

April 19, 2026

Third Sunday of Easter

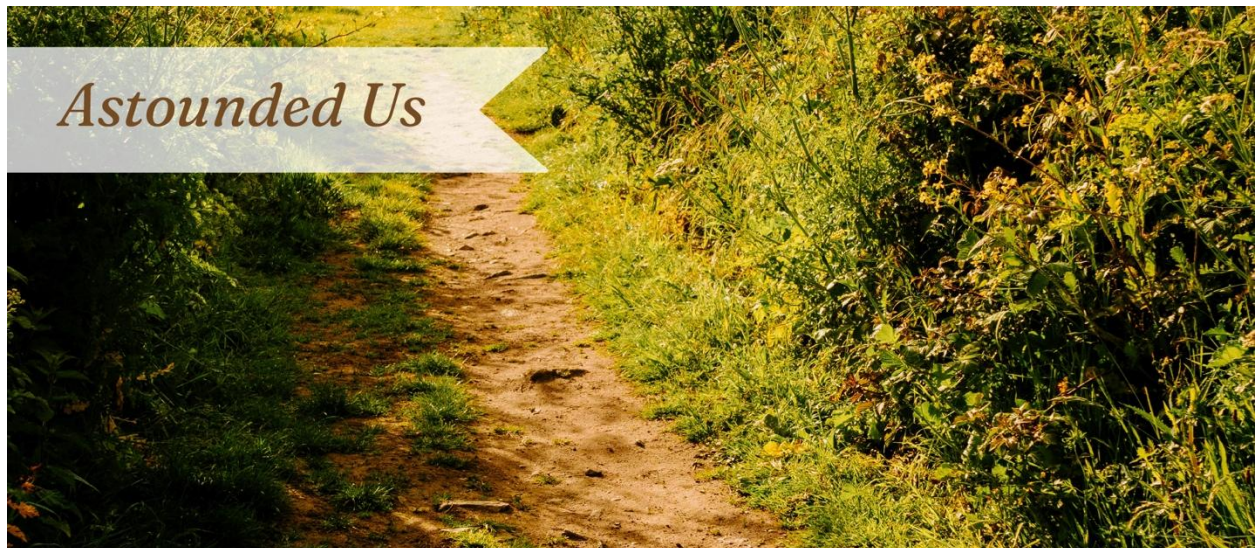
THEME: Stories That Matter - Astounded Us

10:15 AM Worship

Descriptor for front of bulletin:

The season of Easter, or Eastertide, is a time of embracing the promise and hope of Resurrection. It is a time of leaning into the stories that matter. Come and gather around the stories of those who wrestled with the Easter event and some of the words of preparation that Jesus gave to help us live the reality of eternity now. It is clear from these stories that Jesus wanted to equip us to thrive in a season of Easter promise. Resurrection unsettles our certainty and invites us into astonishment. This week's worship explores how joy and disruption coexist as we live into the astounding news that Love has conquered death.

Graphic for bulletin:



+ GATHERING +

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

PRELUDE My faithful heart rejoices - Johannes Brahms

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather today as people who spent the week inundated with news reports, social media posts, and reels that overwhelm us with information, worry, and stress.

**Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we carry the weight of being overwhelmed and anxious, wondering who we can believe.**

We gather as people who long for peace, for God to break through and bring us clarity and hope once again.

**Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we don't always recognize when the Risen One comes alongside us, showing us the way where there seems to be no way.**

We gather as people hoping to catch a glimmer of resurrection, ready for our hearts to burn with the truth of the resurrected Christ.

**Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we open our hearts to the possibility that God's resurrection life is closer than we think.**

God knows the burdens we carry, and God is faithful to meet us where we are with good news.

**May the good news of the resurrection astound us today as we come to worship God!**

**Amen.**

HYMN ELW 855 Crown Him with Many Crowns

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

On the Emmaus Road, those who walked alongside Jesus did not know it was him. May we trust God's presence with us as we offer these words of confession, just as we trust in God's forgiveness.

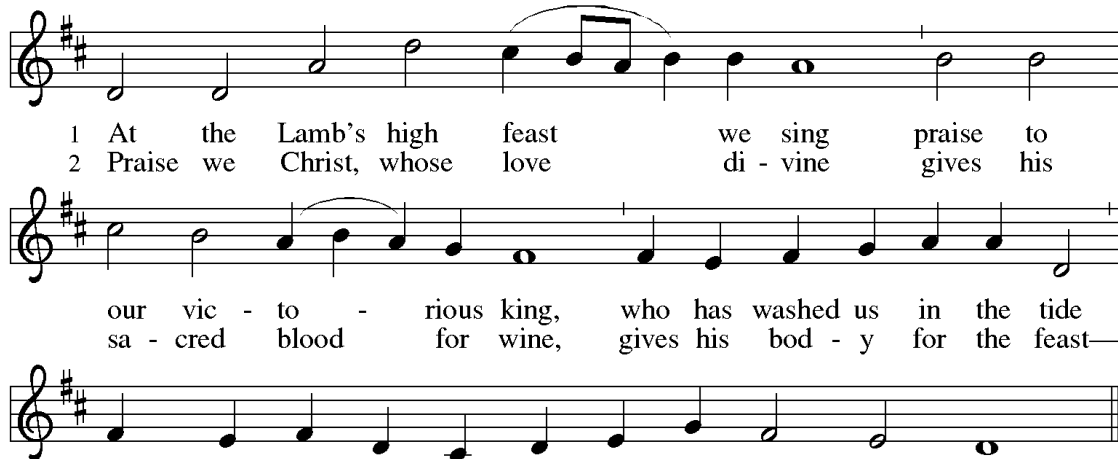
Let us pray:

