Greeting, Announcements and Opening Hymn

919 Abide, O Dearest Jesus https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfUMTMXemA

1 Abide, O dearest Jesus,  
   Among us with Your grace  
   That Satan may not harm us  
   Nor we to sin give place.

2 Abide, O dear Redeemer,  
   Among us with Your Word,  
   And thus now and hereafter  
   True peace and joy afford.

3 Abide with heav’nly brightness  
   Among us, precious Light;  
   Your truth direct and keep us  
   From error’s gloomy night.

4 Abide with richest blessings  
   Among us, bounteous Lord;  
   Let us in grace and wisdom  
   Grow daily through Your Word.

5 Abide with Your protection  
   Among us, Lord, our strength,  
   Lest world and Satan fell us  
   And overcome at length.

6 Abide, O faithful Savior,  
   Among us with Your love;  
   Grant steadfastness and help us  
   To reach our home above.

Text: Public domain

Stand
The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the \( \frac{1}{2} \) Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father,  
  beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Kneel/Stand
Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature  
  sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we  
  flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord  
  Jesus Christ.

C O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon  
  us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us  
  true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by  
  Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us  
  and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to  
  become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized  
  shall be saved.

C Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 133; antiphon: v. 1

Behold, how good and pleas-\( \text{\textdagger} \) ant it is\( ^* \)  
when brothers dwell in \( \text{\textdagger} \) unity!

Trinity Lutheran Church, Harvel, IL  
Vicar Joe Nehring
It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron,* running down on the collar of his robes!
It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion!* For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

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.

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!* Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Kyrie & Gloria in Excelsis https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hguV0s_RWIU

LSB 186

C Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

P Glory be to God on high:
C and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav’nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.

P 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.

C Amen.

Sit

First Reading Acts 2:14a, 36–41

14Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .
34Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”
37Now 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?” 38And 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.
39For 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.” 40And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” 41So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.
Epistle

1 Peter 1:17–25

17 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, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, 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, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God:

“All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

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

Holy Gospel


13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 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. 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?” 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, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, 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. 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.” And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

28 So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, 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. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. 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?” And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God
Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
    maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
    The third day He rose again from the dead.
    He ascended into heaven
    and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
    From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
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.

Sit

476 Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NgRG0Ph0oFA

1 Who are you who walk in sorrow
    Down Emmaus’ barren road,
Hearts distraught and hope defeated,
    Bent beneath grief’s crushing load?
Nameless mourners, we will join you,
    We who also mourn our dead;
We have stood by graves unyielding,
    Eaten death’s bare, bitter bread.

2 Who is this who joins our journey,
    Walking with us stride by stride?
Unknown Stranger, can You fathom
    Depths of grief for one who died?
Then the wonder! When we told You
    How our dreams to dust have turned,
Then You opened wide the Scriptures
    Till our hearts within us burned.

3 Who are You? Our hearts are opened
    In the breaking of the bread—
Christ the victim, now the victor
    Living, risen from the dead!

4 Who are we who travel with You
    On our way through life to death?
Women, men, the young, the aging,
    Wakened by the Spirit’s breath!
At the font You claim and name us,
    Born of water and the Word;
At the table still You feed us,
    Host us as our risen Lord!

5 “Alleluia! Alleluia!”
    Is the Easter hymn we sing!
Take our life, our joy, our worship
    As the gift of love we bring.
You have formed us all one people
    Called from ev’ry land and race.
Make the Church Your servant body,
    Sent to share Your healing grace!

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Sermon

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Walk with me on the Emmaus Road. With the Passover complete, there are many people walking home in groups, talking about all the happenings in Jerusalem during Passover. Most of the folks are joyful, having celebrated God’s rescuing Israel from the Egyptians. Many are hopeful that the Lord will again deliver the people of Israel from their oppressors, this time Rome. After all, the prophets of the Old Testament prophesy...
that a descendant of David will sit on David’s throne, ruling over Israel. For these folks returning home from Passover, what else would those prophecies mean?

Cleopas and his companion, two folks on the Emmaus road, aren’t joyful. They are shocked and dismayed by what they had just seen. They were disciples of Jesus. They, along with many others, believed Jesus would save Israel. They knew that Jesus was a prophet, mighty in word and deed before God and all the people. They had hoped Jesus would restore David’s kingdom, re-uniting the twelve tribes of Israel and ridding the land of those despised Romans. The crowds had hailed Jesus on the Sunday before his Crucifixion, saying “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” By Thursday, Jesus was betrayed by one of His own disciples to the Chief Priest and rulers of Israel. On Friday, the Romans crucified Jesus. Jesus was dead and buried before sunset on Friday. On the third day, His tomb was empty and some of his followers told of visits by an angel who announced that He was alive. What does this mean? How could He be alive? As the two walk along, a man comes up and joins their conversation.

Luke tells us that Jesus joins them, but they are kept from recognizing Him. To them, he’s just another visitor to Jerusalem who seems to be unaware of what had just happened. The stranger’s words should have opened their eyes but didn’t. “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?” The stranger explains how the Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled in Jesus’ suffering and death to them as they walk the seven miles, likely taking two hours or so. Even as God’s Word burns in their hearts, they still do not recognize Him. Only when he once again takes bread, gives thanks, and breaks the bread as He had done at the Last Supper, are their eyes opened.

The events on the road should sound very familiar—we call it Word and Sacrament ministry. This is the same Word and Sacrament ministry that happens in the church today. As we worship, every Sunday we read the Scriptures and proclaim the Gospel, the Good News of Our Salvation, that Jesus has fulfilled the Law on our behalf. Jesus has reconciled the Father to us by atoning for our sins and giving us His righteousness. And on Communion Sundays, we participate in the Service of the Sacrament in which Jesus once again is present in a tangible way to His people.

Notice though, that even though their hearts burn as Jesus reveals Himself as the fulfillment of the Old Testament, it is in the breaking of the bread that they see Jesus. And for us, too, we see Jesus in the breaking of the bread, in the Sacrament of the Altar. Jesus becomes present in, with and under, the bread and wine as Jesus’s words are spoken “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” And “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”. Having reached their destination and yet rejuvenated, re-invigorated and filled with Easter joy, Cleopas and His companion immediately return to Jerusalem to proclaim the Good News that Christ is Risen.

It is easy for us to identify with Cleopas and his companion on the Emmaus Road. They weren’t apostles. They don’t seem to have been part of the “inner circle”. These disciples were just everyday people, everyday disciples, like you and I. Even though they seem to have walked away from Jesus, having given up on Jesus, Jesus hadn’t given up on them. Their hopes were dashed by events happening around them, especially the crucifixion. They were walking away. And yet God comes after them, restoring them, renewing their hope, giving them confidence to proclaim Jesus’s Resurrection.

In the same way, there are times when we wander away from Jesus. Trials and temptations can cause us to doubt and to despair, to lose sight of Jesus. Just as Jesus sought out Cleopas and his companion, so too the Holy Spirit seeks us out, working faith in our hearts, giving us faith and hope so that we can cling to God’s promises in joyful response to God’s Grace and Mercy. The Holy Spirit works repentance in us to bring us back to God’s Word and God’s Sacraments, to the places where Jesus has promised to be.

There have been times when we have gone off in our own direction. We have looked for Jesus somewhere that He hasn’t promised to be. We have involved ourselves with people and things that we shouldn’t have and where Jesus wouldn’t be. We have thought that our ways are better than God’s ways. We have focused on things of this world instead of things of eternity. We have been too busy, too stressed, too worried or too self-
assured about things going well that we lost sight of Jesus. We have missed opportunities to confess Jesus as Lord. We have been foolish and slow of heart to believe, just like these two disciples on the Emmaus Road. These are the very things that made Jesus’s suffering necessary. Jesus became a man to take our sins and our punishment upon Himself on the cross to pay the full price for our sins, to atone for our sins and to give us His Righteousness. Paul tells the Romans “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.” (Ro 5:9-11)

You were called in Baptism to be God’s child. You are reconciled to the Father. You have received the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. You are set free from the tyranny of sin and death. In joyful response, you gather around Word and Sacrament Ministry, to hear God’s Word faithfully proclaimed and to receive the Sacraments rightly administered, Baptism, and the Sacrament of the Altar, the very body and blood of Jesus given into death for our salvation.

Let us always look for Jesus where he has promised to be found, in His Word and the Sacraments. Let us always cling to God promises. May God’s Word burn in our hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit so that we may be faithful witnesses and proclaim “Christ is Risen” to the praise and glory of God, our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ His Son, Our Lord. Amen.

And now, may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Hear us now as we come to You on behalf of ourselves and all people according to their needs.

Our hearts have burned in us, O Lord, as Your Word has been read and preached. Keep our faith from growing cold and grant us grace, that we may not waver in faith or succumb to temptation. Give to us and to our children receptive hearts, that we may hear and, hearing, believe and, believing, be steadfast in this faith and hope all our days. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

You have cleansed us, O Lord, with water and the Word in Baptism, and You have marked us as Your own people. Give to us grace, that we may live out this faith in holy lives, lifting up Your name in word and works for as long as we live. Guide us, that with souls purified by obedience to the truth, we may love one another earnestly from a pure heart. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bless Your Church, O Lord, that she may welcome the stranger in Christ’s name and manifest the unity of the faith in the bonds of love. Gather together those who are separated and preserve their faith by Your Word until all precautions and shelter measures have passed. Bless Pastor Harrison, presiding in our Synod; Pastor Scharr, our district president; Pastor Eickhoff, our circuit visitor; and Pastor Prumm, our pastor. Bless those training for church-work vocations, especially those with will be assigned as Vicars and Deaconess Interns, and those who receive their first Pastoral or Deaconess calls this week. Bless each of us as we live out our baptismal vocation of worship, witness, prayer and service. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Guard our nation, O Lord, that we may enjoy peace and security in the face of threat and danger. Bless Donald, our president; the Congress of the United States; JB, our governor; and all state and local officials, that they may fulfill their offices faithfully. Bless all emergency and medical workers and the members of the armed forces who protect us and teach the nations the ways of peace. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Deliver us from all our afflictions, and grant us strength to bear all our burdens, O Lord. Hear us for those in our ongoing prayers and those whom we name in our hearts. According to Your gracious will, heal the sick, relieve those who suffer, comfort the grieving and give peace to the dying. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Stay with us, O Lord, and be our strength in weakness and our hope in time of despair. Your gracious will once kept the saints in faith even unto death. Keep us, we pray, with them in Your faith and fear, that we may be found faithful when Christ comes again in His glory to bring to fulfillment all things, once and forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
Through the breaking of the bread, O Lord, feed us upon the flesh of Christ and grant us to drink His blood in faith. Forgive our sins, strengthen our faith, build up our unity as a congregation and Synod, and equip us through this communion to love You and love one another as You have loved us. Preserve the faith of those who wish to receive this Sacrament in the presence of the congregation but cannot and grant them their desire soon. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Accept, O Lord, this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving we bring for all Your goodness and generosity. And with our song of praise, accept our tithes and offerings, that Your Church may have the resources to proclaim Your Gospel and care for the poor and those in need. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

These and whatever other things we need, O Lord, we pray You to grant us in the name of and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose death has made full atonement for our sin and whose resurrection has granted to us the promise of our own joyful resurrection to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen

Lord’s Prayer 

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.

Closing Collect

Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen, amen, amen.

655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word; Curb those who by deceit or sword Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son And bring to naught all He has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow’r make known, For You are Lord of lords alone; Defend Your holy Church that we May sing Your praise eternally.

O Comforter of priceless worth, Send peace and unity on earth; Support us in our final strife And lead us out of death to life.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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