

WELCOME



Third Sunday in Lent
ELW Holy Communion Setting Four
Sunday, March 23, 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 warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

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 *There in God's Garden* (ELW 342)

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.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, 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: Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts,

come to the waters;

and you that have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;

listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,

my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.
⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8

¹ O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and
weary land where there is no water.
² **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.**
³ For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.
⁴ **So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name. R**
⁵ My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶ **when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.**
⁷ For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
⁸ **My whole being clings to you;**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

The reading may be announced:

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is

faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The word of the Lord.

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 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.⁷ So he

said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it.⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed* (ELW 337)

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

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Response to following petitions:

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

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 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 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* (ELW 332)

DISMISSAL

Postlude by Shirley Bergman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Order Easter Lilly for Easter Sunday

If you would like to place an order for an Easter Lilly in memory of a loved one, please contact Secretary Chris Waring at secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org or place a note in the offering. The cost is \$10 per plant. All orders must be received by **March 23rd**.

Pastor Pat will be conducting **1st communion classes** for 4 Sunday evenings, March 16, March 21, 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.

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.

Lent Services

March 26 ALC 6pm Meal 7pm Service
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

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.

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 23rd

10am Worship with Communion Fellowship to follow

5pm 1st Communion Classes

Monday March 24th

6:30 Pm New Artist Group

Tuesday March 25

9am Quilting

Wednesday March 26th

6:00PM Lent Meal ALC

6:15pm Worship Wednesday

7:00pm Mid Week Lent Service ALC

Sunday March 30th

10am Worship With Communion Fellowship to follow

5pm 1st Communion

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: **3/16/2025**

Current: \$1495

Benevolence: \$260

Improvement: \$25

Jesup Ministerial: \$25

EWALU Campership \$40

Thrivent \$49

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: Amber Reuter

Reader: Suanne Westpfahl

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.