



"The Road to Emmaus," an 1877 painting by Robert Zund. Public Domain.


*And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.* Luke 24:27

Third Sunday of Easter – April 26, 2020

**St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church**  
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**Today's service is televised locally**

Channel 14 - Comcast: Monday at 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Channel 3 - Nuvera: Mondays at 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

# Third Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2020

**Prayer before worship:** Lord Jesus Christ, risen from death and ascended to the right hand of God: Bless our lives, that no matter what we do you would direct us to know how to glorify your holy name. Strengthen us by your Word, and teach us be true and faithful witnesses to lead others to you. Accept our prayers and offerings for the sake of your holy name. Amen.

## Order of Service: *Service of Word and Sacrament* page 26

### OPENING HYMN

*Welcome, Happy Morning*

CW 163

1. "Welcome, happy morning!" Age to age shall say;  
"Hell today is vanquished; Heav'n is won today!"  
Lo, the Dead is living, God forevermore!  
Him, their true Creator, All his works adore.

### REFRAIN:

"Welcome, happy morning!" Age to age shall say;  
"Hell today is vanquished; Heav'n is won today!"

2. Maker and Redeemer, Life and Health of all,  
God from heav'n beholding Human nature's fall,  
Of the Father's Godhead You, the only Son,  
Mankind to deliver Manhood did put on. **REFRAIN**
3. He, of life the author, Death did undergo,  
Trod the path of darkness, Saving strength to show.  
Come, then, True and Faithful, now fulfill your word;  
This is your third morning—Rise, O buried Lord! **REFRAIN**
4. Free the souls long prisoned, Bound with Satan's chain;  
All that now is fallen Raise to life again.  
Show your face in brightness; Shine in ev'ry land  
As in Eden's garden When the world began. **REFRAIN**

*Please stand*

M: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C: Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

**C: Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

**C: O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth. Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love. You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit; you make us pure and holy in your sight. You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth. O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father, you came to live with us; you made your Father known; you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the King of glory; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

M: Let us pray.

**C: Amen.**

*Be seated*

## FIRST LESSON

## Acts 9:1-19a

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the

sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come

here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord-- Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here-- has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.



May God be gracious to us and bless us\*  
and make his face shine upon us;

may your ways be known on earth,\*  
your salvation among all nations.

May the nations be glad and sing for joy,\*  
for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.

### **Refrain**

Then the land will yield its harvest,\*  
and God, our God, will bless us.

God will bless us,\*  
and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy Spirit,**  
**as it was in the beginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### **Refrain**

## **SECOND LESSON**

## **Revelation 5:11-14**

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang:

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them,

singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

## **GENERAL VERSE**

**C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Please stand*



## GOSPEL

John 21:1-14

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. He

said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there

with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## HYMN of the DAY

*The Lamb*

CWS 714

1. The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?  
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!

### **Refrain**

Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own!  
The Lamb is reigning on his throne.

2. The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.  
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n his praise to sing. **Refrain**
3. The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill  
So still, his will, On our behalf the law to fill. **Refrain**
4. He sighs, he dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.  
He lives, forgives, He gives me his own righteousness. **Refrain**
5. He rose, he rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.  
His song prolong 'Til ev'ry heart to him belong. **Refrain**

## SERMON

Luke 24:13-35

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but

they were kept from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

"What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And

what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these

things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they

recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

### **JESUS, LEAD US BY YOUR WORD**

- 1. FORGIVE OUR SINS**
- 2. GIVE US COMFORT IN YOUR RESURRECTION**

*Please stand*

### **NICENE CREED**

p. 31

**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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

### **OFFERING**

**M:** Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

**C:** **Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.**

M: Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

**C: Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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.**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**C: Amen. Amen. Amen.**

† † †

**PREACHER  
ORGANISTS**

Pastor Jeff Bovee  
Rachel Feld  
Wayne Wagner

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Fruits of faith given::

\$16,686	Home Operations ~ \$15,346 is our weekly need		
\$1,311	MVL ~ \$1,163 is our weekly need	\$225	St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$1,820	Missions ~ \$1,714 is our weekly need	\$120	Endowment Fund
\$775	Building Fund ~ \$1,397 is our weekly need	\$100	Audio/Video Equipment
\$20	WELS Christian Aid & Relief		

**Voters' Meeting** ~ The St. John's voters' assembly will meet in virtual session on Tuesday, April 28, at 7 pm. The voters will receive quarterly reports from our called workers, officers, boards, and committees; in addition, the church council is recommending the extension of two one-year calls: 1) to Mr. James Dretske to be our full time staff minister; and 2) to Mrs. Emily Stoering to be our 5-6th grade teacher at St. Paul's School. Both calls would be for the period of July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021.

