

Daily readings for April 28 through May 3, 2025

Mon 4/28	Tues 4/29	Wed 4/30	Thu 5/1	Fri 5/2	Sat 5/3
Psalm 122	Psalm 122	Psalm 122	Psalm 30	Psalm 30	Psalm 30
Esther 7:1-10	Esther 8:1-17	Esther 9:1-5, 18-23	Isaiah 5:11-17	Isaiah 6:1-4	Genesis 18:1-8
Revelation 1:9-20	Revelation 2:8-11	Luke 12:4-12	Revelation 3:14-22	Revelation 4:1-11	Luke 14:12-14

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

A Serving Community
God's work, our hands!

Rev. Rebecca Zielke, Pastor
Tim L. Elder, CAGO, Director of Music

Second Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 27, 2025
10:15 a.m.

Serving in Worship in May

	5/4/25	5/11/25	5/18/25	5/25/25
Greeter/Usher	Phyllis Ruse	Jeff Dombroski	Woody Gingery	Bob Soles
Lector	Diana Williams	Chris Eash	Alta Johnson	Larry Cohol
Counters	Tom Drotleff	Tom Drotleff	Tom Drotleff	Tom Drotleff
Altar Guild	Diana Williams	Diana Williams	Norma Thomas	Norma Thomas
Crucifer	Chris Eash	Art Thomas	Larry Cohol	Chris Eash
Acolyte				

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.

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GATHERING

Announcements

Prelude

Please stand.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

At this font, holy God, we pray: Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this water. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Gathering Hymn

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

ELW 363

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Norma Pignanelli in memory of the Koches' and the Corbett's wedding anniversary on May 1.

The Thiel College Choir
Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 2:30 PM

will be performing at

Martin Luther Lutheran Church

Come hear a wonderful performance followed by a time of fellowship and light refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

Our Cluster of Lutheran churches have asked that each church bring 5-6 dozen cookies to share.

Please sign the sheet in the Narthex on the desk if you can help.

The MC Lutheran Cluster will present a Discipleship Classes on the book "Life Together" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM, beginning April 30 - May 28. This will be a 5 week study with a different Pastor presenting each week. Location is still to be determined. More information to come. If you would like to be part of the study please sign the sheet in the Narthex.

Thursday, May 8th, at 2:30, WELCA is sponsoring Bingo at Shepherd of the Valley. We need volunteers to help facilitate the Bingo. If you are able to help please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. Also needed are prizes. A list of suggested items can be found at the display in the Narthex.

Evening prayer will begin again on May 7th with Morning Prayer beginning again on May 9th.

Bible Study will continue on Wednesday, April 30. We are continuing our study on Exodus.

Communion Distribution O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing ELW 386

Communion Solo He Will Hold Me Fast Arr. James Koerts
Janeen Williams– soloist

Communion Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.

Prayer after Communion

P Let us pray,
Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.
C Amen.

Sending Hymn On Our Way Rejoicing ELW 537
Blessing

The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.
C Amen.

Dismissal

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.
C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
P Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!
C Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude Toccata in Seven John Rutter

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This is the Feast

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

P 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.

C Amen

Please be seated.

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

P Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please be seated

Communion

Follow the usher's direction to come forward to receive the bread from the Pastor and take a glass of wine from the tray. Dispose of the cup in the basket provided on the railing and return to your seat by the side aisle.

Preface

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe....
With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as
we proclaim the mystery of life.
C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
P O God of resurrection and new life...Grace our table with your presence.
C Come Holy Spirit.
P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread...
...Send us forth burning with justice, peace and love.
C Come, Holy Spirit.
P With your holy ones of all times and all places...
...we praise you, O God, blessed Trinity, now and forever.
C Amen

WORD

First Reading

Acts 5: 27-32

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

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."

C Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 118:14-29

You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength¹ and my song,
and has become¹ my salvation.
¹⁵ Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents¹ of the righteous:
"The right hand of the¹ LORD acts valiantly!"
¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD¹ is exalted!
The right hand of the¹ LORD acts valiantly!"
¹⁷ I shall not¹ die, but live,
and declare the works¹ of the LORD. R

¹⁸ The LORD indeed pun-¹ished me sorely,
but did not hand me o-¹ver to death.
¹⁹ **Open for me the¹ gates of righteousness;**
I will enter them and give thanks¹ to the LORD.

²⁰ “This is the gate¹ of the LORD;
here the righ-¹teous may enter.”
²¹ **I give thanks to you, for you have¹ answered me**
and you have become¹ my salvation. R

²² The stone that the build-¹ers rejected
has become the chief¹ cornerstone.
²³ **By the LORD has¹ this been done;**
it is marvelous¹ in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the¹ LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be¹ glad in it.
²⁵ **Hosanna!¹ O LORD, save us!**
We pray to you, LORD, pros-¹per our days! R

²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name¹ of the LORD;
we bless you from the house¹ of the LORD.
²⁷ **The LORD is God and has giv-¹en us light.**
Form a procession with branches up to the corners¹ of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and¹ I will thank you;
you are my God, and I¹ will exalt you.
²⁹ **Give thanks to the LORD, for the¹ LORD is good;**
God’s mercy en-¹dures forever. R

MEAL

Offering Response

Be Not Afraid

ELW 388

Be Not Afraid



Please stand.

Offering Prayer

P Let us pray,
Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts
we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with
this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world.
C Amen.

Dialogue

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P 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 especially those we name before you now out loud or in our hearts.

Martha Baluck, Fr. Michael Balash, Cheryl Conti, Barb Drotleff, Chris Eash, Jackie Eash, Madolyn Elder, Oweda Frederick, Laurel Froelich, Chris Hunnicutt, Devon Kirtley, Diane Malloy, Vangie McDorman, Craig Miller, Janet Moucha, Marge Pancher, Emma Parker, Pam Parker, Bob Titus, David Titus, Kay Welch. The family of Joe Markovitch, Sr.
(The names on the prayer list are updated every 30 days.
If you wish to continue to have someone on the list, please contact the office.)

C Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

P 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.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P 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.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

Peace

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

The offering plate is located on the table as you enter/exit the worship space.

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.

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.

C Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel

John 20: 19-31

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

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.”

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.

P The gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Children’s Message

Sermon

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day We Walk By Faith ELW 635

Apostles’ Creed

**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 life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

P God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

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.
C **Your mercy is great.**

P 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.
C **Your mercy is great.**

P 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.
C **Your mercy is great.**