Welcome to long-time Lutherans, Christians from every tradition, and people new to this faith. Welcome to friends new and old. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; every socioeconomic and marital status, political conviction, ability and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners, and questioning believers. Welcome.

Ebenezer Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation. You are welcome here.

This worship booklet is digital! Zoom in for larger print.

Please use phones and other devices frequently, to offer and receive encouragement.

Remember to wash your hands and clean surfaces frequently.

Postures are a way in which we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are optional; but can still be practiced at home!

Children are always welcome in worship at Ebenezer. If there are children in your house, invite them to worship with you.

Today’s gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord’s day.

1650 W. Foster Ave. Chicago IL 60640
(773) 561-8496 + ebenezerchurch.org
Gathering

Consider lighting a candle, or putting a cross in your field of vision.
Throughout the liturgy, you may sit, stand, or kneel as you wish.

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you created us in your image
and planted us in a well-watered garden.
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.
When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus’ wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in every font,
and for all water everywhere.
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
Satisfy the parched, and give us the life only you can give.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.
Gathering Hymn
The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done

1 The strife is o’er, the battle done; now is the victor’s
2 The pow’rs of death have done their worst; Jesus their legions
3 The three sad days have quickly sped. Christ rises glorious
4 Christ closed the yawning gates of hell; the bars from heav’n’s high
5 Lord, by the stripes which wounded you, from death’s sting free your

triumph won! Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!
has dispersed. Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!
from the dead. All glory to our risen head! Alleluia!
portals fell. Let hymns of praise his triumph tell. Alleluia!
servants too, that we may live and sing to you. Alleluia!

After the final stanza

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

Text: Symphonia Sirenum, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909

Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.
Prayer of the Day

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.

Word

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

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

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?” 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. 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.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.
Psalm 116

What Shall I Render to the Lord?

1 What shall I render to the Lord; what
shall my offering be, for all the gracious
benefits God hath bestowed on me?
I will meet, my thankful vows to pay.

2 Salvation’s cup my soul shall take while
to the Lord I pray, and with God’s people
chosen saints to die; from death thou hast de-
liberated me; thy servant, Lord, am I.

3 Not lightly dost thou, Lord, permit thy
soul shall bless the Lord, and praises to God’s
holy name let all the saints accord.

4 Within God’s house, the house of prayer, my
The Second Reading     First Peter 1:17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.


Glory to you, O Lord.


Now on that same day when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene, two disciples 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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows.
Hymn of the Day  Stay With Us

1 Stay with us, till night has come: our praise to you this day be sung.
wear-y spir-its cry,
weep-ing, wail-ing end.
life you will un-fold:
dark shall dim the sun.

2 Walk with us, our spir-its sigh: hear when our bless our bread, o-pen our
feel a-gain our loss, our
Wipe our tears, for-give our
heal our eyes to see the

3 Walk with us, the road will bend: make all our Cheer the heart, your grace im-
night is done:
no tears nor

4 Talk with us, till we be-hold a joy-ful

5 Stay with us, till day is done:

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Music: Walter L. Pelz, b. 1926
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Creed
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Children’s Message

Prayer

Prayers of Intercession

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

For those whose hearts are fervent with love for your gospel, that they are empowered to tell the story of your love in their lives and to show hospitality in response to this love.
Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.
For the diverse natural world: for jungles, prairies, forests, valleys, mountains, and for all the wild and endangered animals who call these spaces home, that they are nurtured and protected. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For broken systems we have inherited and that we continue to perpetuate, forgive us. Restrain the nations from fighting over limited resources. Redeem us from the cycles of scarcity and violence. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For all who call upon your healing name, give rest. Stay with us, and walk with all those who are hungry, friendless, despairing, and desiring healing in body and spirit (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For the faith forming ministries of this church. For those preparing for baptism, first communion, confirmation, and membership. For those who participate in Sunday school and adult education; guide and inspire learners of every age and ability. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Create in our hearts a yearning to rest in your promise of eternal and resurrected life. Give us thankful hearts for those who have died, especially Nancy and Betty, even as we look forward to the hope of new life with you. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**
Lord's Prayer

You may pray this prayer in these words; or, in language close to your heart.

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.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering Music

The Lord’s My Shepherd
Words based on Psalm 23; arr. by John Elmquist

Sending

Benediction

May God bless us and keep us. May God’s face shine on us with grace and mercy. May God look upon us with favor, + and give us peace. Amen.
Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Refrain, Verse 1, Verse 2, Refrain

Text: North American traditional
Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional