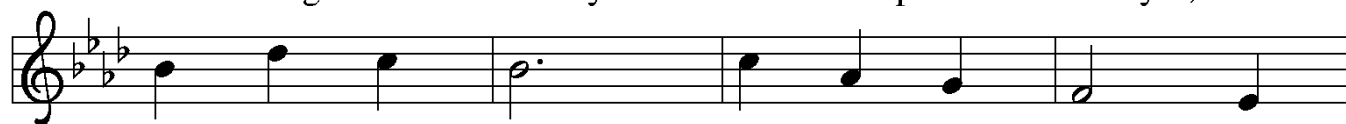
### *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!*



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.

*Refrain*



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

Worship Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Worship Leader: 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.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## FIRST READING

## Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Introduction to the Lesson: *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.*

Reader: <sup>14a</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], <sup>36</sup>“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup>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?” <sup>38</sup>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. <sup>39</sup>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.”

<sup>40</sup>And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup>So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

*After the reading...*

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

*The psalm for the day is read responsively.*

Reader: <sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,

**<sup>2</sup>for the LORD has given ear to me  
whenever I called.**

<sup>3</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;  
I came to grief and sorrow.

**<sup>4</sup>Then I called upon the name of the LORD:  
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**

<sup>12</sup>How shall I repay the LORD  
for all the good things God has done for me?

**<sup>13</sup>I will lift the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD.**

<sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God's people.

<sup>15</sup>**Precious in your sight, O LORD,  
is the death of your servants.**

<sup>16</sup>O LORD, truly I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

<sup>17</sup>**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God's people,

<sup>19</sup>**in the courts of the LORD's house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING

## 1 Peter 1:17-23

Introduction to the Lesson: *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.*

<sup>17</sup>If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup>You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup>He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup>Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

<sup>22</sup>Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup>You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

*After the reading...*

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done (chorus)*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

### GOSPEL LESSON

### Luke 24:13-35

Introduction to the Gospel: *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.*

Worship Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Luke in the 24th chapter.

**Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>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?” <sup>19</sup>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, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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.” <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>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?” <sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared

to Simon!”<sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

*After the reading...*

Worship Leader: The gospel of the Lord.

**Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE—From Sundays and Seasons**

### **Are You the Only Stranger?**

The two had been shuffling town to town, living in their mockery of a station wagon, a rolling address for a time uncertain, telling improbable stories when they showed up, last in line, at the church food pantry. Then, as if dazed by a vision, the couple’s progress back to their bald-tire shelter halted. They stood still, looking sad. “We have an empty bedroom,” said the volunteer, a jolt that hinted that her words had outmaneuvered her judgment. Whether a plea or a confession, she continued, “Please come; stay with us.” So, they did. The night passed, and several more like it. The hard-luck Chevy sat vacated in the driveway while in the house, stories unraveled into blessings. Then one morning when the coffee was brewed and bread browned into toast, they were simply gone, the two of them and the Chevy. On the kitchen table a note read, “Sutch [sic] a blessing that was here will stay with us for a long time or ever.”

How many times while walking the seven eternal miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus, discussing with each other the things that had taken place, did those two disciples of Jesus glance at his face or flinch at the sound of his voice, seeing only a stranger with them? It remains the misty curiosity of this late-in-the-day Easter story. How could they not know who he was, walking with them? What blind irony hangs from their one question: “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know . . . ?”

Then—why?—they invited this stranger in. “Stay with us.” Perhaps the real surprise is not those disciples’ blindness but our bemusement that they did not recognize Jesus when he came to them. For how often have we, too, failed to see Jesus in the stranger?

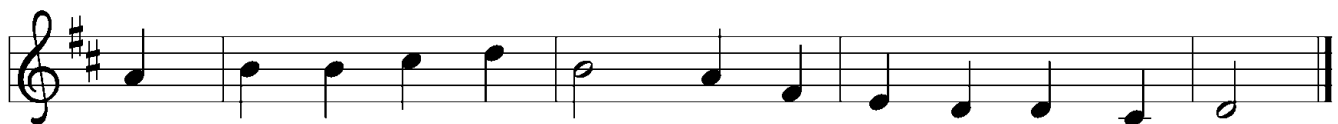
## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

### *Abide, O Dearest Jesus*



1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, a - mong us with your grace,  
2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, a - mong us with your word



that e - vil may not harm us nor we to sin give place.  
and thus now and here - af - ter true peace and joy af - ford.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Worship Leader: Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Prayer Leader: For those whose hearts are fervent with love for your gospel, that they are empowered to tell the story of your love in their lives and to show hospitality in response to this love. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: For the diverse natural world: for jungles, prairies, forests, valleys, mountains, and for all the wild and endangered animals who call these spaces home, that they are nurtured and protected. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: For broken systems we have inherited and that we continue to perpetuate, forgive us. Restrain the nations from fighting over limited resources. Redeem us from the cycles of scarcity and violence. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: For all who call upon your healing name, give rest. Stay with us, and walk with all those who are hungry, friendless, despairing, and desiring healing in body and spirit *especially* Marc Calhoun, Linda Almond, Barbara Haseley, Duke Tieman, Betty Biddle, Cathi Adams, Michael Morales, Wade Buehler, Gloria Holtzclaw, Betty Daege, Dianne William, Rosemarie & George Smith, Gary Neal, Karen Bates, Rev. Lydia Villanueva and family, Don Eunis, Lorraine Reinhard, Bonnie Redler, Kathy Leotta, Brytt Mathis, Joseph Valentin, Rita Burneik, Bobby Schlegel, Hilda Taylor, George Clark, Jill Grote, Larry Timmons, Carl Stone, Neftali Garcia and family, Kelly Sullivan, Susan Gunn, Roy Pruitt, Iris Valentin, Deacon Connie Puls, Joan Keeton, Steve Davis, the family and friends of Phyllis Clark, and those suffering from natural disasters, violence, and terror (especially those in harm's way while serving in the military and in the COVID-19 pandemic, Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: For the faith forming ministries of this church. For those preparing for baptism, first communion, confirmation, and membership (especially). For those who participate in Sunday school and adult education; guide and inspire learners of every age and ability. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Create in our hearts a yearning to rest in your promise of eternal and resurrected life. Give us thankful hearts for those who have died, even as we look forward to the hope of new life with you. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**



