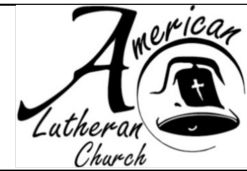


WELCOME



Second Sunday of Easter
ELW Holy Communion Setting Four
Sunday, April 27, 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



In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

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.

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 *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing* (ELW 389)

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. 149) for the music

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.

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Acts.

²⁷ When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us."
²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 118:14-29

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

¹⁵ **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷ **I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD. R**

¹⁸ The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹ **Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks | to the LORD.**

²⁰ "This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."

²¹ **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation. R**

²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ **By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ **Hosanna! O LORD, save us! We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days! R**

²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;
we bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷ **The LORD is God and has given us light.**

Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will
exalt you.

²⁹ **Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures
forever. R**

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Revelation.

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.
So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151) for the music

Please stand as you are able.

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia.**

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who "have not seen and yet believe."

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹ 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." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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."

²⁶ 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." ²⁷ 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." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ 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."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ 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 of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!* (ELW 373)

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

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.

Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Preserve the earth as a safe home for all creatures. Restore habitats contaminated by pollution or overuse, strengthen efforts to shape more sustainable communities, and make us mindful of the impacts of our daily lives on the well-being of creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities . Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all for whom death is near. Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across differences in race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and economic situation. Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination, and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember the faithful departed from all times and places. Confident that you are the Alpha and Omega, we pray for your wisdom and guidance until our earthly pilgrimage is complete. 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

Noisy Offering– Jesup Ministerial

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 182) for the music

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.**

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153) for the music

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.

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

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing! (ELW 385)*

DISMISSAL

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.

A Note About Music in Worship

To help conserve paper and printing supplies, we are no longer printing the music in the bulletin.

When you see **ELW** followed by a number, that refers to a hymn found in the **back of the red hymnal**. If you see a **"P"** before the number, it refers to a **page** in the **front of the hymnal**.

Thank you for your flexibility and understanding as we make this transition. We appreciate your willingness to use the hymnal more regularly!

Parish Ed Needs Your Help!

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.

Thursdays with God resume in May. We will meet in the Fireside Room At 6:30 pm on the following dates: May 1,8,15,22,29 and June 5 or by Zoom Link for Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87086730130?pwd=1FPC8x1R90XscxGbTBrMaMhdujLNU.1> Meeting ID: 870 8673 0130 Passcode 110776

The Sound of LEGRAND, Sunday, May 4th, 2025 at 2 pm, First Presbyterian Church, Independence IA, 115 6th Ave NW, Independence, IA
Soprano Dr. Jessica Saunders and pianist Stephen Mulvahill present a program of songs by Michel Legrand featuring beloved selections from Amour, The Umbrellas of Cherbourg, and Yentl, along with timeless songs written in collaboration with Alan and Marilyn Bergman.

Jesup High School seniors Kaylie Bergman and Landon Vogel are partnering with Cedar Valley Angels® through their CAPS leadership class to collect donations for foster children and families in the Cedar Valley. Suggested donation items and QR codes were shared during a church service. Items can be dropped off at American Lutheran.

Love Box Items: Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Hand Soap, Hand Sanitizer, Dishwasher pods, Dish Soap, Disinfectant Wipes, Fruit Snacks, Individual Snack Bags, Granola Bars, Pack of pudding, Coloring Books, Crayons, Makers, Colored Pencils, Toy car/truck, Baby or Barbie Doll, Play-Doh, Family craft, game puzzle or activity, Toilet paper Church, Cowork 591, or Jesup High School through the end of April. For questions, contact Kaylie at Kaylie.bergman@jesup.k12.ia.us.

THIS WEEK AT ALC
Sunday April 27th
8:30am Worship & Communion
Wednesday April 30th
6:15 Confirmation Zion

BY THE NUMBERS
Attendance 4/20/25 54
Current Balance 3/30/2025
Checking: \$3309.52
Improvement Fund: \$47670.08
Savings: 44611.90
Offering: 04/20/2025
Current: \$1292
Benevolence: \$85
Improvement: \$25
EWALU Campership \$120
Food Pantry: \$232
Jesup Ministerial \$49.81

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tress Liturgies Annual License #23094.

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 stationed at Fort Knox, AZ. 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: Dan Mixdorf
Music: Shirley Bergman
Usher: Mike & Chris Waring
Deacon: Amber Reuter
Reader: Christy Phillips
Fellowship Host: Chris Waring

**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.