

# First Lutheran Church, NALC

St. Ansgar, Iowa



An asterisk (\*) denotes when worshipers are invited to stand.

If it is better for you to sit for any or all of those occasions, please sit.

God understands and so will we.

**REMINDER:** Please turn your cell phones off during the worship service.

## “MY HOUSE IS THE HOUSE OF PRAYER”

First Lutheran Church

Saint Ansgar, Iowa

Phone 713-4873

Pastor Christopher Staley

April 28, 2024

9:00 A.M.

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

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Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8

### WE COME BEFORE GOD

**PRELUDE**

**Gwen Mellmann**

**WELCOME & WORSHIP NOTES**

**INVOCATION**

**OPENING HYMN**    *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

**LBW #546**

**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.**

## **OPENING DIALOG (from Romans 10)**

**P:** The Word is near you,

**C: on your lips and in your heart.**

**P:** If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

**C: and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will saved.**

**P:** Faith comes from what is heard,

**C: and what is heard comes through the Word of Christ.**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray... **All: O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

## **GOD SPEAKS TO US**

### **The First Lesson Acts 8:26-40**

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup>And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup>And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**L:** The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**The Psalm****Psalm 150****Spoken responsively by verse**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy temple; praise him in the firmament of his power.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him for his excellent greatness.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise him with the blast of the ram's horn; praise him with lyre and harp.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise him with timbrel and dance; praise him with strings and pipe.**

<sup>5</sup>Praise him with resounding cymbals; praise him with loud clanging cymbals.

<sup>6</sup>**Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Hallelujah!**

**Second Lesson****1 John 4:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. <sup>4</sup>Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. <sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**L:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**\*The Gospel Acclamations (spoken)**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, reading in the Twenty-fourth Chapter.

**C:** Glory to You, O Lord.

**\*The Holy Gospel John 15:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>{Jesus said,} "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

**P:** The Gospel of our Lord.

**C:** Praise to You, O Christ.

## THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SONG OF THE MONTH    **In Christ Alone**    (CCLI#3350395)

In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what  
depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My comforter, my all in all  
Here, in the love of Christ, I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
'Til on that cross, as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin, on Him, was laid  
Here, in the death of Christ, I live  
There in the ground, His body lay  
Light of the world, by darkness, slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave, He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ  
No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Could ever pluck me from His hand  
'Til He returns or calls me home  
Here, in the power of Christ, I stand

## THE SERMON

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### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**    *Chief of Sinners though I Be*

**LBW #306**

**L:** In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**C:** We believe in Him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

**P:** God has made us His people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith

**\*THE CONFESSION OF FAITH (The Nicene Creed)**

**Pastor:** God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**All:** We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin  
Mary, and was made man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen

**\*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**P:** Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins:

*A time of silence is held for self-reflection*

**P:** Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. **C:**

**Amen**

**P:** O God the Father in heaven, **C: have mercy upon us!**

**P:** O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **C: have mercy upon us!**

**P:** O God the Holy Spirit, true Comforter, **C: have mercy upon us!**

**P:** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgiven us all our sins. To them that believe on His name, He gives the power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all! **C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward all!**

**\*THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**L:** The peace of the Lord be with you always      **C: And also with you.**

*With the prevalence of various illnesses, please respect those who may wish to refrain from shaking the hands of those outside their own family.*

**THE OFFERING**

**\*THE OFFERTORY:**

**LBW #410 v. 1**

**\*THE OFFERING PRAYER**

**P:** Blessed are You,    **All: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to Your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that You have made, for the sake of Him Who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**\*THE PRAYERS**

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**\*BENEDICTION (spoken)**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CLOSING HYMN:**    *On Our Way Rejoicing*

**LBW #260**

**THE DISMISSAL**

**ORGAN CHIMES**

**POSTLUDE**

*Please join us after worship for a time of food and fellowship in the Parish Center*

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**WE LEAVE TO WORSHIP THE LORD WITH OUR LIVES**

**GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME** to our worship services. **A WARM WELCOME** to our visitors...please sign our guest register in the narthex and come again! **GOOD MORNING** to members and friends at the Good Samaritan Center.

**THE MISSION OF FIRST LUTHERAN**-We are all called by God to continue to spread the Christian faith to all people.

**Thank** you to Judy Ask for serving as our reader this morning.

**TOTE-BAGS FOR KIDS:** There are several bags available in the narthex for families with young children to use during the service. Inside the bag are small toys, books, and etc. to use during the service. Just return them following the service.

