

# WELCOME

Second Sunday of Easter  
ELW Holy Communion Setting Three  
Sunday, April 7, 2024  
APRIL—JULY 10AM

## OUR MISSION

Jesus Christ calls American Lutheran Church to nourish the world by faithfully sharing His gifts.

Praise God that we can worship together! We pray you will be enlightened by the Holy Spirit and strengthened in the faith that trusts in our Lord Jesus Christ and praises him for the gift of our salvation. Peace be with you!

## CONTACT US

Church office: 319-827-6626  
Church website: [www.americanlutheranjesup.org](http://www.americanlutheranjesup.org)  
Secretary's email: [secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org](mailto:secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org)



### Introduction to the day

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

Welcome to worship, we're glad you're here! If you do not have a church home, please know that you are welcome to make this your church home.

Please fill out the tan communication card in the pew and place it in the offering plate. The ushers will gladly answer any questions you may have.

God's blessings to you!

**PRELUDE** by Shirley Bergman  
**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (ELW p. 97)

*The assembly stands.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,

calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **GATHERING SONG** *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright* (ELW 384)

#### **GREETING** (ELW p. 138)

*During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

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.**

### **KYRIE** (ELW p. 138)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 139)

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,




al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

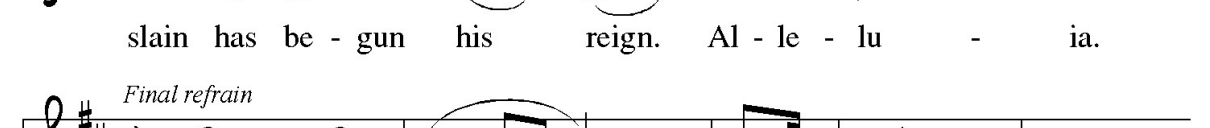


slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 142)

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

**Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## A Blessing Service for Quilts and Health Kits

Blessing Whether in person or virtually, invite participants to extend their arms out in front of them as an act of blessing.

L: God, our neighbors around the world are in need of hope. Your Spirit is a mighty force, your whispers of hope bring light into the world. Open our hearts and hands to see your presence in our neighborhoods and across the world.

C: **Jesus, help us speak words of hope to our neighbors.**

L: God, we give you thanks for the pieces of fabric, thread, sewing machines, and the items collected for the kits. May their presence be a sign of hope, may these quilts wrap our neighbors in unending love, and may these kits offer dignity and healing. C: **Jesus, help us reach out in hope to our neighbors.**

L: God, we give thanks for all the hands that fashioned hope into a quilt, for the hands that collected and sorted, for the hands that continually open wider so that no one feels left out. C: **Jesus, help us see hope in our neighbors.**

L: God, we ask you to guide the staff and partners at LWR. May their voices and hands be a beacon of hope. Keep them safe. Keep them filled with your strength and perseverance. C: **Jesus, help us share a taste of hope with our neighbors.**

L: God, be with our neighbors who will receive these gifts. May they be wrapped in love, may they taste your goodness, may they touch signs of your hope. Whether or not we know their names or where they live, they are our neighbors, our brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One who is our hope. C: **Amen.**

L: Recognizing God's abundant hope, go and be a sign of hope to our neighbors near and far: offering hands to hold, sweet scents of justice, and a feast of God's goodness. In the name of the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

*While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.*

*The reading may be announced:*

A reading from Acts.

<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Psalm 133

<sup>1</sup>How good and how pleasant it is,  
when kindred live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup>**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,  
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe. R**

<sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore. **R**

**SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1--2:2**

*The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.*

*The reading may be announced:*

A reading from 1 John.

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>2:1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the

righteous; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL: John 20:19-31**

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to John, the twentieth chapter

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.*

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has

sent me, so I send you.”<sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.<sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.<sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”<sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”<sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”<sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.<sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain (ELW 363)*

## **CREED (ELW p. 104)**

**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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and

for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain (especially *Stephanie Winkelpleck, Dennis Becker and those we name silently in our hearts*). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

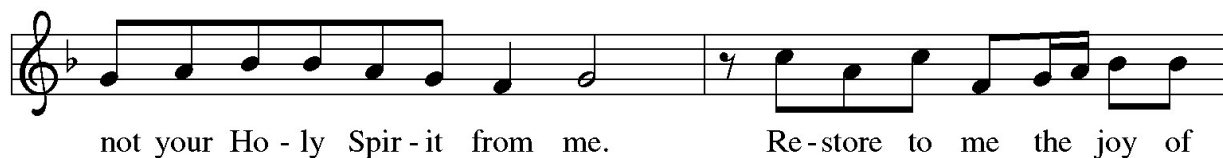
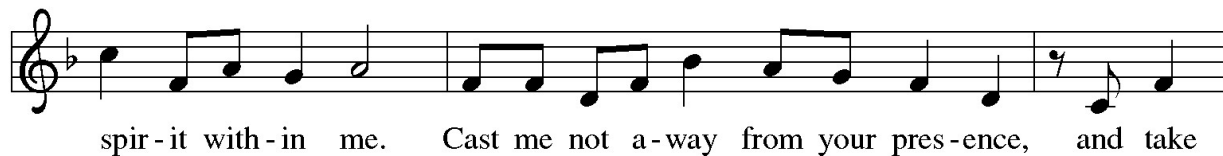
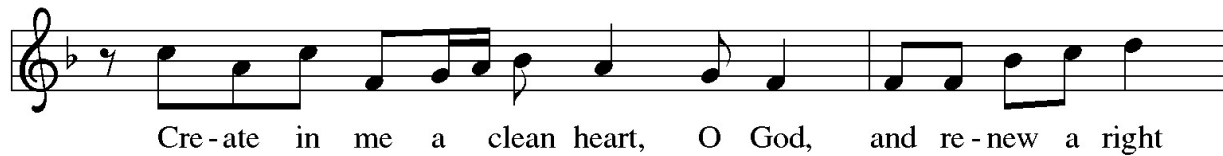
Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you Grant us your peace amid our fears. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**Amen.**

