

BULLETIN TEMPLATE:

Minnesota Valley Church

Date: Sunday, April 19, 2026

Church Year Date: 3rd Sunday of Easter

Prelude: Rebekah Olson

HYMN #157 "Rejoice, the Lord is King!"

CALL TO WORSHIP: from Psalm 116

PASTOR: The LORD is gracious and righteous;

ALL: Our God is full of compassion.

PASTOR: The LORD protects the simplehearted;

ALL: When I was in great need, he saved me.

PASTOR: Be at rest once more, O my soul,

ALL: For the LORD has been good to you.

PASTOR: For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from death,

ALL: My eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling,

PASTOR: That I may walk before the LORD

ALL: In the land of the living. Praise the LORD.

HYMN #124 "Open My Eyes"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Reader: Becky Kruse

First Lesson: *Acts 2:36-41* "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." 37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 Peter replied, "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 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our

God will call." 40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Gospel Lesson: *Luke 24:13-35* Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16 but they were kept from recognizing him. 17 He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. 18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" 19 "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. 20 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. 22 In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning 23 but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. 24 Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." 25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. 28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. 29 But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 32 They asked

each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" 33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together 34 and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." 35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

READER: Here ends the reading of God's Word.

CONGREGATION SINGS: God be praised, for His glad Tidings!

CONFESSION OF FAITH: 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, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall 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*

Gloria Patri: Ambassador Hymnal p. 4 *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, Amen.*

Announcements and Receive Offering

PRAISE AND WORSHIP: Songs to be chosen by Hannah

SERMON: "TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE PECULIAR" 1 Peter 1:17-25, April 19, 2026 Pastor Tom Olson; *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen*

MISSOURI: On our way to Branson we drove through Peculiar, Missouri. When this town was being settled in the mid-1800's they could not decide on a name. The postal department requested that they don't choose a PECULIAR name, I would guess they meant, "HARD TO SPELL OR PRONOUNCE." So, in desperation, someone just took that line and sent in the name, PECULIAR, and it stuck. This makes for some interesting business and especially church names such as:

- First Baptist Church-Peculiar
- First Church of Peculiar
- Peculiar Church of Christ

KJV: As peculiar as those names are, they actually fit in with our sermon series theme from 1 Peter. Most studies of 1 Peter would focus on the dominant theme of SUFFERING CHRISTIANS. But I have chosen to focus on 1 Peter 2:9 from the King James Version.

THEME VERSE: **1 Peter 2:9 says this "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, A PECULIAR PEOPLE" KJV.** Peculiar here means "**a people for God's own special possession.**" We are His personal treasure, loved and cherished. 1 Peter is filled with reasons why we are a peculiar, prized possession of God, significantly different than the people of this world, different from people who reject God. TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE PECULIAR, 1 Peter 1:17-25, WE ARE...

I. PECULIAR: BECAUSE WE ARE STRANGERS WHO BELONG IN A DIFFERENT PLACE

1 Peter 1:17-19 *Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. 18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

CONTEXT: We need to first of all look at the context from 1 Peter 1:13-15 where Peter charges his readers to:

1. PREPARE your minds for action.
2. Be SELF-CONTROLLED.
3. SET YOUR HOPE on the grace that will come when Jesus returns.
4. BE HOLY.

MILITARY: This really sounds like a military training instruction to get ready for action and separate yourself from the hinderances of civilian life.

HOW: HOW DO WE DO THIS? Peter says LIVE YOUR LIFE AS STRANGERS. Don't get too comfortable in this world. The Pilgrims came to Plymouth Rock on the Mayflower on December 21, 1620. They knew this well. They called themselves Pilgrims. They were persecuted Christians. The pilgrims knew they were on a journey to find a BETTER COUNTRY.

WHY: Why? Because this world is perishing and we who are the redeemed children of God are imperishable. We live forever and ever. Let that soak in!!! We live forever and ever. We don't belong in a place that is going to be destroyed.

BLOOD: Peter reminds them that the silver and gold are perishable. Our true wealth is the precious blood of Christ, as Peter calls Him "THE LAMB WITHOUT BLEMISH." That blood of Jesus paid for all our sins and qualifies us to be in the holy and awesome presence of God for all eternity.

BURNED: In 2 Peter 3:10 we are told the everything in this world is going to be "burned with intense heat." It says that the elements will be destroyed. Gold and silver will be purged from the earth. I like to think that since the streets of heaven are paved with gold that the gold on the earth is just the sweepings from the construction of

the streets in heaven. It is a waste of time to set our hearts on the things of this world. Our lives are but a vapor.