**We believe** that children should be part of the worship service. Occasionally, children challenge this belief. Should you desire to use our Nursery, it is located in the basement of the church. It provides a place for the child and allows the parent(s) to continue to hear the service.



**THE PASCHAL CANDLE** -The tall candle burning in the chancel during the Easter season is the Paschal Candle. “Paschal” refers to “Passover”. Jesus is like the Passover Lamb which was sacrificed in Egypt so that those families who had the mark of the Lamb’s blood on their front door were spared by the angel of death. (Ex. 12) Thus, the “Paschal Candle” is the Church’s sign for Jesus, the Lamb of God, who was sacrificed for us and rose again (Rev. 5)

The Paschal Candle is burned throughout the seven weeks of Easter (until Jesus’ Ascension). It is also lighted as the sign of resurrection and new life at a Christian’s baptism, and at the funeral of a Christian

**Anyone interested in joining our First Lutheran Church family** or simply wanting to learn more about our church, is encouraged to contact Pastor Staley or the church office at 713-4873.

**The ‘Prayer Chain’** is based on this promise: *“Again, I tell you that if two of you agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”* Matthew 18:19, 20. If you want to submit a prayer request to the Prayer chain, call Sharon Frank at 641-425-8665. If you would like to be a part of praying for the needs of our friends and families, contact your circle leader." **NOTE:** The FLCWomen are planning to re-organize/update the Prayer Chain. They are inviting all men or women who would like to be a part of this to contact Jean Lunde or Linda McKinley and let them know you are interested and the best phone number to use.

### **OUR MEMBERS CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE MILITARY:**

\* Active \*\* Reserves

\*\* Marissa Stoeffler

\*\*Collin McKinley

\*Tanner Evans

\*Lacey Crowley

\*\* Leah Jorgensen

\*Derek Peterson

**The LAST Sunday** of each month is designated as “Food Bank Sunday”. You are encouraged to bring food items, paper products as well as personal hygiene items to be given to our local North Cedar Food Bank. As always, you may bring items any Sunday, but we will have a special emphasis on the LAST Sunday each month. Also bring your loose change for the Coin Jar. Any loose \$1 bills put in the offering plate that day will be given to the Food Bank.

**From the St. Ansgar Schools:** As a token of our appreciation for all the community has done for us, on Wednesday, May 1st, we will be celebrating Senior Citizen Appreciation Day at St. Ansgar High School in the MS gym. We will begin serving pie and coffee at 1:30 p.m., followed by a short program by the high school students.


We have an active/updated website! Go to [www.firstlutheranstansgar.com](http://www.firstlutheranstansgar.com) to see the current calendar, weekly bulletin, newsletter, links to our Facebook page, webcam, and the NALC website.


**OFFICIAL NOTICE:  
SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Sunday, April 28, 2024 at the Church (TODAY)  
10:05 A.M., following the 9:00 A.M. worship service

Proposed Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Consideration of proposal from First Grace Lutheran Church in Osage.
3. Closing
4. Adjournment

  
Michael Borcharding, President

  
Mary Kleinwort, Secretary

**OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK**

<b>TODAY:</b>	9:00 a.m.	Worship Acolytes: Leighton Rosenberg, Lauren Berg
	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hour Faith & Care sign up (May)
	10:05 a.m.	Congregational Special Meeting
	10:15 a.m.	Sunday school
	6:00 p.m.	Adult Bible Study
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	9:30 a.m.	Pastor to Text Study
	3:30 p.m.	Adult Bible Study
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	3:45 p.m.	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade set up for Banquet
	5:30 p.m.	Confirmation Pictures (church)
	5:50 p.m.	Confirmation Banquet
	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	Board of Deacons Meeting
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	---	Pastor's Day Off
<b>NEXT SUNDAY:</b>	9:00 a.m.	Worship W/ Holy Communion - Confirmation Acolytes: Ella Stricker, Lauren Berg Deacons: Meghan Powers, Mark Hendrickson
	10:00 a.m.	Reception & Fellowship Hour
	---	No Sunday school
	---	No Adult Bible Study

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**Attendance** (3<sup>rd</sup> week in April) : Last Year: 64      Last Week: 132

**Next Week's Readings:** Acts 10:34-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-8; John 15:9-17