

Salem Lutheran Church

115 N. Washington Ave., Albert Lea

Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

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.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Temple Talk

Bruce Ness

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

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.**

***HYMN**

Alleluia, Jesus is Risen!

#377

***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**

page 147

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

(bottom) page 149

***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.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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.

^{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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

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

¹ I love the LORD, who has | heard my voice,
and listened to my | supplication,

² **for the LORD has given | ear to me
whenev- | er I called.**

³ The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon me;
I came to | grief and sorrow.

⁴ **Then I called upon the name | of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray you, | save my life.” R**

¹² How shall I re- | pay the LORD
for all the good things God has | done for me?

¹³ **I will lift the cup | of salvation
and call on the name | of the LORD.**

¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD
in the presence of | all God’s people.

¹⁵ **Precious in your | sight, O LORD,
is the death | of your servants.**

¹⁶ O LORD, truly I | am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me | from my bonds.

¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving
and call upon the name | of the LORD. R**

¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD
in the presence of | all God’s people,

¹⁹ **in the courts of | the LORD’s house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. | Hallelujah! R**

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

ELW #174

***GOSPEL READING: Luke 24:13-35**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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.

SERMON

Pastor Mark Boorsma

***HYMN**

Day of Arising

ELW #374

***NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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 especially Barb, Pat, Andrea, Larry, Tammy, Dean, Dan, Del and all others on our hearts and minds this day. 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.

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.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*OFFERING

*We very much appreciate your continued giving and generosity at this time.
Offering can be placed in the offering plate at the door.*

*OFFERTORY

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

ELW # 678

* THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*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.**

Hymn

Come, Let Us Eat

ELW# 491

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

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*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.**

***DISMISSAL**

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

Assisting in Worship

Lector: Bruce Ness
Coffee: Vicki Reichl
Ushers: Mark & Marcia Gayken

Thank you to Jan Reshetar for the beautiful music this morning.

This Week at Salem

Tuesday, April 21:

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Friday, April 24

6:30 a.m. Friday Morning Bible Study

Next Sunday, April 26

9:00 a.m. Fellowship Coffee
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Albert Lea Cantori Spring Concert: Saturday, April 25th at 3:00 p.m. at United Methodist Church, Albert Lea. "Celebrate 250th Birthday of the United States of America!" All are invited and there will be a free-will offering.