

# WELCOME



Fourth Sunday in Lent  
ELW Holy Communion Setting Four  
Sunday, March 30, 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

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

## WELCOME VISITORS!

We are so happy you've joined us today. If you have any questions about our service or facilities, please reach out to an usher. If you are a guest please fill out the yellow slip and place it in the offering plate.

The children will be invited up front during the children's message – please feel free to join us!

All who are baptized are welcome to receive communion. If you would prefer to receive a blessing only, come with your hands folded.

If you are looking for a church home, know you are always welcome here.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP- Setting Four

### Prelude by Shirley Bergman

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

### **GATHERING SONG *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* (ELW 325)**

#### **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.**

#### **KYRIE (ELW p. 147)**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

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

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY .**

Let us pray.

**God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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: Joshua 5:9-12**

*By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.*

*The reading may be announced:*

A reading from Joshua.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup> While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup> On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup> The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **PSALM: Psalm 32**

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile! R**

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave

me the guilt of my sin.

**<sup>6</sup>Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them. R**

<sup>7</sup>You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**<sup>8</sup>“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that I should go; I will guide you I with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup>Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

**<sup>10</sup>Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup>Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart. **R**

## **SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

*One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.*

*The reading may be announced:*

A reading from 2 Corinthians.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>6</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Return to the Lord, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

## **GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

*Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.*

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

<sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>11b</sup>“There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ <sup>20</sup>So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>But the father said to

his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDRENS MESSAGE

### SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY *Seed That in Earth Is Dying* (ELW 330)

## CREED (ELW p. 152)

*Please stand as you are able*

**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

*A brief silence.*

Response to petitions: God, of mercy, **Hold us in love.**

## PEACE

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

## OFFERING

**Noisy Offering– Jesup Ministerial**

### 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.

**God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our 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.**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153) Sung**

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.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION** Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.  
Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 *Savior, Again to Your Dear Name (ELW 534)***

**DISMISSAL**

Postlude by Shirley Bergman

**Service of Prayer and Healing**

If you would like to participate, please come forward after worship to the altar rail. You may either stand or kneel. I will stand in front of you and ask what needs healing. You don't have to answer, but you may tell me what needs healing. It can be physical, emotional, or spiritual.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHANGE OF SERVICE TIME NEXT WEEK**

**8:30AM FOLLOWED BY FELLOWSHIP**

**Lent Services**

April 2 Zion 6pm Meal 7pm Service  
April 9 ALC 6pm Meal 7pm Service  
April 17 Maundy Thursday 5:30 ALC 7pm ZION

April 18 ALC Good Friday Open Prayer & Reflection 12pm-3pm  
April 18 Ecumenical Good Friday Service 7pm United Methodist  
April 20 Easter Sunday 6:30am Zion, 8:30 am ALC coffee & donuts  
9am Worship Service

**April The Noisy Offering and Lent offerings are** designated for the Jesup Ministerial. This organization is made up of the following churches in our community: American Lutheran Church, Zion, St. Athanasius, United Methodist, First Presbyterian, and Jesup Bible Fellowship.

**Quilters in Need of Bedsheets**-The Quilting Ladies are in need of gently used or new bedsheets to use as backings for their quilts. All sizes, flat or fitted, are accepted. However, please note that we cannot use sheets with patriotic designs, camouflage, or writing.

If you have any sheets to donate, please bring them to the church. Your generosity helps us continue this meaningful ministry, and we appreciate your support!

**May 10th, EWALU is** having an open house! There are 2 fun new programs added this year for 8th grade grads and 9-12th, check it out! Camp is a great way to connect with God and other kids your age. PS You don't have to be a Lutheran to attend! There are pamphlets on table in lower narthex for more camper information. EWALU.org ALC does have funds set aside to help you attend.

Pastor Pat will be conducting **1st communion classes** for 4 Sunday evenings, March 30 and April 6. classes will be at ALC from 5 - 6 pm. Parents are invited to attend also. 1st Communion will be on Palm Sunday.

**Please keep in your prayers:** *Emelia Dahl Jacobson - Send cards to Emelia at Hiawatha Care Center, Room 53, 405 North 15th Avenue, Hiawatha, IA 52233.*

## THIS WEEK AT ALC

### Sunday March 30th

10am Worship With Communion Fellowship to follow

5pm 1st Communion

### Wednesday April 2nd

6:00PM Lent Meal Zion

6:15pm Worship Wednesday

### Thursday April 3rd

9am Women's Bible Study

Sunday April 6th

8:30am Worship With Communion

5pm 1st Communion class

## BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance 3/16/2025 25

**Current Balance as of 2/28/2025**

Checking: \$1695.60

Savings & CD: \$44,599.40

Improvement \$46,943.77

Offering: **3/23/2025**

Current: \$1060

Benevolence: \$70

Improvement: \$25

Jesup Ministerial: \$242.15

EWALU Campership \$40

World Hunger \$200

## 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: Pat Mohr-Kelly

Music: Shirley Bergman

Usher: Clark/Schares

Deacon: Mary Adams

Reader: Keaton Lynse

Fellowship Host: Brea Witt

## 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.