



THEN

*their eyes were*

OPENED

*and they recognized*

HIM.

LUKE 24:31, NIV

---

**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**

*Slane*

Arr. Donald Busarow

One License #AF20211048

*Hymn to Joy*

Arr. Donald Busarow

One License #10-524.1

### **WELCOME**

#### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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**

*Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing* RED ELW #389  
(Vs. 1, 2 & 5)

- 1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**
- 2 Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching ev'ry place and time.**

**5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
CCLI #68041 & One License #269725

## **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.**

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

*Praise to You, O God of Mercy* RED ELW #208

- 1 Praise to you, O God of mercy:  
thanks be to you forever!  
Raising high the weak and lowly:  
thanks be to you forever!**
- 2 From of old you loved and sought us:  
thanks be to you forever!  
Truth and justice you have taught us:  
thanks be to you forever!**

## **Bridge**

**Strong is your faithfulness,  
strong is your love,  
rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.**

- 3 Praise to you, O God of mercy:  
thanks be to you forever!  
Raising high the weak and lowly:  
thanks be to you forever!  
Thanks be to you forever!**

Text: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved.  
Used by permission.

One License #01117

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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: Isaiah 51:1-6**

*The enduring foundation of God's salvation*

<sup>1</sup> Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,  
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn  
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

<sup>2</sup> Look to Abraham your father  
and to Sarah, who bore you,  
for he was but one when I called him,  
but I blessed him and made him many.

<sup>3</sup> For the LORD will comfort Zion;  
he will comfort all her waste places  
and will make her wilderness like Eden,  
her desert like the garden of the LORD;  
joy and gladness will be found in her,  
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

<sup>4</sup> Listen to me, my people,  
and give heed to me, my nation,  
for a teaching will go out from me  
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;  
my salvation has gone out,  
and my arms will rule the peoples;  
the coastlands wait for me,  
and for my arm they hope.  
<sup>6</sup> Lift up your eyes to the heavens  
and look at the earth beneath,  
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment,  
and those who live on it will die like gnats,  
but my salvation will be forever,  
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 34:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> I will bless the LORD at all times;  
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.  
<sup>2</sup> **I will glory in the LORD;**  
**let the lowly hear and rejoice.**  
<sup>3</sup> Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;  
let us exalt God's name together.  
<sup>4</sup> **I sought the LORD, who answered me**  
**and delivered me from all my terrors.**  
<sup>5</sup> Look upon the LORD and be radiant,  
and let not your faces be ashamed.  
<sup>6</sup> **I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me**  
**and saved me from all my troubles.**  
<sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD  
and delivers them.  
<sup>8</sup> **Taste and see that the LORD is good;**  
**happy are they who take refuge in God!**  
<sup>9</sup> Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD,  
for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.  
<sup>10</sup> **The lions are in want and suffer hunger,**  
**but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.**

## **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.*

<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct 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 trust and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PLEASE RISE FOR THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil* RED ELW #512

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
open to the seed of your word.  
Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
where love can grow and peace is understood.  
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.  
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.  
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.  
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,  
Lord, let my heart be good soil.**

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Text © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

CCLI #806698

## **GOSPEL: 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.*

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON ON THE STEPS**

### **SERMON**

*What Keeps Us from Seeing Jesus*  
Rev. Richard Braun

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Be Thou My Vision* RED ELW #793  
(Vs. 1 & 4)

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**
  
- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931  
Public Domain

## **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

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.**

## THE PEACE

---

### OFFERING

*Gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

---

### OFFERING

*As the Dew from Heaven Distilling*

Arr. J. J. Daynes

One License #995939

### OFFERING HYMN

*We Praise You, O God* RED ELW #870

(Vs. 3)

**3 With voices united our praises we offer  
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With you, Lord, beside us,  
your strong arm will guide us.  
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!**

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963

Public Domain

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Merciful God,

**accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.  
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day  
when we will hunger and thirst no more.**

**Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,  
that goodness and mercy may follow us  
and bless the world you love.**

**In the name of Jesus,**

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. 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.**

### CLOSING HYMN

*Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* RED ELW #367  
(Vs. 1 & 2)

- 1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds  
in praise of love that still abounds:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!  
Repeat their song of glory here:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 2 Eternal is the gift he brings,  
therefore our heart with rapture sings:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Now still he comes to give us life  
and by his presence stills all strife.  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.

Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

One License #05408 & Public Domain

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **POSTLUDE**

### ***From Thy Throne So High***

Arr. C. W. Gluck

One License #227733



#### **Acknowledgements:**

**From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress.**

All rights reserved.

License #SB122759—11/30/2026

**One License #A-732489**

4/15/2027 for ELW hymns

All rights reserved.

**CCLI License #20990483**

Copyright License + Streaming License—2/28/2027

All rights reserved.

**Church ArtPro**

Account #73982207—6/30/2026



## Weekly Announcements



Please keep these family, friends and members in your prayers: Dilshad & Sonya Perani, Gary Revier and Deb Otto

Welcome Guests!

