

# THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Easter Light—Gladsome Light

April 19, 2026



## AS WE GATHER

Whether we will admit it or not, many of us are logophiles, which means that we love words. All of us have far more words in our vocabularies than we use in our daily conversation. We know what the words mean but for some reason we do not say them much. Words come into and go out of fashion and usage. One of those words that are not used much anymore is *gladsome*. It appears in several hymns of the Christmas season and is in the first line of the ancient evening hymn “O Gladsome Light, O Grace” (*LSB* 888), which dates back to the fourth century AD and was originally in the Greek language. It describes Jesus as being the ultimate gladsome light with these words: “O gladsome Light, O Grace of God the Father’s face, eternal splendor wearing: celestial, holy, blest, our Savior Jesus Christ, joyful in Thine appearing!” (*LSB* 888:1). Jesus, the risen Lord, is the light that brings gladness to each hour of the day. We are blessed in that we can always rejoice in His brightness!

## ✂ PREPARATION ✂

### THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Pastor: May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Pastor: The light of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**      *LSB* 524 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

- 1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
In a believer’s ear!  
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,  
And drives away our fear.**
- 2 It makes the wounded spirit whole  
And calms the heart’s unrest;  
’Tis manna to the hungry soul  
And to the weary, rest.**
- 3 Dear name! The rock on which I build,  
My shield and hiding place;  
My never-failing treasury filled  
With boundless stores of grace.**

4 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,  
My Prophet, Priest, and King,  
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,  
Accept the praise I bring.

5 How weak the effort of my heart,  
How cold my warmest thought!  
But when I see Thee as Thou art,  
I'll praise Thee as I ought.

6 Till then I would Thy love proclaim  
With ev'ry fleeting breath;  
And may the music of Thy name  
Refresh my soul in death!

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### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

### OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 113:1–4; 56:12–13*

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD!

People: **Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!**

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!

People: **The LORD is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens!**

Pastor: I must perform my vows to You, O God; I will render thank offerings to You.

People: **For You have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us come before God in true repentance, seeking His mercy and forgiveness.

O God our Father, we admit and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought and in word and in deed.

People: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: We confess that we have not lived as Your followers but have sought to go our own ways in directions that have not brought glory to You or blessing to others.

People: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: We confess that Your love has not reached others through us in every situation, admitting with guilt that there have been times in which we have

been loveless, thoughtless, and judgmental toward others, unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

**People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

**Pastor:** We confess that Your will has not been our priority at all times and that we have not always been defenders of the weak and helpless in our circle of family, neighbors, and friends, and beyond.

**People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

**Pastor:** We confess that we have not used every opportunity given to us to witness to the resurrection faith that is ours and have at times been slow to speak of the hope that is ours in Christ.

**People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

**Pastor:** Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**Pastor:** May the God of peace sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

**People: Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

**INTROIT** *Psalm 116:1–14*

**People: I love the LORD, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.**

*Women: Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.*

*Men: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!"*

**People: Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.**

*Women: The LORD preserves the simple; when I was brought low, He saved me.*

**People: Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.**

*Men: For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;*

**People: I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.**

*Women: I believed, even when I spoke, "I am greatly afflicted";*

*Men: I said in my alarm, "All mankind are liars."*

**People: What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD, I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

## Blessed Be Your Name

Verse 1

**Blessed be Your name  
In the land that is plentiful  
Where Your streams of abundance flow  
Blessed be Your name**

Verse 2

**Blessed be Your name  
When I'm found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness  
Blessed be Your name**

Pre-Chorus

**Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll  
Turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in Lord  
Still I will say**

Chorus

**Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your glorious name**

Verse 3

**Blessed be Your name  
When the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's all as it should be  
Blessed be Your name**

Verse 4

**Blessed be Your name  
On the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering  
Blessed be Your name**

Pre-Chorus

**Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll  
Turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in Lord  
Still I will say**

Chorus

**Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your glorious name**

Bridge = 2x's

**You give and take away  
You give and take away  
My heart will choose to say  
Lord, blessed be Your name**

Chorus = 2x's  
**Blessed be the name of the Lord**  
**Blessed be Your name**  
**Blessed be the name of the Lord**  
**Blessed be Your glorious name**

CCLI Song # 3798438  
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### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** Let us pray. O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING** Acts 2:14a, 36–41

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” <sup>40</sup> And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” <sup>41</sup> So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **EPISTLE** 1 Peter 1:17–25

And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. 22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, 23 since you have

been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; 24 for

“All flesh is like grass

and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers,

and the flower falls,

25 but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE** *Romans 6:9; Luke 24:32*

**People:** **Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures? Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 24:13–35*