## OFFERING



## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

### 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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*We believe that Jesus Christ is the host of this meal, and he invites all people to his table, so we practice open communion. That means that all the baptized are welcome to receive communion, regardless of your denomination of membership. We offer communion instruction to 5th graders; younger visitors who have already communed are welcome to receive communion here as well.*

### COMMUNION

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)

Let us pray.

**Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

### BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**



The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (ELW 815)**

### **DISMISSAL**

**POSTLUDE** by Shirley Bergman

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Portals of Prayers* and *Christ in our Home* booklets are by the Fire-side Room and also in the entrance of the church.

We will be sending 58 **Quilts** and 35 **Personal** Care Kits to LWR this year! Thank you to everyone who contributed physically and/or financially. God is Good

**Prayer Chain:** Contact Kaye (tomjones@indytel.com) or Chris (secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org) with any prayer concerns.

**Looking for two amazing volunteers to join us for Worship Wednesday!** ☐ This is an incredible opportunity to work with our energetic and enthusiastic youth, ranging from ages 3 to 6th grade. We meet twice a month from September to April, spending a fantastic forty-five minutes (6:15-7pm) diving into inspiring Bible stories, engaging in fun crafts or games, and enjoying a delightful treat together. Come be a part of this uplifting and rewarding experience!

### **Youth Gathering Update**

Our fundraising efforts have continued, most recently raising almost \$500 with our Little Ceasar's Pizza Fundraiser! Thank you to everyone

who supported us! We're proud to announce that we've surpassed our fundraising goal and will have enough funds to pay for registration, transportation, and housing of 9 (6 kids, 3 adults) on our mission to the Youth Gathering. We plan to continue fundraising to replenish some of what we'll use, and leave a healthy balance for activities/youth to enjoy in the future!

Our next fundraiser will be a spring yard cleanup - please reach out to Sara Borland or Beth Stanek if you have sticks to be picked up, raking to be done, or other simple outdoor chores you could use help with - for a free will donation. Spots will be limited, and the date is TBD (likely mid to late April).

**Lutheran World Relief Spring In-Gathering** – Women of ALC are invited to attend the Spring In-Gathering to be held at Zion Lutheran Church (Jubilee), 12007 Jubilee Road, La Porte City on Saturday, April 13th. Beverages and treats will be provided starting at 8 AM. A program entitled "Piece by Piece" will begin at 9:30 AM. The loading of the quilts and kits will begin at 8 AM and conclude at 11 AM. Please consider attending and enjoy the fellowship with other women in our Synod. The Fall In-Gathering will also be held at Zion Lutheran on October 12th. This is the closest location to ALC that the In-Gatherings have been held – a rare opportunity to attend without traveling very far

**Prayer Shawl:** Please contact Sharon McAtee at 319-827-6154 if you are in need of a shawl.

**ALC 90th Anniversary**– Our 90th Anniversary celebration is scheduled for July 28th, and we are actively seeking individuals to join the committee. For those interested, please reach out to Maureen Even at 563-880-8872 or contact Chris Waring at Secretary@americanlutheranchurch.org.

## THIS WEEK AT ALC

### Sunday April 7th

10am Worship & Holy Communion  
Blessing of the LWR Quilts and Kits  
Communion

### Tuesday Monday April 8th

6:30pm Council Meeting

### BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance **3/31/23 55**

FB Views: 71

Current **4/1/2024**

Checking: \$10,187.50

Savings: \$60,279.32

Offering: **3/31/24**

Current: \$1104

Benevolence: \$260

Improvement: \$25

Improvement Windows: \$200

World Hunger: \$351

LWR Shipping: \$93

### PASTORS COMING TO ALC:

April 14th Pastor Phil Borleske

April 21st Pastor Dan Mixdorf

April 28th Pastor Liz Bell

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### Military members: Military members:

Christa Leach has returned from deployment and is still with the 434th Air Force Reserve Unit in Grissom, Indiana. Jordan and Justin continue their monthly drills with the 185th Air Refueling Wing in Sioux City. Jeryn Loyd is a student at Iowa State and currently home from Arkansas in the Army Reserves as Cassidee and Cole. Please contact the church office to add other names who serve. We remember them in our prayers.

### ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY:

Pastor: Luther Thoreson

Music: Shirley Bergman

Usher: Mike & Chris Waring

Deacon: Maureen Even

### ELECTRONIC GIVING IT'S EASY!

Simply Giving is a stress-free, no hassle way to set up automatic giving to ALC. You have the ability to set up one-time or regular giving at a frequency that works best for you. Use your smartphone to scan the QR code below or download the Give+ App to get started. Feel free to reach out to Mike Waring or Sara Borland for more info.

