

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
Easter Light—Gladsome Light
April 18 & 19, 2026

AS WE GATHER

Whether we will admit it or not, many of us are logophiles, which means that we love words. All of us have far more words in our vocabularies than we use in our daily conversation. We know what the words mean but for some reason we do not say them much. Words come into and go out of fashion and usage. One of those words that are not used much anymore is *gladsome*. It appears in several hymns of the Christmas season and is in the first line of the ancient evening hymn “O Gladsome Light, O Grace” (LSB 888), which dates back to the fourth century AD and was originally in the Greek language. It describes Jesus as being the ultimate gladsome light with these words: “O gladsome Light, O Grace of God the Father’s face, eternal splendor wearing: celestial, holy, blest, our Savior Jesus Christ, joyful in Thine appearing!” (LSB 888:1). Jesus, the risen Lord, is the light that brings gladness to each hour of the day. We are blessed in that we can always rejoice in His brightness!

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

VERSE

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. **Hebrews 13:20-21**

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #482 “This Joyful Eastertide”

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; But now has Christ arisen!**

Death’s flood has lost its chill Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill My passing soul deliver: **Refrain**

My flesh in hope shall rest And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west Shall wake the dead in number: **Refrain**

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD!

People: Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!

People: The LORD is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens!

Pastor: I must perform my vows to you, O God; I will render thank offerings to you.

People: For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us come before God in true repentance, seeking His mercy and forgiveness. O God our Father, we admit and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against you in thought and in word and in deed.

People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: We confess that we have not lived as your followers but have sought to go our own ways in directions that have not brought glory to you or blessing to others.

People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: We confess that your love has not reached others through us in every situation, admitting with guilt that there have been times in which we have been loveless, thoughtless, and judgmental toward others, unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: We confess that your will has not been our priority at all times and that we have not always been defenders of the weak and helpless in our circle of family, neighbors, and friends, and beyond.

People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: We confess that we have not used every opportunity given to us to witness to the resurrection faith that is ours and have at times been slow to speak of the hope that is ours in Christ.

People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May the God of peace sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB p. 155

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

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*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, through the humiliation of your Son you raised up the fallen world. Grant to your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

☩ WORD ☩

FIRST READING *Acts 2:14a, 36–41* (Peter preaches to the people gathered in Jerusalem.) ¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: ³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” ³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Peter 1:17–25* (Peter writes that we are redeemed by the blood of Christ.) ¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. ²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere

brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

5:00 BELLS *“Beach Spring”* arr Larry Sue

9:00 CHORISTERS *“Angels, Roll the Rock Away”*

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 24:13–35* (Two witnesses learn from the Risen Lord at Emmaus.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹ And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up 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 happened. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even 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 him they did not see.” ²⁵ And he said to them,

“O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. ²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“This Is the Day” AGPS #241

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made.
I will rejoice, I will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it,
This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

SERMON HYMN #525 “Crown Him With Many Crowns”

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav’nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.

Crown Him the virgin’s Son, The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose, Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, The babe of Bethlehem.

Pastor: Almighty God, stifle the powers of darkness and end the reign of war, violence and terror. Move leaders to seek peace and work for the common good. Instill in them a love of righteousness, and guide them in the pursuit of justice for all. Bless Donald, our president; the Congress of the United States; Tony, our governor; all state and local officials; all medical and emergency workers; and all members of the armed forces. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O God, you have not forgotten us in our afflictions or abandoned us in our weakness. Deliver the sick and suffering according to your will, and give comfort to the dying, especially to those who have requested our prayers including Michael, Barb, Marlene, Katherine, Zach, Carole, Kathy, Dan, Maxine, Pam, Marilyn, Dorothy, Janet, Jerry, Paula, Rhonda, Harland, June, Sharon, John, Debbie, Janice, David, Helga, Dick, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Guy, Jill, Cathy and Sarah. Guard us against despair, and grant us patience in days of trouble as we await your perfect healing. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: God of comfort and hope, we ask your blessing on Barb and John as they remember Barb's departed mother, Esther, on her birthday. Bless us all to look forward to the reunion to come. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, your compassion is made known to us through your Son's breaking of the bread. Open our hearts and mouths to receive forgiveness in the body and blood of Christ, who suffered for us and has entered into His glory. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, through the life, death and resurrection of your Son, you have delivered our souls from death, our eyes from tears and our feet from stumbling. Comfort all who mourn with this truth, that they may not grieve as others do who have no such hope. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: These things and whatever else you know that we need, kind Father, grant us for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Lord our God, for in Christ you have given us the victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil. Pour out upon us the gift of your Spirit, that we may receive your blessings with true thanksgiving. Grant that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in the gladsome light of your eternal kingdom. To you alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

