

RIVER OF LIFE



14 APRIL 2024



RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN | refreshing truth for all people

725 S. Estrella Pkwy (Suite 120) Goodyear, Arizona 85338

Third Sunday of Easter

OUR PASTOR

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WELCOME TO RIVER OF LIFE

Thank you for joining us this morning. In our worship service, God's children—you & I—gather together before God to be strengthened through God's Word. In response to God's message of love to us, we offer God our worship and praise.

The worship folder you're holding has the entire Order of Service. If you have questions, feel free to ask one of our ushers or anyone near you. The unfamiliar can be intimidating—let us help you. We want you to be comfortable & comforted here.

Restrooms are located in the front corner for your convenience.

God wants everyone to worship together. We recognize that public worship is a learning process for children. Parents, if you feel like you need a moment, there is a room in the back of the worship area where you can see, hear, and participate in worship without being heard.

OUR FOCUS FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING

The life and hope of the Church is built upon the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So what is the Gospel? The Gospel is simply good news. But any type of good news consists of two critical components: the event and the effect. Today's readings zero in on both. The event of the Gospel is the focus of the whole Easter season, but also unfolds before the disciples' eyes in our Gospel reading. Jesus died for sinners and rose again—just as he said. His resurrection is real and physical, a verifiable fact (as all real good news is) he drives home by eating a piece of fish in their presence. After the event, we see a ripple effect. The power in Jesus' name is proclaimed to people living in darkness. Whether someone is suffering physically or spiritually, Jesus alone has the power to forgive and save us all!

OPENING HYMN



1 I am con-tent! My Je - sus lives a - gain, In whom my
 2 I am con-tent! My Je - sus is my head; His mem - ber
 3 I am con-tent! My Je - sus is my light, My ra - diant
 4 I am con-tent! Lord, set me ev - er free And wake me



heart is pleased. He has ful - filled the law of God for
 I will be. He bowed his head when on the cross he
 sun of grace. His cheer - ing rays beam bless-ings forth for
 from the dead That I may rise for - ev - er - more to



me; God's wrath he has ap - peased. Since he in
 died With cries of ag - o - ny. Now death is
 all: Sweet com - fort, hope, and peace. This Eas - ter
 be With you, my liv - ing head. The chains that



death could per - ish nev - er, I al - so shall not
 brought in - to sub - jec - tion For me, too, by his
 sun has brought sal - va - tion And ev - er - last - ing
 hold my bod - y, sev - er; Then shall my soul re -



die for - ev - er. I am con-tent! I am con - tent!
 res - ur - rec-tion. I am con-tent! I am con - tent!
 ex - ul - ta-tion. I am con-tent! I am con - tent!
 joyce for - ev - er. I am con-tent! I am con - tent!

The Gathering

INVOCATION



Minister: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**P: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray:
Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love.
Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

P: Amen.

Praise & Prayer ¹

M: Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.

P: **Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.**

M: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! | **169 (1)**

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the scep - ter,
his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the tri - umph,
His the vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace -
ful Zi - on Thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
out of ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by his blood."

¹ Our dialogue of praise is from **Psalm 51**.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: Amen.



The Word

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John 1-2

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

2 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jesus encouraged the little ones to come to him. During this portion of the worship service, the children are invited forward to learn a truth tailored for them.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Luke 24:46-47

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen!

P: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia.**

M: Alleluia. The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,

P: **and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations. Alleluia.**

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! | **169 (2)**

2 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on earth our
food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the sin - ful
Flee to you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, Friend
of sin - ners, Earth's Re - deem - er, hear our plea Where the
songs of all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 3

¹¹ While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. ¹² When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

¹⁷ "Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸ But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰ and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

The effect of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is unmistakable throughout the book of Acts.

In Acts 2, Peter calls a mass of festival worshipers to repentance for crucifying their Lord and Messiah. The Holy Spirit led many to that repentance and forgiveness of sins. Three thousand were baptized on a single day!

But after that success, Peter didn't let his guard down. On a regular afternoon, Peter and John healed a lame beggar. This man had been lame from birth and was carried to the gate of the Temple by friends and family, each day.

This miracle grabbed the attention of everyone there. But Peter, knowing the Gospel, wanted them to see something more incredible. They had condemned the Holy & Righteous One, Jesus, to death. Peter calls this ignorance. But even this sin of ignorance needed to be forgiven. So Peter implores all those who are listening to repent and turn to God so that their sins might be wiped out and they might be refreshed by God!

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24

M: The Gospel according to Luke chapter twenty-four:

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

P: Praise be to you, O Christ!