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

**People:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles<sup>a</sup> from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew 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 is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up 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 happened. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even 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 him they did not see.” <sup>25</sup> And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. <sup>28</sup> So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, <sup>29</sup> but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with

them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" <sup>33</sup> And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, <sup>34</sup> saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      LSB 487 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

- 1**    **Come, you faithful, raise the strain**  
      **Of triumphant gladness!**  
      **God has brought His Israel**  
      **Into joy from sadness,**  
      **Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke**  
      **Jacob's sons and daughters,**  
      **Led them with unmoistened foot**  
      **Through the Red Sea waters.**
  
- 2**    **'Tis the spring of souls today:**  
      **Christ has burst His prison**  
      **And from three days' sleep in death**  
      **As a sun has risen;**  
      **All the winter of our sins,**  
      **Long and dark, is flying**  
      **From His light, to whom is giv'n**  
      **Laud and praise undying.**
  
- 3**    **Now the queen of seasons, bright**  
      **With the day of splendor,**  
      **With the royal feast of feasts**  
      **Comes its joy to render;**  
      **Comes to gladden faithful hearts**  
      **Which with true affection**  
      **Welcome in unwearied strain**  
      **Jesus' resurrection!**
  
- 4**    **For today among His own**  
      **Christ appeared, bestowing**  
      **His deep peace, which evermore**  
      **Passes human knowing.**  
      **Neither could the gates of death**  
      **Nor the tomb's dark portal**

**Nor the watchers nor the seal  
Hold Him as a mortal.**

- 5 Alleluia! Now we cry  
To our King immortal,  
Who, triumphant, burst the bars  
Of the tomb's dark portal.  
Come, you faithful, raise the strain  
Of triumphant gladness!  
God has brought His Israel  
Into joy from sadness!**

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## **SERMON**

**HYMN**      LSB 482 This Joyful Eastertide

- 1 This joyful Eastertide  
Away with sin and sorrow!  
My love, the Crucified,  
Has sprung to life this morrow: Refrain**

**ref Had Christ, who once was slain,  
Not burst His three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain:  
But now has Christ arisen,  
arisen, arisen;  
But now has Christ arisen!**

- 2 Death's flood has lost its chill  
Since Jesus crossed the river;  
Lover of souls, from ill  
My passing soul deliver: Refrain**

- 3 My flesh in hope shall rest  
And for a season slumber  
Till trump from east to west  
Shall wake the dead in number: Refrain**

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**CATECHISM**      *The Third Article*

**Pastor:**      The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed is focused on the Holy Spirit and the ways in which the work of the Spirit has directed the life and growth of the church from its very beginnings, as is recorded by Luke in Acts. The Third Article presents and emphasizes what matters for our spiritual lives now and forever.

**People:** I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Pastor:** What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **OFFERING**

#### **OFFERTORY HYMN**

LSB 783 Take My Life and Let It Be vs 1 & 2

**1** Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

**2** Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

#### **LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People:** 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.**

**BENEDICTION**     *Numbers 6:24–26*

**Pastor:**     The Lord bless you and keep you.  
                  The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
                  The Lord look upon you with favor and ✕ give you peace.

**People:**     **Amen.**

**HYMN**            What An Awesome God

Verse 1

**God is great give Him all the praise  
Hallelujah Name above all Names  
Fire in His eyes healing in His veins  
Everywhere His glory on display  
Take a look at those stars He can name them all  
Before His throne every knee falls  
The demons have to run the angels have to praise  
Even the wind and waves obey**

Chorus 1= 2x's

**Our God is an awesome God  
He reigns from heaven above  
With wisdom power and love  
Our God is an awesome God**

Verse 2

**And even when I ran He didn't run away  
He came and put death back in its place  
Friday on a cross broken for my shame  
Sunday morning rose up from that grave  
Take a look at those scars on His hands and feet  
He saved our souls for eternity  
Worthy is the Lamb glory to the King  
Oh let all the saints and the angels sing**

Chorus 1= 2x's

**Our God is an awesome God  
He reigns from heaven above  
With wisdom power and love  
Our God is an awesome God**

Verse 3

**Eyes on the sky there will be a day  
He will come and wipe our tears away  
No more fear no more pain  
No more sorrow sin or shame  
The King is coming back again  
A reign of love that will never end  
For everything You've done and everything You do**

**And everything You are I'll sing to You**

Chorus 2 = 2x's

**My God, You're an awesome God**

**You're great in all You do**

**I'm made to worship You**

**My God, You're an awesome God**

Tag

**Our God is an awesome God**

**Our God, what an awesome God**

CCLI Song # 7255825

Jonathan Smith | Phil Wickham | Richard Mullins

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