



*Third Sunday of Easter  
April 19, 2026*



*Walking With Jesus*

# The Gathering

*The assembly's parts are in bold type.*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all who are walking the road.

**We come with our questions, doubts, and hope.**

When our hearts are heavy and our vision is dim,

**Christ walks beside us and reveals himself in word and meal.**

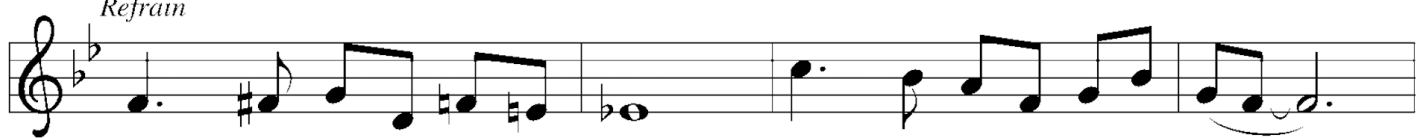
Let us celebrate!

## GATHERING SONG


## Just A Closer Walk With Thee

ELW 697

*Refrain*



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised to new life. Today, we give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Blessed are you, O God, Source of life. Through the waters of creation you brought forth the world. Through the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the Jordan, your Son was baptized and anointed with the Holy Spirit. And by his death and resurrection, you have set us free from sin and death.

We thank you for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ and raised to new life. In it we are named beloved, claimed as your own, and sealed with your Spirit.

Renew in us the joy of this gift. Stir up in us the promise of resurrection. Send us out as people of hope, living signs of your new creation. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Risen Christ, you meet us on the road and stay with us in our questioning. Open our eyes to see you, our hearts to know you, and our lives to follow you. **Amen.**

## **The Word**

*The Psalmist shares that God is faithful, offering joy, peace, and safety.*

A responsive reading from Psalm 34:1-8.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

I will bless the Lord at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**My soul makes its boast in the Lord;  
let the humble hear and be glad.**

O magnify the Lord with me,  
and let us exalt his name together.

**I sought the Lord, and he answered me  
and delivered me from all my fears.**

Look to him, and be radiant,  
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

**This poor soul cried and was heard by the Lord  
and was saved from every trouble.**

The angel of the Lord encamps  
around his people and delivers them.

**O taste and see that the Lord is good;  
happy are those who take refuge in him.**

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*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.*

The gospel according to Luke 24:13-35.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. 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?" 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, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 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. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 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. 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."

Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 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. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. 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?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the gospel of our Lord.

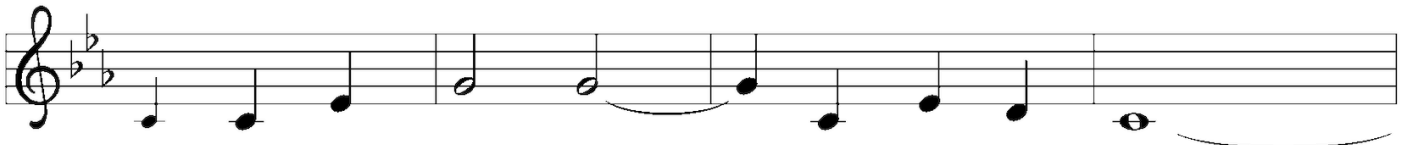
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