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n a - gain; Christ has bro - ken
 2 He who gave for us his life, Who for us en -
 3 He who bore all pain and loss Com - fort - less up -
 4 He whose path no rec - ords tell Has de - scend - ed
 5 He who slum - bered in the grave Is ex - alt - ed



death's strong chain. Hark, the an - gels shout for joy,
 dured the strife, Is our Pas - chal Lamb to - day.
 on the cross Lives in glo - ry now on high,
 in - to hell; He the strong man armed has bound
 now to save; Now through Chris - ten - dom it rings



Sing - ing ev - er - more on high: Hal - le - lu - jah!
 We, too, sing for joy and say: Hal - le - lu - jah!
 Pleads for us, and hears our cry: Hal - le - lu - jah!
 And in high - est heav'n is crowned. Hal - le - lu - jah!
 That the Lamb is King of kings. Hal - le - lu - jah!

6 Now he bids us tell abroad
 How the lost may be restored,
 How the penitent forgiv'n,
 How we, too, may enter heav'n.
 Hallelujah!

Our Response to God's Word

M: In Christ, you have heard the Word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation.

P: **We believe in Christ and trust in the truth he has revealed to us in his Word.**

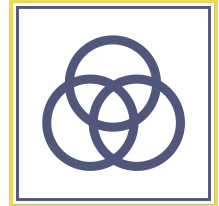
M: Living and serving together in trust and hope, we confess our common faith.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**



The Apostles' Creed first appeared in a letter written by Ambrose in 390 AD after a church council. This creed was written to confess the Bible's teachings in a simple way.

THANK OFFERING



God's people respond with thankful hearts. The people of River of Life have joined to offer God the first-fruits of all he has given us. Our offerings support God's work in this community and the world. If you are a visitor with us, thank you for joining us today. Please do not feel obligated to support our ministry, but we ask that you do take time to fill out a digital connect card (azriveroflife.com/connect) so we can thank you for joining us. Thank you & God bless you!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Heavenly Father, you created all things—in heaven and on earth. You have seen fit to fashion all the things we have seen and even those we have not.

P: You created all things, including rulers and authorities. Remind us that you, Creator, are greater than all the things you created. We need not fear any of them.

M: In you all these things are held together. By faith we understand that the universe was created by your Word. You preserve and protect all your creatures. But you are not just our Provider, you also search and know us.

P: You are well acquainted with all our ways. You know the words we are going to speak before we even utter them. You know our many sins.

M: Thank you for knowing us inside-out and still loving us wholly. You could not be tolerant of our sins and maintain your just nature. So you sent your Son to be the perfection you demand. You revealed that Savior to us in your Word.

P: You did not offer to meet sinners in the middle. You took our place on the cross so that believers might one day join you in your place, heaven.

M: You continue to lead us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession. Use us, as you did Peter and John, to spread the aroma of the knowledge of Christ everywhere. Who is equal to such a task as this? Equip us, Lord!

P: Help us speak with clarity and sincerity, speaking the truth in love to many.

M: Hear now our prayers for the many who do not have confidence in Christ:

— A time for silent, personal prayers for those who do not know Jesus as Savior —

P: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN

He's Risen, He's Risen | 143 (1-3)



1 He's ris - en, he's ris - en, Christ Je - sus, the Lord;
 2 The foe was tri - um - phant when on Cal - va - ry
 3 But short was their tri - umph; the Sav - ior a - rose,
 4 Oh, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
 5 Then sing your ho - san - nas and raise your glad voice;



He o - pened death's pris - on, the in - car - nate Word.
 The Lord of cre - a - tion was nailed to the tree.
 And death, hell, and Sa - tan he van - quished, his foes.
 Christ rose, and now o - pen is fair E - den's door.
 Pro - claim the blest tid - ings that all may re - joice.



Break forth, hosts of heav - en, in ju - bi - lant song
 In Sa - tan's do - main did the hosts shout and jeer,
 The con - quer - ing Lord lifts his ban - ner on high;
 For all our trans - gres - sions his blood does a - tone;
 Laud, hon - or, and praise to the Lamb that was slain,



And earth, sea, and moun - tain the prais - es pro - long.
 For Je - sus was slain, whom the e - vil ones fear.
 He lives, yes, he lives, and will nev - er - more die.
 Re - deemed and for - giv - en, we now are his own.
 Who now sits in glo - ry and ev - er shall reign.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: **Amen.**

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

P: **Amen.**

SONG OF DEPARTURE

He's Risen, He's Risen | **143 (4-5)**

*4 Oh, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions his blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are his own.*

*5 Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain,
Who now sits in glory and ever shall reign.*



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS MORNING

We recognize how busy this world and your life can be. Thank you for setting aside a Sunday morning to be with us in God's house. Stick around for a bite to eat and a refreshing drink. One of life's greatest pleasures is meeting new people and growing lasting relationships. We'd love to get to know you better.

INTERESTED IN JOINING RIVER OF LIFE?

