

...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

1 Peter 1:18-19 (NKJV)



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As We Gather

When you make a major purchase, it usually comes with a warranty. But if you read the fine print, earthly guarantees always expire. Eventually, products break down, wear out, and leave you covering the cost. The Apostle Peter reminds us that everything in this world is perishable—whether it is silver and gold, man-made warranties, or the beautiful, fading flowers outside. But today, we gather in the afterglow of Easter to celebrate a guarantee that never expires. You have been redeemed by the precious, imperishable blood of Christ. As you prepare for worship, leave behind the anxieties of this temporary world and rest in God's ironclad promises.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

34 – My Soul, Now Bless Thy Maker

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 119:89-90a, 1 Peter 1:24-25

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- P** Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.
- C** **Your faithfulness endures to all generations.**
- P** All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass.
- C** **The grass withers, and its flower falls away,**
- P** But the word of the Lord endures forever.
- C** **Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to us.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** Beloved in the Lord! We live in a world of passing things. The wealth we accumulate, the earthly achievements we boast of, and even the fleeting strength of our own bodies are like the grass that withers and the flower that falls away. We are often distracted by these fading glories and forget the incorruptible treasure won for us by our risen Savior. Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C O Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You. I have placed my trust in the corruptible things of this world—the silver and gold of earthly security—rather than fearing and loving You above all things. My love for others has often been hypocritical, and I have failed to live as one born again of Your imperishable seed. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may delight in Your eternal will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. You have been redeemed, not with corruptible things, like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. As a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

P In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be-ginning,
is now, and ev-er shall be for - ev-er more. A - men.


Gloria Patri
GLORY BE TO GOD THE FATHER

First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them...
³⁶ “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” ³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” ⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 116:1-14

- P** I love the LORD, because He has heard
C **My voice and my supplications.**
P Because He has inclined His ear to me,
C **Therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live.**
P The pains of death surrounded me, and the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me;
C **I found trouble and sorrow.**
P Then I called upon the name of the LORD:
C **“O LORD, I implore You, deliver my soul!”**
P Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
C **Yes, our God is merciful.**
P The LORD preserves the simple;
C **I was brought low, and He saved me.**
P Return to your rest, O my soul,
C **For the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.**
P For You have delivered my soul from death,
C **My eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.**
P I will walk before the LORD
C **In the land of the living.**
P I believed, therefore I spoke,
C **“I am greatly afflicted.”**
P I said in my haste,
C **“All men are liars.”**
P What shall I render to the LORD
C **For all His benefits toward me?**

- P** I will take up the cup of salvation,
- C** **And call upon the name of the LORD.**
- P** I will pay my vows to the LORD
- C** **Now in the presence of all His people.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:13-35

¹³ Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And they talked together of all these things which had happened. ¹⁵ So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. ¹⁷ And He said to them, “What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?” ¹⁸ Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, “Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?” ¹⁹ And He said to them, “What things?” So they said to Him, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. ²¹ But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. ²² Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. ²³ When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. ²⁴ And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.” ²⁵ Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. ²⁸ Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. ²⁹ But they constrained Him, saying, “Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.” And He went in to stay with them. ³⁰ Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. ³² And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?” ³³ So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, “The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

Offertory



Create in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Your
pres-ence, and take not Your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of Your sal - va - tion; and up -
hold me with Your free spir-it. A - men.

Hymn

425 (1, 3, 5-6) - All Depends on Our Possessing

Offering

Offering Hymn

443 (1, 8)



1 O Lord of heav'n and earth and sea, To
2 To Thee, from whom we all de - rive Our
Thee all praise and glo - ry be. How
life, our gifts, our pow'r to give. Oh,
shall we show our love to Thee, Who giv - est all?
may we ev - er with Thee live, Who giv - est all!

General Prayer

The 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.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

Hymn

430 (1-2, 4, 8) – What Is the World to Me

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✝ Announcements ✝

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar

April 19	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
April 24	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
	11:30 am	ILS Early Release
April 26	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
May 3	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Board of Education/Elders Meetings

Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **May 3** – Education/Elders
- **June 7** – Trustees/Church Council
- **July 5** – Quarterly Voters' Meeting

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Johanna Jaehnigen, David & Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield. <> Gail Sedberry was in the hospital this past week. She is now home.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: In our busy lives, we love a good shortcut. We constantly search for the quickest route to bypass traffic or save time. But when it comes to our eternal salvation, there are no shortcuts. As we gather for the Fourth Sunday of Easter, our Good Shepherd presents a striking contrast in John 10. He warns of thieves and robbers who try to climb into the sheepfold "some other way." Most importantly, Jesus declares, "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved." Next week, under the theme "No Bypassing the Door," we will explore why human works and false teachings always fail, and we will rejoice in the perfect security we have in Christ alone. Join us!

ILC Dorm Supervisor: Jaqi Bredehoft will be resigning as girls dorm supervisor at the end of this school year. We thank her for her faithful service to the LORD and for being such a positive role model to our dorm students. ILC is accepting applicants for this position to begin the 2026-27 school year. This role is vital to our campus, given how dorm supervisors provide spiritual counsel and a fatherly or motherly role to those students who are living away from home. Females who are CLC members in good standing and are able and willing to fill this position may contact ILC President Daniel Schierenbeck (dan.schierenbeck@ilc.edu/660) for more

information about the responsibilities and compensation for this position. An application is available online at ilc.edu > Forms and Applications > ILC Employment Application. Review of applications begins April 15.

CLC News: The Call Committee for Graduates has extended the call to Redeemer Lutheran School, Cheyenne, WY, to ILC Education Program Graduate Mr. Orrin Hanel <> Teacher Ross Kok of Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ, has returned the call to teach grades 3-4 and serve as associate principal at Messiah Lutheran School, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, West Columbia, SC, has returned the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI. <> Pastor Rob Sauers of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, FL, has returned the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI, has received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Jonah Albrecht of Redemption Ev. Lutheran Church, Lynnwood, WA, and Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, has received the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Ted Barthels of St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Austin, MN, has announced his retirement from the pastoral ministry as of April 30, 2026.<> Pastor Del Maas of Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN, has retired due to non life-threatening health concerns. His last service was March 29, 2026.

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

April 20 – April 25, 2026

Monday - *John 10:11-16*

The Jesus who rose Easter morning is the Jesus who said, "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (verse 11). This is our Shepherd and Savior! Hallelujah!

Tuesday - *1 Peter 2:21-25*

Jesus, our Savior, suffered insult, agony, and death on the cross because our sins were laid on Him. He bore this willingly to return us to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls.

Wednesday - *Ezekiel 34:11-16*

Already in the Old Testament the LORD describes Himself as a shepherd. He searches for His flock, gathers and brings them out, leads them to good pasture, heals and protects them.

Thursday - *Psalms 23*

With the LORD as our Shepherd, we lack nothing. He provides spiritual food that sustains our life forever. He protects us in evil days, showers us with blessings and welcomes us into His house.

Friday - *Psalms 70*

As sheep look to their shepherd in the face of harm and danger, so we with David say: "I am oppressed and poor. God, hurry to me. You are my help and my deliverer. O LORD, do not delay" (verse 5).

Saturday - *Hebrews 13:20-21*

May God, who brought our great Shepherd back from the dead, equip us with everything we need to glorify the name of Jesus Christ, who won for us peace with God and eternal life.