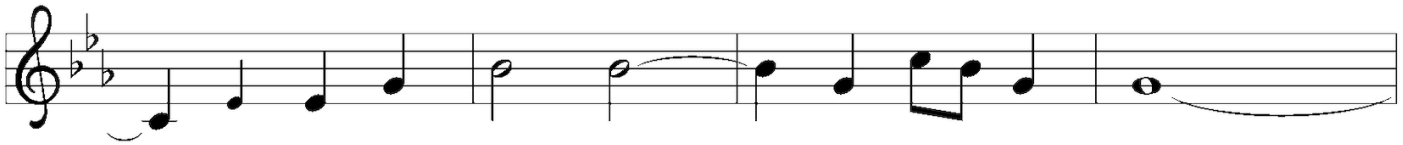
**SONG OF THE DAY**

**I Want Jesus To Walk With Me**

**ELW 325**



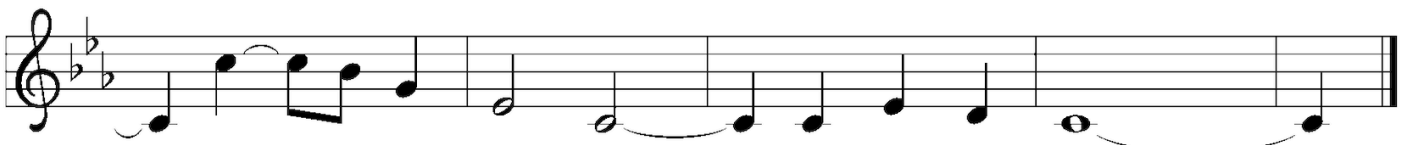
1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

Living Savior, just as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Gather us at your table, that we may recognize you in the breaking of the bread. God of grace,  
**you hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you provide for the needs of all creation. Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting, and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest. God of grace,

**you hear our prayer.**

God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance. Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there is violence, sow peace. God of grace,

**you hear our prayer.**

Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Heal those who are sick, especially those we now name out loud or silently in our hearts. *(30 seconds of reflection)* God of grace,

**you hear our prayer.**

Gracious One, you have made us your own through the gift of baptism. Unite us in genuine love for one another and uphold this community in your name. God of grace,

**you hear our prayer.**

Eternal Light, we give thanks for all who have nurtured your church's life in ages past. Bring us at last with them to the brightness of your glorious presence. God of grace,

**you hear 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.**

## **SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# **The Meal**

## **OFFERTORY**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Risen God, with joy we bring these gifts before you, signs of our gratitude for the new life you give. Use these offerings for the work of your resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our living Lord. **Amen.**

## **INVITATION**

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 our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

But yet we remember on the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Holy Spirit, embolden us to bring your justice and peace to all the earth, sharing the gift Christ has shared with us. **Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

Come forward now - God's feast is ready!

## **COMMUNION MEDITATION**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Risen Christ, you have fed in this meal. As we leave this table, may we go forth in the power of Your resurrection, filled with hope, renewed in faith, and ready to share Your love with the world. Alleluia! **Amen.**

## The Sending

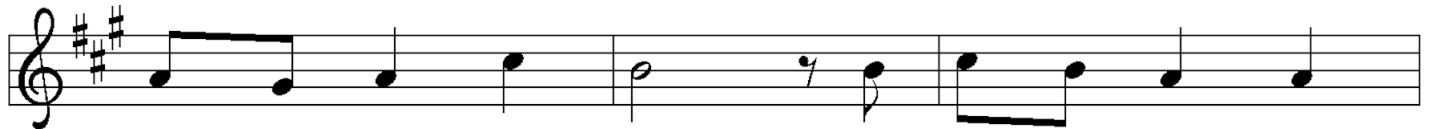
### BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. Amen.

### SENDING SONG    We Walk By Faith    V 1-3    ELW 635



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
may our faith a - bound to call on you when



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
we re - jice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
you are near and seek where you are found:

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

### POSTLUDE

Presider/Preacher: Rev. Courtney Geibert      Minister of Music: Terry Williams  
Pianist: Tony Marriott

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Art: "Third Station of the Resurrection: The Walk to Emmaus" (1970) by Rowan LeCompte and Irene Matz LeCompte

# On the Road with Jesus: A Reflection on Luke 24:13–35

“Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road...?” – Luke 24:32



## Mountaintop Moments

When have you experienced joy, celebration, or new life?

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## Valley Moments

When have you experienced grief, struggle, or uncertainty?

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## The In-Between

Ordinary moments—just “walking along”

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## Where Was Jesus Beside You?

Through people, music, community, or unexpected moments...

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Notice where Jesus has been, and where He may be leading you next.



## Prayer

**God of the journey, open my eyes to see you walking beside me.  
Help me to trust where you are leading next. Amen.**