Please sign the visitor book in the entrance to the sanctuary.

We are glad you are here!

**Hunger Jar** for the month of April is designated to Feed My Starving Children.

**Thank you to Pastor Richard Braun for leading us in worship today.**

Pastor Gretchen is with her family after the memorial service for her sister, Marlene.

**Happy Spring!**

Sunday, May 3rd is Clean Up Sunday and Potluck

Bring your rakes, leaf blowers, gloves, etc. and help clean up the outside Zion property. There will be work done on trees, weeds to be pulled. All that fun spring stuff!

Bring your handheld vacuums as we will clean the sanctuary also. Buckets & rags will be provided to wipe down the pews, wash windows, etc.

If you are unable to clean up, please stay for potluck & fellowship after the work is done. We will plan to eat around 11:30.

In case of inclement weather, we will clean inside and do outside clean up at a later date.

**Coffee Hour**—The confirmation youth have indicated they would like to go to Confirmation Camp at Camp House in 2027. They are looking to raise money to attend Camp. The proceeds from Coffee Hour from March through June have been designated for Camp.

All women are invited to the **SW MN 2026 Synodical Women's Convention** for inspiration, education and renewal. You will not be disappointed by the experience of worship, speakers, displays and a little bit of business! The convention will take place on Saturday, May 2, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Willmar.

**Lutheran Men in Mission** will hold their convention at the same time and location, and we will share some of the same activities. Consider joining many other Lutheran men and women for a day of renewal, reflection and celebration.

For registration information contact Peg Kamps. Registrations are due April 21.

### **Summer Carnival is coming!**

Please consider signing up with your family or group to make our “Paving the Way” summer fundraiser a success! Suggested activities are on the poster, but be creative and think of what you would like to do! The sign up deadline is May 17.

**Church Quilting Nook**—planning meeting on Sunday, April 26 following worship.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Weekly Operating Offerings</b>	<b>Weekly Operating Goal</b>	<b>Debt Retirement</b>	<b>ELCA Missions</b>	<b>Hunger Jar</b>	<b>Parking Lot</b>	<b>Memorial Fund</b>	<b>Confirmation Camp</b>
4/12/2026	\$1,752.00	<b>4038.31</b>	\$75.00	\$25.00	\$32.50	\$635.00	\$0.00	\$ 26.00

**Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla**

952-237-1060  
 pastor@zionarlington.org

Hours for the week of April 19  
 Monday, April 20—10a-3p  
 Wednesday, April 22—2:30p-5p  
 by appointment

Stacy's Office Hours  
 Monday—Thursday, 2:30p-5:00p

## Worship Assistants

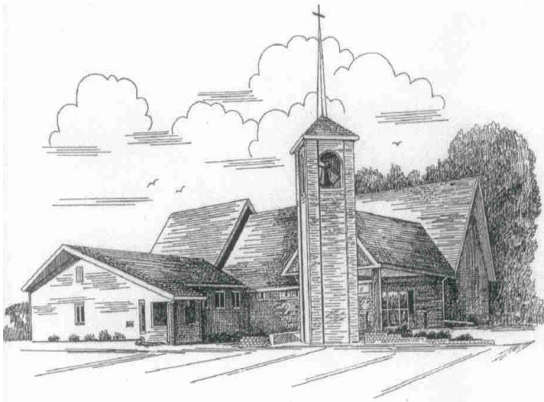
### **April 19**

Usher: Jon Hazelwood, Elton Hazelwood  
Stephanie Krueger, Murdock Krueger  
Greeter: Jon Hazelwood  
Acolyte: Jack Ruehling  
Reader: Jane Scharpe  
AV Team: Tim Michaelis & Elton Hazelwood

### **April 26**

Usher: Jim & Wendy Pederson  
Peg Kamps, Scott Bergs  
Greeter: Elton Hazelwood  
Acolyte: Daphne Hazelwood  
Reader: Scott Bergs  
AV Team: Matt & Jan Giesen

Zion Lutheran Church  
814 West Brooks St. P.O. Box 371  
Arlington, MN 55307  
Church: 507-964-5454  
Email: [zion.elca.814@gmail.com](mailto:zion.elca.814@gmail.com)  
Web: [zionarlington.org](http://zionarlington.org) // YouTube: Zion ELCA Arlington MN



## Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

### This Week at Zion:

Sunday, April 19	<b>9:00a</b> 10:00a	<b>Worship</b> Sunday School
Monday, April 20		Newsletter Deadline
Wednesday, April 22	6:30-8p	9th Grade Confirmation
Thursday, April 23	10:00a 7:30p	Adult Bible Study Vryheid Meeting—Trinity/St. Peter
Sunday, April 26	<b>9:00a</b> 10:00a	<b>Contemporary Worship</b> Sunday School

LSS Meals on Wheels Monday—Friday 9:00a—12:00p