Additional information and rationale on the council recommendations was shared in an email from congregational president Steve Thiesfeldt during the past week. Because of mandatory social distancing constraints, the virtual voters' meeting will employ Google Meet in a manner similar to our Bible classes. Look for a link to join the meeting early in the week.

**Bible Classes** ~ will continue online. Join us Thursday mornings at 10:30 am for a study on the book of Colossians, on Thursday evenings at 7 pm for a study on the book of 2 Kings, and Sunday mornings at 9:30 am for a study of the book of Isaiah. All three classes will be held at Meet.Google.com (or with the Google Meet app on your smartphone or tablet) with "meeting code" tjx-anhj-gvx. Or use this shortcut which automatically enters the code for you: <https://bit.ly/STJLCNUMeet> (Note: the link is case sensitive). You can also call in over the phone at (209) 457-0523 using PIN: 100 259 597# (Note: This will be a long distance call.) The meeting room can hold up to 250 participants, so feel free to tell your friends!

**Sending Offerings through Bill Pay** ~ Several members of St. John's have asked if there is a way for them to make their weekly offerings automatically either online or by an automatic bank transaction. St. John's is investigating our online giving options, but are not yet ready to receive online gifts. For the time being, we suggest that our members consider using your bank's online Bill Pay service to make weekly or monthly gifts to St. John's. If you have questions about using Bill Pay to make donations, please contact Financial Secretary Mike Thom at 507-217-7671.

**Community Food Shelf** ~ During the month of May St. John members have an opportunity to help serve our NU community by volunteering at the NU Emergency Food Shelf. If you are able please take a few hours to lend a helping hand. The need is greater now than ever before. Both college and high school students are encouraged to help out. Please contact Rita Walters via phone or text at 507-351-8603 or email [rmwalters@hotmail.com](mailto:rmwalters@hotmail.com).

**Job Openings at Martin Luther College** ~ Do you have college students home for the summer? Are they looking for employment? The **MLC Early Childhood Learning Center** is in urgent need of workers for the summer - and depending on when restrictions are lifted possibly earlier. The position would be for 129 hours per month. The shifts run anywhere from 6:45 am-5:30 pm Monday-Friday and we are willing to schedule around other employment they may have. Child care experience is a plus but we are willing to train as needed. If interested please fill out an application on line <https://mlc-wels.edu/student-employment/>. There is also a link to Summer employment on the MLC Portal. If you would like more information please feel free to call us at 233-9105. Ask for Michelle or Liz. We are here from 7am - 4:30 pm Monday-Friday. Thank you and blessings as we all work to navigate these unusual circumstances.

Martin Luther College is now accepting applications for one temporary limited term **Men's Cross Country - Head Coach**. A comprehensive description for this position can be found at [mlc-wels.edu/hr](http://mlc-wels.edu/hr). Interested individuals should apply online. Applications will be accepted through 12:00 pm on Tuesday, April 28. Additional information and details can be obtained by contacting the Martin Luther College Human Resources Office at 507-354-8221.

**Administrative Teacher Jim Dretske**  
**Teacher Laura Balza**  
**Teacher Karen Grunwald**  
**Teacher Jean Schroeder**  
**St. John's Church Office**

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**About the Cover** ~ This portrayal of our Lord Jesus Christ with the two men we have come to know as the Emmaus Disciples, depicts them walking the seven mile journey from Jerusalem to the small town of Emmaus. Interestingly, Jesus remained a stranger to them throughout the journey. As amazed as they were at his knowledge of the Scriptures, they did not catch on until they reached to the end of their walk and he revealed himself to them. How slow of heart we all are sometimes to grasp what God shows us in his Word. But the Holy Spirit has his way with us spiritually and causes us to realize through the promise of the gospel, that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.