LARRY: Larry Newland's life possessions were sold off at auction this week. I believe that many things didn't even get a bid. They will go in a dumpster or to the scrap yard. Many of his unfinished projects will never be finished. The only thing that matters now is the treasure that Larry has in heaven.

LYRICS: This is why I asked Hannah to lead us in that last song because of the words: *All I once held dear, built my life upon; All this world reveres, and wars to own; All I once thought gain I have counted loss; Spent and worthless now, compared to this: Knowing you, Jesus...*

WAR: This whole war in the middle east is a 3,000-year-old fight over land, power, religious pride and oil. Soon the old men who are causing the fight will be dead, thankfully. But new power-hungry people will take their places on both sides.

ABRAHAM: God provided Abraham with the promise of all the land from the Euphrates River to Egypt. But Abraham didn't want it! He didn't even build a city on his land. He lived as a sojourner in a tent by choice. Why? Hebrews 11:16 says that it was because he was looking for a BETTER city, a heavenly one. This was pleasing to God.

NIGERIA: In Nigeria the Muslims have killed over 100,000 Christians and burned down 18,000 Christian churches. Hebrews 11:39&40 tells us that God has planned something better for those who lose everything for Christ. They leave their huts in Africa and arrive in Heaven to the home God has prepared for them. They would not want to come back.

We are PECULIAR BECAUSE WE ARE STRANGERS WHO BELONG IN A DIFFERENT PLACE. We are...

II. PECULIAR: BECAUSE WE TRUST IN AN UNSEEN GOD

1 Peter 1:20-21 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

YOUTH: One of the major discussions among Christian leaders today is the number of young people that have fallen away from the faith they were raised in. They go to church, Sunday school, youth group, Christian schools and then once they leave home, they abandon their faith. They go to college and the professor asks them why they claim to believe in God or why they think the Bible is true and they can't answer that question so they fall away. The numbers are staggering.

STRANGE: Our faith is a strange faith. We believe in a God we cannot see. We listen to God through the Bible but God doesn't talk to us out loud. We hear the gospel, it creates faith and we believe. MY HEART KNOWS IT IS TRUE. I have the witness of the Holy Spirit. I believe it. God has granted me faith to believe.

RESULTS: The result is peace. I have joy. I have no fear of dying. I look forward to going home to heaven. I know that Jesus is coming back to usher in His eternal peaceable kingdom. I expect Him any day! The Easter song tells it like it is for me: *"...you ask me how I know He lives; He lives within my heart."* I would die for Him without giving it a second thought, just like my brothers and sisters in Christ in Nigeria.

We are PECULIAR BECAUSE WE TRUST IN AN UNSEEN GOD. Finally, we are...

III. PECULIAR: BECAUSE WE WANT TO STAY PURE BECAUSE WE KNOW IT IS SOON TIME TO BE WITH THE LORD FOREVER

1 Peter 1:22-25 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

PURIFIED: Peter notes that the true people of God "HAVE PURIFIED THEMSELVES." We are living in days much like the days of the Apostles. People are living wild and immoral lives like the Greeks and Romans lived. Immorality is rampant. Every imaginable sexual deviation is not only practiced but praised. Business people and athletes are getting removed from their positions if they don't go along with it. They are choosing purity over a successful career. And that makes them PECULIAR.

VAPOR: They know, like Peter, says here that "ALL MEN ARE LIKE GRASS." In our study of Ecclesiastes last summer, we saw that life is "Vanity" a vapor, a mist. In a few years, most of us in this room will be gone and forgotten by those we leave behind.

DIFFICULT: This is why we choose to stay pure. It is hard in such an impure society. When I was a teenager, you had to have connections to get a magazine with pornographic photos in it. But today, those things come at us like a blast of water from a firehose from every imaginable direction.

DESTINATION: But we try to stay pure and not be a part of it. We know that our destination is a land of purity. Heaven is a place of great pleasure and purest pleasures.

MOCKED: If you choose to be pure, the world will mock you. Peter talks about this in chapter 4: *1 Peter 4:3-6 For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and*

detestable idolatry. 4 They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. 5 But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

DYING: I have told you many times that I have never met an old dying soul that says, "Pastor, I wish I had been more immoral in my life." But I have met many souls that have said, "I wish I had lived a more righteous life." **Purity is something you will never regret.**

We are a PECULIAR PEOPLE. We are designed to bring joy to the heart of our Creator. Perhaps we should rename our church. Today there is "Creative Church" and "Grace Church" and "Hope Church." Maybe we should call ourselves "PECULIAR CHURCH." Because, that is what we are and that is what God delights in. *May the peace of God that surpasses all human comprehension, guard your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen*

Hymn #591 "Under His Wings"

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below, Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men. A-men. A---men.

Postlude: Rebekah Olson