**Heavenly Stranger, our Companion on the Way, we yearn for your love and grace. We seek your wisdom and guidance. We relish the joy which burns within our hearts when you are with us. Yet, sometimes we would cling to you, hoard the blessings of relationship with you, and not share your love with others. Forgive us, O God. Remind us that your love is to be carried throughout the world. Press us to share the hope and joy of your love, so that someone who hungers for spiritual food may be filled by our witness to your grace. Shine the light of your Spirit through us, so that we may show your way to those who long for peace and help to revive those in whom hope has died. Amen.**

God was revealed to the two followers when he broke bread with them. God is revealed in this moment of forgiveness as we are reminded of God's grace and mercy. The God of love, the God that death could not hold down, proclaims that you are forgiven and loved.

**Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF PRAISE ELW 362 At the Lamb's High Feast



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to  
2 Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his  
our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide  
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—  
flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!

3 Father, who the crown shall give,  
Savior, by whose death we live,  
Spirit, guide through all our days:  
Three in One, your name we praise.  
Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O risen Christ, on the road to Emmaus, you were the disciples' companion. Be at our side on the journey of faith on life's pathways and at every encounter, engender our compassion, so that we may welcome others and listen to their stories. Kindle anew the desire to proclaim your Word. May it illumine us, and may our hearts burn to bear witness to it. May your Holy Spirit teach us the art of explaining scripture and open our hearts to recognize you. Grant us the courage to become vulnerable so that our siblings may know you through us and that we may know you through them. **In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

+ WORD +

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

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

*At the conclusion of the reading:*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

READING: I Peter 1:17-23

*At the conclusion of the reading:*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious



from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

*At the beginning of the reading:*

The holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion of the reading:*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 939 Touch that soothes and heals



1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurt - ing, hands that  
2 Feed the hun - gry, clothe the na - ked, vis - it  
3 Love and serve with - out dis - tinc - tion all earth's  
4 Hands that beck - on lit - tle chil - dren, bind a



break a loaf of bread; steps that walk be - side the  
ones in need of care, give the home - less warmth and  
peo - ple, first and least. Know with - in each act of  
wound, pre - pare a meal, feet that rush to share good



wea - ry, bear - ing bur - dens in their stead:  
shel - ter: Christ will find a wel - come there.  
kind - ness hope and whole - ness are in - creased.  
tid - ings, Christ a - ris - en, still re - veal.



“See my hands and feet,” said Je - sus, love a - ris - en from the



grave. “Be my hands and feet,” said Je - sus, “live as



ones I died to save.”

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 THE PEOPLE

*Each prayer petition will end with the phrase:*

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

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.**

#### OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING *This Joyful Eastertide with Earth and All Stars*

- setting, Anne Krentz Organ

Handbell Ensemble

## OFFERTORY ELW 478 Father, We Thank You



1 Fa - ther, we thank you that you plant - ed your ho - ly name with -  
in our hearts. Knowl - edge and faith and life im - mor - tal Je - sus your  
Son to us im - parts. Lord, you have made all for your plea - sure,  
and giv' n us food for all our days, giv - ing in Christ the  
bread e - ter - nal; yours is the pow' r, yours be the praise.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Astounding God of the road and the table, you walk with us even when we don't recognize you. You speak, and our hearts burn within us. You break the bread, and our eyes are opened. Today, we bring these offerings as signs of our gratitude and hope. May our giving reflect the joy of being found, the wonder of Resurrection, and the call to share good news. Use these gifts to kindle faith, feed the hungry, and proclaim your presence in every Emmaus moment. We give because we've seen you—alive, loving, and leading us still. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

