

## **Third Sunday of Easter**

Sunday, April 19, 2026

### **Introduction to the day**

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.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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 2:14a, 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.*

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

I will call on the name of the LORD. (Ps. 116:13)

### **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.*

### **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.*

### **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.

## **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.

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 especially Chris Burchat, Natasha Gagnon-Burchat, Shirley Glickman, Donna L. Hoffman, Glenda Panke, Marilyn Schneider, Doug Sell and those in long term care facilities and senior residences. Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying. In this moment of silence, we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts, those who need your healing touch. 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.**

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.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

**Announcements:**

**Sunday, April 19th – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**9:00 AM** - Bonnechere – Holy Communion

**10:30 AM** – Grace – Holy Communion  
Sunday School

**Monday, April 20th**

**9: 00 AM to 3:00 PM** - Quilting at Grace

**Tuesday, April 21st**

**10:00 AM** – Bible Study

**7:00 PM** – Property Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**4:00 PM** – Confirmation

**Thursday, April 23rd**

**9:00 AM to 11:30 AM** – Toy Bus

**10:00 AM** – Grace Choir

**Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**

Pastor’s Day Off

**9:00 AM to 11:30 AM** – Toy Bus Parents

**Saturday, April 25th**

**10:00 AM** – Baptism of Nash Brian Bimm

**Sunday April 26th - Easter 4**

**9:00 AM** – Bonnechere SOW

**10:30 AM** - Grace - SOW  
Sunday School

+++++

***Whitewater Wesleyan Puppeteers***

*We are really looking forward to having the puppeteers come to Grace on Sunday, May 3, 2026. Their presentations will be a part of our worship time. Details are being finalized. There will be a potluck luncheon following worship. (ie. Sandwiches, veggies, fruit, cookies, etc.)*