

Easter Three
Sunday April 19, 2026



ONLINE
 **GIVING**



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**St. Matthew Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lancaster, PA

Easter Three

April 19, 2026

* *Indicates please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread*

arr. Garrett Parker

***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.

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.

GATHERING

***GATHERING HYMN** *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!*

ELW #377

***GREETING**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you
all.

People: *And also with you.*

***Kyrie**

p.138

***Hymn of Praise**

This is the Feast.....

p. 140

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

People: *Amen*

WORD

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ³⁶ "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

Read responsively

- ¹ I love the LORD, who has ¹ heard my voice,
and listened to my ¹ supplication,
² **for the LORD has given ¹ ear to me
whenever ¹ I called.**
³ The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave ¹
came upon me;
I came to ¹ grief and sorrow.
⁴ **Then I called upon the name ¹ of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray you, ¹ save my life.”**
¹² How shall I re-¹ pay the LORD
for all the good things God has ¹ done for me?
¹³ **I will lift the cup ¹ of salvation
and call on the name ¹ of the LORD.**
¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows ¹ to the LORD
in the presence of ¹ all God’s people.
¹⁵ **Precious in your ¹ sight, O LORD,
is the death ¹ of your servants.**
¹⁶ O LORD, truly I ¹ am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have
freed me ¹ from my bonds.
¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice ¹ of thanksgiving
and call upon the name ¹ of the LORD.**
¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows ¹ to the LORD
in the presence of ¹ all God’s people,
¹⁹ **in the courts of ¹ the LORD’s house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. ¹ Hallelujah!**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ 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.

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

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.
People: *Thanks be to God*

***Gospel Acclamation**

p. 142a

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

People: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

¹³ Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ 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?" ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ 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. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ 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. ²⁴ 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." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him,

and he vanished from their sight. ³² 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?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord
People: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Scott Paradise

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Day of Arising*

ELW #374

***NICENE CREED**

Asst. Min.: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.
***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 GOD'S PEOPLE

Between each petition the following is said:

Asst. Min.: Merciful God,

People: *Receive our prayer.*

Asst. Min.: 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.

People: *Amen.*

SPECIAL WORSHIP VIDEO

The Road to Emmaus Trailer

Pioneers of Television

PREPARING THE TABLE

OFFERING PRAYER

Spoken in Unison

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.

***The Great Thanksgiving**

p. 144a

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Sanctus**

p. 144b

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

***Eucharistic Prayer**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Spoken in Unison

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray the prayer that 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 COMMUNION**

Come to the table of new life.
Receive the risen Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

***TABLE BLESSING**

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Spoken in Unison

**Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus,
*Amen.***

***BENEDICTION**

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.

***SENDING HYMN** *Thine Is the Glory*

ELW #376

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE *Thine Is the Glory*

arr. Mark Hayes





**Christ in our Home booklets
(April, May, June) are now available
in the church lobby.**

These are free and for anyone to take.

**Please take multiple copies and
share Jesus in your community.**

COMMUNITY MEAL

The meals are distributed on the third Monday of each month at Zion Lutheran, East Petersburg. Prep work starts that morning at 9am at St. Matthew. Contact Barb Elsen if you would like to be a part of this vital ministry.

Weekly Prayer List

Kaye Ames, Sean Carter, Sarah Challenger,
Don Dubs, James & Mabel Frazier, Patrick Herr,
Heather Hildebrand, Tim Kauffman,
Debbie LaNasa, Joan Matternas & Abbey, Anna Neal,
Bill Overly, Diane Repp, Buzz Rothweiler,
Bob & Carolyn Sampson, Steve Schweers,
Betty Sheaffer, Anna Stager,
Angie Wendler and Shirley Wertz

Community Businesses Giving Back

When you eat at Park City Diner or Knight and Day Diner, simply mention St. Matthew at checkout. A percentage of your bill will be donated to our church, and we receive quarterly checks through their community program.

Enjoy a meal, support a local business, and bless our church — all at no extra cost to you!



**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Statement of Welcome, Affirmation
and Full Participation**



Welcome to St Matthew, the little church
with a big heart.



We are a Reconciling in Christ
(Open and Affirming)
congregation, so when we say "all are welcome",
we really mean it.

We strive to live that out in our actions as well as our words.
We publicly and humbly commit to do what it takes to truly be
a sanctuary filled with warmth, love, understanding, safety,
respect and care for all who enter here.

*(Please see our Full Statement of Welcome, Affirmation and Full
Participation on our website: www.stmatthewelc.com. Copies of
the Full Statement are also available in the Education
and Resources Stand in the Fellowship Hall.)*



***Today's flowers are given by
Jim and Kay Nolt in memory of
their parents***



APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

4/1 Kim Murray
4/16 Nick Boehm
4/21 Bradley Charles
4/25 Cliff Eshbach
4/26 William Overly
4/30 Linda McIntyre

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES!

4/15 Robert & Phyllis Wimer

The Congregation

The Ministers

Pastor Robin Fero

Church Office

phone: 717-394-9607

Website: stmatthewelc.com

Email: info@stmatthewelc.com

Cliff Eshbach

Council President

Susan Feldmann

Director of Music/Choir

Ann Hossler

Organist/Pianist

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Altar Care for April:

Barb Elsen & Carol Rothweiler

Assisting Minister:

Steve Feldmann

Greeter:

Kay Gontner

Usher:

Barb Elsen

Reader:

Peg Sampson

Counters:

Carol Rothweiler & Sandy Tucker

4/18 Saturday
2:00pm Quilting Workshop
5:00pm Worship

4/24 Friday
1:30pm CPR Class *

4/19 Sunday
10:00am Worship
11:15am Evangelism Mtg

4/25 Saturday
5:00pm Worship

4/26 Sunday
10:00am Worship

4/20 Monday
9:00am Community Meal

**Events scheduled for outside groups that use our facility. You are welcome to attend or sign up for all other events on the calendar.*

4/21 Tuesday
7:00pm Church Council Mtg

4/22 Wednesday
12:00pm Bible Study

4/23 Thursday
6:30pm Vocal Choir Reh

**Scripture Readings—
April 25-26, 2026**

**Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10**