

# WELCOME

Sixth Sunday of Easter  
ELW Holy Communion Setting Four  
Sunday, May 25, 2025

## 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

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## Introduction to the day



Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

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.

God's blessings to you!

## PRELUDE by Shirley Bergman WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly stands*

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (ELW p. 97)

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** *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* (ELW 756)

**GREETING** 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.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE** (ELW p. 148)

This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**  
**Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**  
**This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.  
**Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, 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.*

**FIRST READING: Acts 16:9-15**

*A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.*

*The reading may be announced:*  
A reading from Acts.

<sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” <sup>10</sup> When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

<sup>11</sup> We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the follow-

ing day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup> On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup> When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.  
Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 67**

- <sup>1</sup> May God be merciful to us and bless us;  
may the light of God’s face shine upon us.  
<sup>2</sup> **Let your way be known upon earth,  
your saving health among all nations.**  
<sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
<sup>4</sup> **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth. R**  
<sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
<sup>6</sup> **The earth has brought forth its increase;  
God, our own God, has blessed us.**  
<sup>7</sup> May God give us blessing,  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe. **R**

**SECOND READING: Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5**

*John’s vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God’s past actions. Yet in this new city, God’s presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.*

*The reading may be announced:*  
A reading from Revelation.

<sup>10</sup> And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

<sup>22</sup>I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup>And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup>The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup>Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup>People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup>But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

<sup>22:1</sup> Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup> they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL: John 14:23-29**

*As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.*

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you eve-

rything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE  
SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

***O Beautiful for Spacious Skies: America the Beautiful (ELW 888)***

**CREED (ELW p. 152)**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church,

the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Unite your people with communities of faith throughout the world. Further co-operation between people of different faith traditions and bless our non-Christian neighbors, that we learn and grow in deeper relationship. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bless the earth with fresh water, clean air, and rich soil. Nurture growing crops and encourage communities developing sustainable farming practices. Help us to live in balance and harmony with your good creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Reconcile nations and communities suffering from violence and conflict. Protect refugees, asylum-seekers, and all who flee their homes seeking safety and security. Make all nations safe for both migrants and residents. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sustain all who are in need, especially individuals and families struggling with trauma or addiction. Support caregivers, especially nurses, doctors, counselors, and social workers. Come alongside all who are ill or struggling. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

This Memorial Day weekend, we remember all who have died in military service. Soothe loved ones who mourn, and strengthen support systems for veterans and their families. Bring peace among nations, that war and conflict around the world might cease. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for all your saints raised to new life in Christ (*especially*). Gather us, with them, into the peace only you can give. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord, bring comfort to the students, families, and friends of UW–Platteville in this time of grief. Wrap them in Your peace, and guide them toward healing and hope. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

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

## OFFERING HYMN Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 182) Sung

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

## 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.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

## PREFACE (ELW p. 153)

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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:**

**Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 153)**

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**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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 (ELW p. 155)**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* (ELW 763)**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** by Shirley Bergman

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Any announcements need to be placed in the file on the church office door by Wednesday evening. Articles for THE LAMP are due in the office by noon on the second Wednesday of each month.*

**Thank You**

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Pastor Robert Ericson for graciously filling in and leading us in worship this Sunday. Your presence and message are truly appreciated.

**Starting June 1, we will have a new weekly worship time and format!**

Every Sunday at 4pm join us for:  
A casual, uplifting, and inspiring what to worship together  
Contemporary music  
Community-focused, welcoming atmosphere

A shortened format for busy lives! No dress code, no pressure-just come as you are. Bing your family. Bring a friend, and join this exciting new way to worship!

(Traditional worship on Sunday mornings is still available also.

**Join Us for a Special Outdoor Worship!**

American Lutheran Church and Zion will come together for a joyful Jubilee joint service on **Sunday, June 8th at 10 a.m.** at **Zion Lutheran Church.**

Come celebrate in the beauty of God’s creation—**bring your lawn chairs or a blanket**, and worship with us under the open sky! Everyone is welcome—don’t miss this uplifting morning of faith, and fellowship!

We’re looking for someone to assist with **Worship Wednesday** this fall. If you enjoy working with kids and want to make a difference in their faith journey, we’d love to have you on the team! Please contact the church office or Christy Phillips if you’re interested.

**We are collecting items for LWR Personal Care Kits.** You may drop them off at the church. List of items needed. We have a goal of 50 and unfortunately we have a slow start. As of today we need the following: 48 Dark Bath Towels,

20x40 or 52x27, 100 Full size bars of soap, unopened, 22 Adult size Toothbrush, ,and 37 Metal Nail Clippers.

**Help Feed :Local Families This Summer**

The Jesup Ministerial Association is once again partnering to provide food boxes for families this summer. These families have been screened and will receive regular support this summer.

**NEED ITEMS STARTING JUNE 11**

ALC has a special opportunity to sere our community by collecting 40 cans of fruit and 40 boxes of instant oatmeal each month. These items will help fill good boxes for families in need.

You can place your donations in the shopping cart in the lower narthex-every contribution truly matters and brings hope to someone's table.

**THIS WEEK AT ALC**

**Sunday May 25th**

8:30am  
Worship & Holy Communion  
Wednesday May 28th  
Practice for Praise Worship

**Sunday June 1st**

8:30am  
Worship & Holy Communion  
4pm Praise Worship

**BY THE NUMBERS**

Attendance 05/18/**25: 60**  
Current Balance **April 30th**  
Checking: \$2277.71  
Improvement Fund: \$47,922.75  
Savings: \$42,334.51

Offering: **5/18/2025**  
Current: \$1206  
Benevolence: \$180  
Improvement: \$25  
LDR: \$ 300

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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: Pastor Robert Ericson  
Music: Shirley Bergman  
Usher: Denny & Joyce Becker  
Deacon: Mary Adams  
Reader: Sue Hoey  
Fellowship Host: Joyce Becker

**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 Vanco Mobile to get started. Feel free to reach out to Mike Waring or Sara Borland for more info.