People: Amen.

SANCTUS

LSB p. 161

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THE 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

LSB p. 163

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 peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #474 “Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen”

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain: Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Walking the way, Christ in the center Telling the story to open our eyes;
Breaking our bread, Giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.

Refrain

Jesus the vine, We are the branches; Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people, Gift of the future now flowing to me.

Refrain

Weeping, be gone; Sorrow, be silent: Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: “O grave, be open!” Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.

Refrain

City of God, Easter forever, Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, Saints and archangels, Sing with creation to God the I AM!

Refrain

HYMN #475 “Good Christian Friends Rejoice and Sing”

Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord of life is ris’n this day; Bring flow’rs of song to strew His way;
Let all the world rejoice and say: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory That love, that life which cannot die,
And sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord, And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

HYMN #483 “With High Delight Let Us Unite”

With high delight Let us unite In songs of great jubilation.
Ye pure in heart, All bear your part, Sing Jesus Christ, our salvation.
To set us free Forever, He Is ris’n and sends To all earth’s ends
Good News to save ev’ry nation.

True God, He first From death has burst Forth into life, all subduing.
His enemy Doth vanquished lie; His death has been death’s undoing.
“And yours shall be Like victory O’er death and grace,” Saith He, who gave
His life for us, life renewing.

Let praises ring; Give thanks, and bring To Christ our Lord adoration.
His honor speed By word and deed To ev’ry land, ev’ry nation.
So shall His love Give us above, From misery And death set free,
All joy and full consolation.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Blessed are you, heavenly Father, for once again we have
been served at your Table through our receiving of the body and blood
of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord in this joyful Eastertide. Strengthen
us through this Sacrament so that we continue to be your rejoicing
people who tell of your love to all as we await your eternal kingdom,
where you live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #487 “Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”

Come, you faithful, raise the strain Of triumphant gladness!
God has brought His Israel Into joy from sadness,
Loosed from Pharaoh’s bitter yoke Jacob’s sons and daughters,
Led them with unmoistened foot Through the Red Sea waters.

‘Tis the spring of souls today: Christ has burst His prison
And from three days’ sleep in death As a sun has risen;
All the winter of our sins, Long and dark, is flying
From His light, to whom is giv’n Laud and praise undying.

5:00 Congregation Sings; 9:00 Choristers Sing

**Now the queen of seasons, bright With the day of splendor,
With the royal feast of feasts Comes its joy to render;
Comes to gladden faithful hearts Which with true affection
Welcome in unwearied strain Jesus’ resurrection!**

For today among His own Christ appeared, bestowing
His deep peace, which evermore Passes human knowing.
Neither could the gates of death Nor the tomb’s dark portal
Nor the watchers nor the seal Hold Him as a mortal.

Alleluia! Now we cry To our King immortal,
Who, triumphant, burst the bars Of the tomb’s dark portal.
Come, you faithful, raise the strain Of triumphant gladness!
God has brought His Israel Into joy from sadness!

*Please join us down in the Fellowship Hall
for light refreshments and a reception
to hear from Seminarian Joseph Bender.*

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Organist

Seminarian Joseph Bender
Pastor Harold Bender
Gary Knight, Debbie Nier
Deaconess Carole King

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