

WELCOME



Second Sunday in Lent
ELW Holy Communion Setting Four
Sunday, March 16, 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



Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

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 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (ELW 834)*

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 the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, 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: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Genesis.

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."

² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir."

⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir."

⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess."

⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?"

⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over

against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 27

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

² **When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.
Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message "Seek my face."**

Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

¹⁰ **Though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will take me in.**

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD;
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

¹² **Subject me not to the will of my foes, for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**

¹³ This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living!

¹⁴ **Wait for the LORD and be strong. Take heart and wait for the LORD!**

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17—4:1

Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Philippians.

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my be-

loved.

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 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY *Thy Holy Wings* (ELW 613)

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.

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. 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 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 *Sent Forth by God's Blessing (ELW 547)*

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.

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!

Lent Services

- March 19 Zion 6pm meal 7pm Service
- 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

THIS WEEK AT ALC

Sunday March 16th

10am Worship with Communion Fellowship to follow

5pm 1st Communion Classes

Tuesday March 18th

10am Prayer Shawl

Wed. March 19h

6:00pm Meal at Zion
7pm Worship

Sunday March 23rd

10am Worship with Communion Fellowship to follow

5pm 1st Communion Classes

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: Cindy Gosse
Reader:

**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.