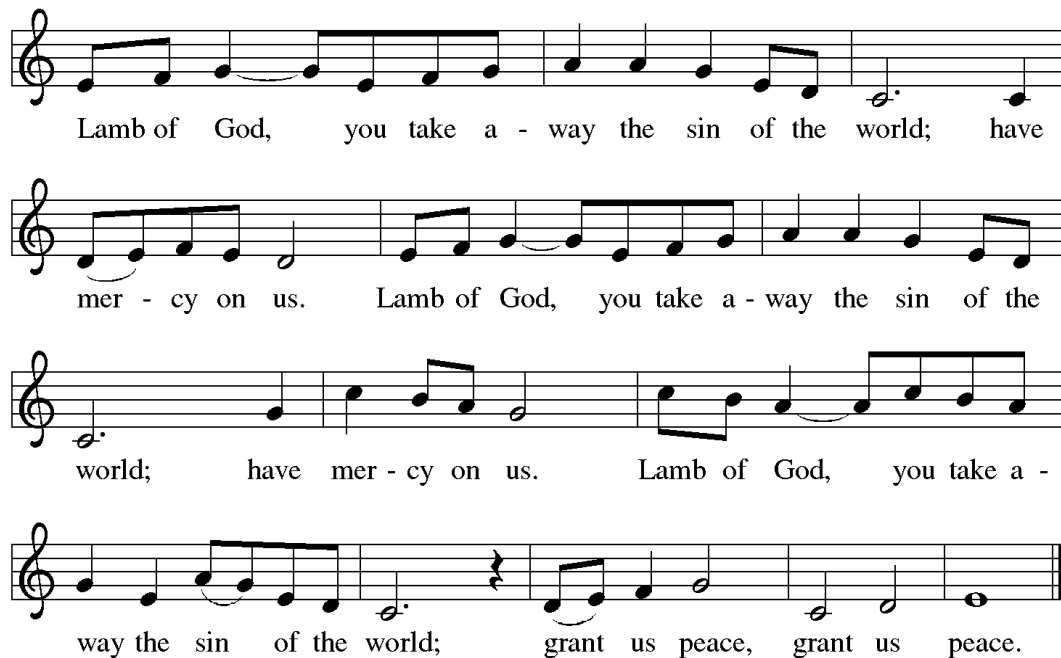
## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father...**

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SHARING OF COMMUNION

*Communion will be shared continuously. Please come forward down the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisle. You will receive the bread from the pastor and then be invited to take a pre-filled cup from the tray held by the communion assistant. Wine is in the clear cups and grape juice is in the purple cups. Empty cups can be placed in the bowls at the end of the first pew as you return to your seat. All are welcome!*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION ELW 374 Day of Arising

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

+ SENDING +

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Heavenly Helpers will be replacing a rood for a single mom/grandmother/great-grandmother who has been struggling for many years. To raise money to do this there will be a **Kauffman Chicken BBQ on May 2<sup>nd</sup>** pick up from 10am-2pm in the St. Marks Lutheran Church parking lot. Order yours today by signing up outside of Pastor Becky's office or by contacting Elaine Keller ([elaineakeller@comcast.net](mailto:elaineakeller@comcast.net)) or call 215-262-5366).

**The Friedens Union Cemetery Assoc.** is holding its annual meeting April 25 at 9am. If interested in attending please let Evey 215-264-6099 or Hank 610-639-6575 know.

**Family Bathroom** We are adding a family bathroom to meet the needs of some of our members. It's a big job. I believe the job itself has been blessed. The architect provided our plan pro bono. The supplier of most of the fixtures for the bathroom has discounted their products in exchange for some advertising opportunities. They even donated the sink! It's still an expensive project. We are in search of grants. Grants aren't easy. But, we're doing our best. If you know of one that might help us please let the office or a Church Council member know. In the meantime, if you feel it in your heart, we have a designated fund for donations. As you know, many hands make the lift easier! Just write "Family Bathroom" on an envelope. Thank You!

A graveside service for **Louise Wetzel Clare** will be held on Friday May 15 at 12:00 noon at Flohr's Lutheran Church Cemetery, 590 Old Route 30, McKnightstown PA 17343. A time of fellowship and memory sharing will follow. Please keep Louise's son, Hank Clare, and family in your prayers in the weeks to come. Condolences may be sent to Hank Clare, P.O. Box 169, 1069 Church Road, Sumneytown, PA 18084

## A BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY AWAITS

In a quiet monastery,  
silence is broken...

### THE NEXT BOOK GROUP GATHERING

Join us as we explore  
The Beautiful Mystery by Louise Penny.  
All are welcome!

Saturday, April 25 at 9:30 AM  
St. John's Lutheran Church, Sumneytown  
Light breakfast served.



**St. John's VBS 2026 is almost here!**  
**June 22–26**  
**(yes, Monday thru Friday!)**  
**9:00 AM –12:00 Noon**



**#KidsConnect**  
**Connecting hearts, minds, and faith**

Join us for a joyful week where children explore God's love through music, storytelling, art, science, games, and hands-on activities. Each day sparks curiosity, builds friendships, and creates a strong sense of belonging.

At #KidsConnect, children will:

- ✦ Connect with Jesus in meaningful ways
- 🎨 Create through art, building, and hands-on exploration
- 🎵 Sing, move, and celebrate through music and worship
- 🤝 Build friendships and feel a true sense of belonging
- 🌱 Grow in kindness, confidence, and community

Everyone is welcome as we learn, create, and grow together.

***We can't wait for an amazing week this summer!***  
***Space is limited so register NOW before we fill up!***

Register today at: <https://vbsmate.com/events/STJSumneytown/31846>