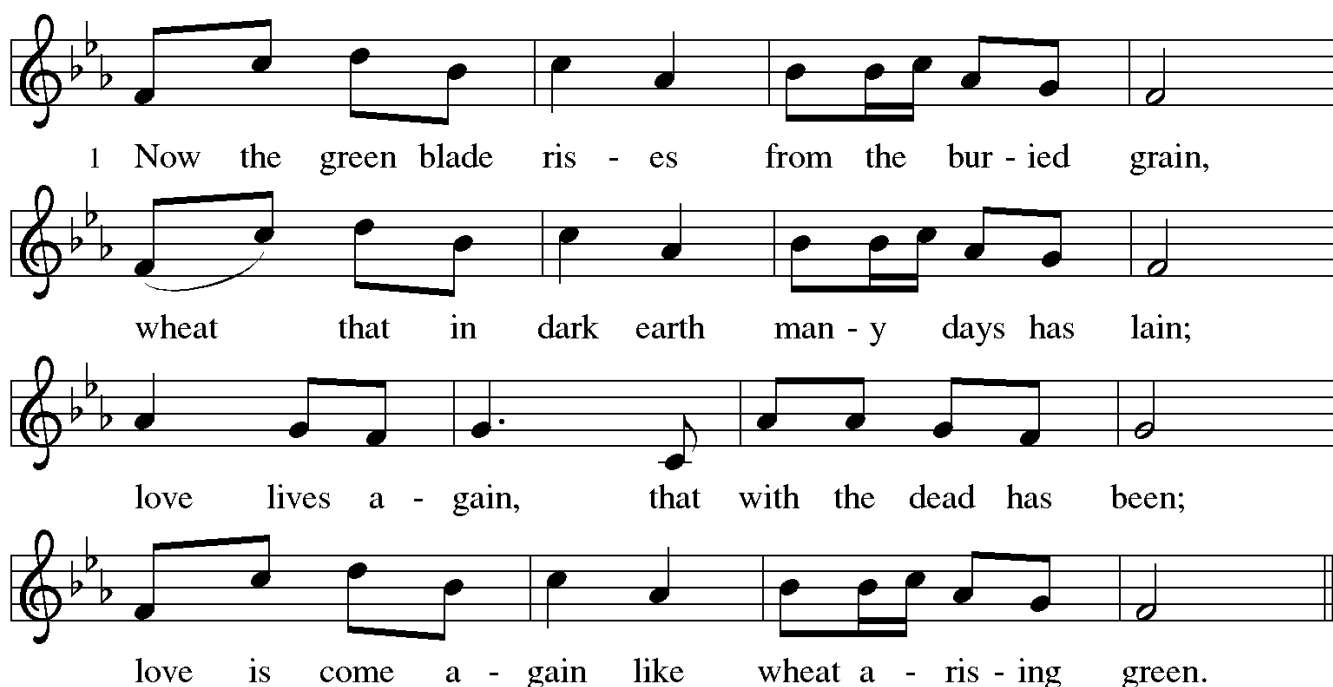
Worship Leader: With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## OFFERING

*Offerings to the mission and ministry of Grace can be made online at [GraceCLW.com](http://GraceCLW.com) (look for the "Donate" button), or (for now) by mailing a check to Grace Lutheran Church, 1812 N. Highland Ave. Clearwater FL 33755. Thank you for your continued financial support during these uncertain times. **You can fill out your attendance form on our website as well.***

## OFFERTORY



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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## OFFERING PRAYER

Prayer Leader: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Worship Leader: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray in the language closest to our hearts.

**Congregation: 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.**

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Worship Leader: Let us pray. O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## BLESSING

Worship Leader: May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

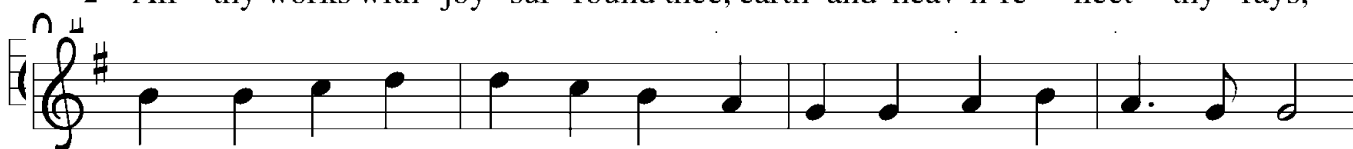
**Congregation: Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

### *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

## **DISMISSAL**

**Pastor:** Together we have heard God’s Word and joined in prayer, we have given and have been forgiven. Now our service of worship has ended, and our service to the world begins! Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Congregation: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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