Would you like to learn what the Lutheran church believes and teaches? Are you interested in joining our church, or going through a refresher class? We would love to meet with you and study God's Word. If you're interested, speak with Pastor Albrecht.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ARIZONA LUTHERAN ACADEMY

Our federation high school, Arizona Lutheran Academy (6036 S 27th Avenue) is hosting some great events this month. On the final weekend of April (26-28th) student theater will be using their gifts in performing a one-of-a-kind musical, Anastasia. The Friday and Saturday performances are at 7pm. Sunday's performance is at 3pm. The musical will be hosted in the gymnasium and you can purchase tickets at the door. In addition, on Sat. April 27th, the athletic department is hosting a golf classic at the Legacy Resort to raise funds for the athletic environment and experiences of the student-athletes. Visit alacoyotes.org/support/golf-classic/ for more information.

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Hymn #158 **I Am Content! My Jesus Lives Again** Text: Johann J. Möller, 1660-1733, abr.; August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.

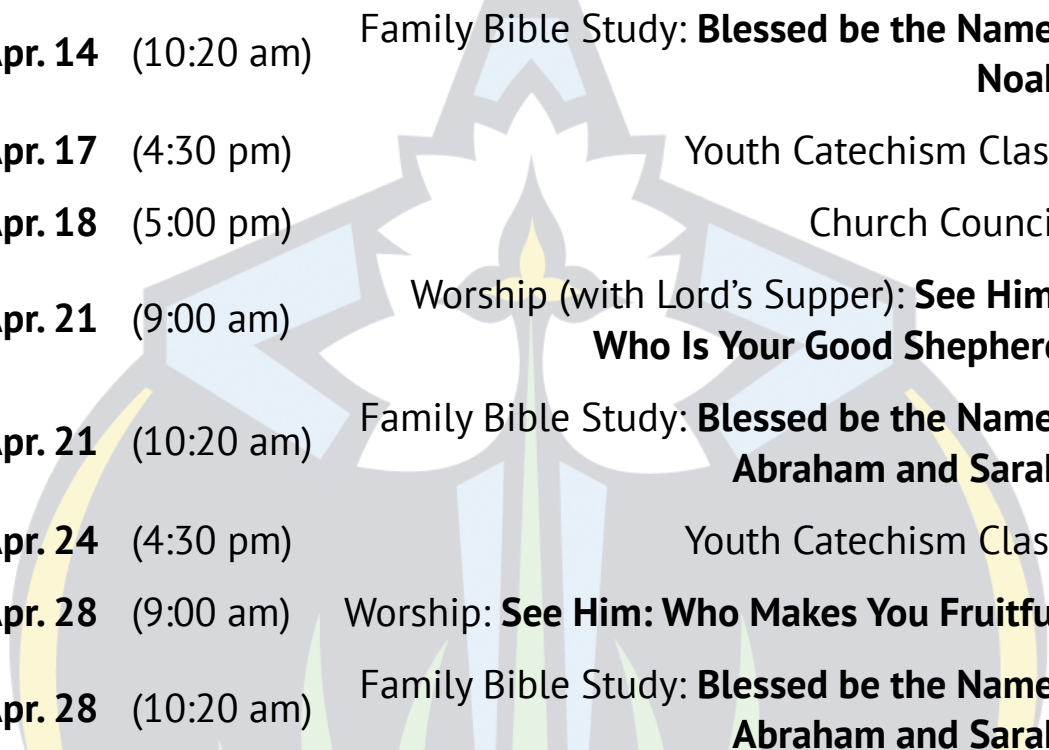
Hymn #169 **Alleluia! Sing to Jesus** Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, abr., alt.

Hymn #155 **Christ the Lord Is Risen Again** Text: Michael Weisse, c. 1480-1534, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Hymn #143 **He's Risen, He's Risen** Text: C. F. W. Walther, 1811-87, abr.; tr. Anna M. Meyer, 1867-1941, alt.

RIVER OF LIFE

Certainty & Hope In The Coming Days

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- Apr. 14** (10:20 am) Family Bible Study: **Blessed be the Name: Noah**
- Apr. 17** (4:30 pm) Youth Catechism Class
- Apr. 18** (5:00 pm) Church Council
- Apr. 21** (9:00 am) Worship (with Lord's Supper): **See Him: Who Is Your Good Shepherd**
- Apr. 21** (10:20 am) Family Bible Study: **Blessed be the Name: Abraham and Sarah**
- Apr. 24** (4:30 pm) Youth Catechism Class
- Apr. 28** (9:00 am) Worship: **See Him: Who Makes You Fruitful**
- Apr. 28** (10:20 am) Family Bible Study: **Blessed be the Name: Abraham and Sarah**

CONNECTING WITH RIVER OF LIFE

Videos of recent worship services and audio recordings of weekly sermons are available online. Check out our website or our Facebook page.

AZRiverOfLife.com facebook.com/AZRiverOfLife

refreshing truth for you