

# Sunday Worship Service – April 19, 2026

Using material from various sources as indicated in the footnotes.

## Welcome and Announcements

## A Moment for Reflection

### Call to Worship <sup>1</sup>

Even if we feel abandoned and alone,

**Christ meets us here.**

Even when we become lost and disoriented,

**Christ rescues us in our need.**

Even when our hearts are touched by the frost,

**Christ warms our spirits.**

Even when all light has faded to black,

**Christ illumines our Way.**

Here in this house of worship enter, rejoice, and come home.

### Gathering Hymn *“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!”* #377 (verses 1-4)

1. **Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!  
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!  
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!**
2. **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.!  
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!**
3. **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.  
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!**
4. **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.  
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

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<sup>1</sup> *Call to Worship* written by B.J. Beu, from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026* © 2025 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN.

## Thanksgiving for Baptism <sup>2</sup>

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation. Amen.

A reading from the Psalms:

*The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters. O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. (Psalm 29:3, 11)*

A reading from Romans:

*Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Romans 6:3-5)*

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

**Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.**

**We give you thanks, O God,**

for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

*(water is poured in the font as the liturgy continues)*

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

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<sup>2</sup> From *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Occasional Services for the Assembly* © 2009 Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN.

**Hymn “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright” #384** (verses 1,2,4)

1. **That Easter day with joy was bright;  
the sun shone out with fairer light  
when, to their longing eyes restored,  
the apostles saw their risen Lord!**
2. **O Jesus, king of gentleness,  
with constant love our hearts possess;  
to you our lips will ever raise  
the tribute of our grateful praise.**
4. **All praise, O risen Lord, we give  
to you, once dead but now alive!  
To God the Father equal praise,  
and God the Spirit, now we raise!**

**Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.**

**Scripture 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. A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the second chapter:*

Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, “Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words!

“Therefore, let all Israel know beyond question that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

When the crowd heard this, they were deeply troubled. They said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

Peter replied, “Change your hearts and lives. Each of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you, your children, and for all who are far away—as many as the Lord our God invites.” With many other words he testified to them and encouraged them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” Those who accepted Peter’s message were baptized. God brought about three thousand people into the community on that day.

Here ends the reading.

**Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.**

### **Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23**

*This passage links Judaism and Christianity. First we have two Jewish practices – the ransom paid to free a slave, and the Passover Lamb sacrificed on the night of the Exodus. Then comes the Gospel of resurrection and the call to purity of love. 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. A reading from the first letter of Peter, the first chapter:*

Since you call upon a Father who judges all people according to their actions without favoritism, you should conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your dwelling in a strange land. Live in this way, knowing that you were not liberated by perishable things like silver or gold from the empty lifestyle you inherited from your ancestors. Instead, you were liberated by the precious blood of Christ, like that of a flawless, spotless lamb. Christ was chosen before the creation of the world, but was only revealed at the end of time. This was done for you, who through Christ are faithful to the God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory. So now, your faith and hope should rest in God.

As you set yourselves apart by your obedience to the truth so that you might have genuine affection for your fellow believers, love each other deeply and earnestly. Do this because you have been given new birth—not from the type of seed that decays but from seed that doesn’t. This seed is God’s life-giving and enduring word.

Here ends the reading.

**Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation “The Living Word”<sup>3</sup>**

**In the beginning was the Word,  
the Living Word of God, the Light of Life Unending.  
You shine in us on ancient starlight,  
in our Book of Memories and Future Dreams.  
Sing we halle, hallelu! You are the Word of Life Eternal.  
Holy Wisdom, found within! You speak to us and we remember:  
“I am the Book no one can close,  
The Story of our time, before all time, together.  
I am the Voice that never falters, I, the Echo of Beyond.  
I am the Way, the Truth, the Life.” The Living Word.**

### **Gospel Reading: Luke 24:13-35**

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. They were prevented from recognizing him.

He said to them, “What are you talking about as you walk along?” They stopped, their faces downcast.

The one named Cleopas replied, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?”

He said to them, “What things?”

They said to him, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago. But there’s more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning and didn’t find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn’t see him.”

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<sup>3</sup> *Gospel Acclamation “The Living Word”* from “Liturgy of the Beloved” © Johnston-Urey Music, All Rights Reserved. Used with Permission.

Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. Wasn’t it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. But they urged him, saying, “Stay with us. It’s nearly evening, and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, “Weren’t our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?”

They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying to each other, “The Lord really has risen! He appeared to Simon!” Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread.

The gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Sermon: Broken Expectations – Revealed Truth**

#### **Hymn of the Day “Emmaus-Bound on Easter Day”<sup>4</sup> (tune: #644)**

1. **Emmaus-bound on Easter Day,  
Two travelers walked along the way.  
They'd once had hope, but hope had died  
When you, O Lord, were crucified.**
2. **When you appeared beside the two,  
They could not see that it was you;  
But as they talked and shared their pain,  
You gave them hope and joy again.**
3. **For as you spoke to them God’s word,  
Explaining all they’d seen and heard,  
They understood what God had done  
And that a new day had begun.**

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<sup>4</sup> Text © 2009 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. (www.carolynshymns.com)

4. **They shared their home; you broke the bread.  
They saw you, risen from the dead!  
That moment's grace helped them to see  
The gift of God's eternity.**
5. **In scripture and at table, too,  
O Risen Lord, may we know you.  
And may your presence give us grace  
To share God's love in every place.**

### **Nicene Creed**

Let us confess our faith together using the words of the 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.**

## Installation of Church Council

The following people have been *elected* by the congregation to positions of leadership on the Church Council. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these *sisters and brothers* will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

*The offices and names of those who are to be installed are read.*

- Lorne Deyenberg – Chairperson of Church Council
- Doug Hilderman – Vice-Chair (Chairperson of the sub-committee on Nominations)
- Heather Hurrell – Treasurer
- Scott Bury – Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Finance
- Frederick Fromm – Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Governance
- Pam McGugan – Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Human Resources
- Warren Sauder – Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Church Property Management
- Charlene Bzdel
- Tara Dauphinais
- Dreena Davis
- Stephen Davis

*A reading from First Corinthians:* There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

You have been *elected* to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the Church Council to which you have been *elected*?

*R I will, and I ask God to help me.*

### *Congregational Response*

*The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly.*

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your *elected* leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

*Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.*

I now declare you installed as *council members* of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

**Amen.**

The peace of our God be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The Congregation shares the peace and the Council members return to their seats.*

### **Prayers of Intercession**<sup>5</sup>

Let us who journey on the way with Christ, risen and ever-present in mystery, pray for the world with all our heart and mind. Each petition will end with “Let us pray to the Lord” and the congregational response “**hear our prayer.**”

#### *A moment of silence*

We pray for the church universal and for this community of faith, that we may wholeheartedly devote ourselves to the apostolic teaching, to common life, to the breaking of bread and the life of prayer. Let us pray to the Lord, **hear our prayer.**

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<sup>5</sup> *Prayers of Intercession* from **Intercessions for the Christian People**, edited by Gail Ramshaw © 1990 The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN

We pray for all nations and people of this wide earth, that we may be delivered from human devices of oppression, and from false idols and futile ways. Let us pray to the Lord, **hear our prayer.**

We pray that all who grieve or who are desperate or haunted by violence may know the hidden strength of Christ present. Let us pray to the Lord, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the homeless, those without bread, those tempted by vengeance and driven to rage, that they may find refuge and strength in the one who walks with them. Let us pray to the Lord, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for you to shield every persecuted Christian in Nigeria from harm, danger, and attacks, and surround them with your angels. Fill them with courage and boldness to stand strong in their faith despite opposition. Let us pray to the Lord, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the children of calamity, and for our own children, that they may come to know and to claim the promises of God to all generations, near and far off. Let us pray to the Lord, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick, especially those in hospital or health care facilities (*names*). Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying. Let us pray to the Lord, **hear our prayer.**

Preserve us all, O Lord, and take us home to your heart, so that all our lives may be woven together in prayer and praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We gather these prayers together with the words our Lord taught us:

*The Lord's Prayer (sung)*

**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.**

### **Sharing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*People may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

**Song “Be Not Afraid” #388** (repeat song three times)

**Be not afraid, sing out for joy!  
Christ is risen, alleluia!  
Be not afraid, sing out for joy!  
Christ is risen, alleluia!**

**Offering & Offering Prayer** <sup>6</sup>

What shall we return to the Lord for God’s many gifts? What praise shall we sing to God for the blessings we have received? Let us pay our vows to the Lord in the presence of God’s people.

*(Offering Plate is placed on the Altar)*

**Loving God, receive our thanks and praise.  
For your presence on the road, we thank you.  
For opening your word to us, we praise you.  
For revealing yourself to us in the face of a stranger,  
we offer you our deepest gratitude.  
May the gifts of our hands reveal the love in our hearts. Amen.**

**Sending Hymn “Abide With Us”** (words by Orville Kaminski, music by Dennis Hendricksen)

1. **Stay with us, don’t journey on;  
Break bread with us, before the dawn.  
Help us to see beyond today,  
Your steadfast presence ev’ry day.  
Walk with us, our footsteps guide;  
Without your grip we run and hide.  
You know our grief and feel our pain,  
Your love dispels them like the rain.**
2. **Speak to us, unstop our ears;  
Your word of truth makes our hearts burn.  
Touch our lips, dry up our tears,  
Your grace we’ll sing at ev’ry turn.  
Abide with us, ‘til life is done;  
Your will shall then be our desire.  
Your house prepared shall be our home,  
Jesus, all praise to you alone!**

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<sup>6</sup> *Offering Invitation and Offering Prayer* written by B.J. Beu, from **Abingdon Worship Annual 2017** © 2016  
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**Blessing**<sup>7</sup>

May Christ's love fill you this day  
with the living and enduring word of God.  
May Christ's love lift you up and guide you,  
that you may go forth to transform the world.  
Shalom and amen.

**Benediction Song** *"May the Grace of Christ Attend Us"* (#963 Voices United)

**May the grace of Christ attend us, and the love of God surround us,  
And the Holy Spirit keep us, now and ever. Amen.**

**Commission**

Go in peace, inspired by the risen Christ to love and serve.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude** – Joshua Hendricksen

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<sup>7</sup> *Blessing* written by Terri Stewart, from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2014* © 2013 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN.