

Friends of the Chapel Weekly Scripture Study

Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

First New Testament Reading

Acts 2:14a, 36–41

English Standard Version Scripture Text

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them:

³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷ 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?” ³⁸ 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. ³⁹ 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.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Historical Context

Acts 2 records the events of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the apostles. Peter’s sermon explains that Jesus, whom the people crucified, has been made both Lord and Christ. This passage captures the powerful response to that proclamation.

Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verse 14a – Peter stands with the eleven, indicating unity and apostolic authority.

Verse 36 – The central declaration: Jesus is both Lord and Christ.

Verse 37 – The listeners are cut to the heart, demonstrating the Spirit’s convicting power.

Verse 38 – Peter calls for repentance and baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

Verse 39 – The promise extends broadly—to all whom the Lord calls.

Verses 40–41 – Many respond in faith, and about three thousand are added to the church.

Theological Themes

- The lordship of Christ
- Repentance and baptism
- The work of the Holy Spirit
- The growth of the early Church

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 1:17–25

English Standard Version Scripture Text

¹⁷ 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.

Historical Context

Peter writes to believers living in a hostile cultural environment, urging them to live holy lives. He reminds them that they have been redeemed not with perishable things, but with the precious blood of Christ.

Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verse 17 – Believers are called to live in reverent fear during their earthly lives.

Verses 18–19 – Redemption is accomplished through the precious blood of Christ.

Verse 20 – Christ’s work was foreknown before the foundation of the world.

Verse 21 – Through Christ, believers trust in God who raised Him from the dead.

Verses 22–23 – New birth leads to sincere love grounded in the living and abiding word of God.

Verses 24–25 – Human life is temporary, but the word of the Lord endures forever.

Theological Themes

- Redemption through Christ
- Holiness in daily life
- The enduring word of God
- Love as evidence of new birth

Concluding Reflection

The Third Sunday of Easter reminds the Church that the resurrection calls for a response. Peter’s sermon leads listeners to repentance and new life, while his letter later calls believers to live in holiness and love. Those who are redeemed by Christ are invited to live transformed lives, grounded in the enduring word and shaped by the hope of the resurrection.

Thoughts to Consider 04/19/26

1. What does it mean to recognize Jesus as Lord in everyday life?
2. Why is conviction an important part of spiritual transformation?
3. How do repentance and baptism reflect a turning point in life?
4. How does redemption through Christ shape our identity?
5. What practical ways can we demonstrate sincere love in our communities?