

Welcoming
Growing
Sharing



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA
where love comes to life

Sunday 12 April 2026

Doubting Thomas or certain Jesus?

Scripture

[John 20:19–31](#)

Reflection

There is so much cool stuff in this Bible passage, the well-known ‘doubting Thomas’ story. So much to wonder about.

Jesus appears in a locked room. Can our post-resurrection body move differently through space and time like Jesus’?

Jesus showed the marks of his death on his hands and his side. Will our post-resurrection body still have its scars and scratches like Jesus’?

Jesus performed many other miracles that were not even recorded. What were those extra miracles and signs?

I’m looking forward to finding out one day. But seriously, kind of, who cares? It is what this passage gives me certainty about that I love. Let’s focus on Jesus throughout the passage, on Jesus’ actions.

Jesus came and stood among them.

Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you’, twice.

Jesus said, ‘I am sending you ...’

Jesus breathed on them and filled them with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus gave them the authority to forgive sins.

Jesus knew Thomas’ doubts.

Jesus invited Thomas to have his doubts confirmed.

Jesus. Jesus. Jesus. The disciples are largely passive in this story. Locked away, hanging out together. They aren’t looking for Jesus, they aren’t inquiring about what to do next, and they haven’t asked for or invited the Holy Spirit. Again, the list goes on. The disciples just exist. And Jesus does the work.

It’s always God’s work.

Our amazing God of Love is constantly engaged in his gracious movement towards us, towards humanity, towards the world. Even then, even now. Like the disciples, we are not responsible for the fact that the Holy Spirit is active in our lives – Jesus is.

Like the disciples, we cannot transport ourselves to where Jesus is, but he comes to us. Even in our locked rooms, he breaks through our feeble barriers to be with us, to bring us peace, to bless us with the work that lies before us. And in response, Thomas gives us the words, we cry, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Hallelujah.

by Shane Altmann

Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, for breaking into our lives unexpectedly and miraculously. Thank you for your gracious and redeeming work that makes us right with you. Thank you for your faithfulness towards us. Fill us again with your Holy Spirit and bless us as we gratefully attend to the important stuff you have placed before us this day. Amen.

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WE PRAY
12 April 2026

God of life:

- † Show us the risen Lord through your Holy Spirit, fill us with his peace, and send us out in faith to serve as your Easter people.
- † We give thanks for Pastor Joyce as she leads our worship and baptises Daniel Fensom. Bless Daniel, his family, and his godparents as they nurture him in faith.
- † We place our call to Pastor Dale Gosden into your hands. Guide us with open hearts and discerning spirits as we seek your will. Bless Pastor Dale and his family with peace and clarity, and unite us as a congregation in trust, faith, and hope.
- † We pray for Australians whose livelihoods and daily lives are strained by fuel costs or shortages, and for all communities recovering from natural disasters. Move us to respond with generosity, advocacy, and practical care where help is needed.
- † We hold before you all who suffer because of conflict and pray for a just and lasting ceasefire in the Middle East. Keep safe aid workers, refugee workers, medical personnel, and security staff as they serve in difficult and dangerous circumstances.

Guide us, Lord, as we pray for:

- † The leaders you have appointed over the LCA NZ, the College of Bishops; LCA NZ Churchwide Bishop, Pastor Paul Smith, LCA NZ Assistant Bishop, Pastor Stephen Schultz and District Bishops including Pastor Andrew Brook, LCA SA-NT District Bishop.
- † All pastors and parishes, principals and schools of the LCA NZ, especially those in our South West Metro Zone.
- † Pastoral Care Workers of the South Western School Ministry Team. *How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news! (Romans 10:14-15)*
- † The students, families, teachers and staff of Immanuel Early Learning Centre, Primary School and College. Pour out your blessings over their Principals, Stephen Jude and John Thompson, Leadership Teams, PS and College Councils, Chaplains and Student Counsellors, and Boarding House staff so that everyone grows in the knowledge of your love.
- † The pastors, lay-chaplains and spiritual care visitors you have called to serve the defence forces, hospitals, police, prisons, and universities in the SA/NT District and Chaplaincy Ministries Coordinator, Heidi Smith.
- † The leaders you have appointed over our country: Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, State Premier, Peter Malinauskas and all our local government leaders.
- † Healing, strength and comfort as we pray alongside Barb K, Elle E, Tim S, their families and carers. You have the power to move in our lives and through our circumstances.



BAPTISM CELEBRATION—Sunday 12 April 9:30

We joyfully celebrate the baptism of Daniel Albert Fensom, led by Pastor Joyce Graue at ILC. All are warmly invited to join us for a special morning tea in the foyer following worship.

ILC 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—Sunday 26 April 11:00

All members are warmly encouraged to attend our Annual General Meeting. Your presence and participation help shape the life and direction of our congregation.

GATHER & GROW—Sunday 26 April 5:00pm

Please join us as we grow together in following Jesus, bring a plate for a shared meal, relax and enjoy good company.

THEOLOGICAL BOOKS NEEDED by Thursday 30 April

LCA International Mission will soon ship a container of birthing kits to Papua New Guinea and currently has additional space available. Congregations and individuals are invited to donate books in good condition including commentaries, biblical studies, pastoral care resources, worship and liturgy references, concordances and other Lutheran or Christian theology titles. The books will be distributed to the seminaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of PNG. Contact erin.kerber@lca.org.au for more information.



CANCELLED TOGETHER IN CHRIST:

LCA District Mission Team have postponed the one-day conference scheduled to be held in Murray Bridge on Saturday 2 May, due to ongoing uncertainty around fuel pricing and supply over the coming months.

SAVE THE DATE—Saturday 1 August

Blueprint Ministries invites you to a special dinner to support children, youth, family, and young adult ministry in the SA-NT District. More details [here](#)

LCA DISASTER AND WELFARE FUND

Natural disasters and other emergencies have a profound effect on people in both Australia and New Zealand. The purpose of the LCA Disaster and Welfare Fund is to meet the needs of people affected by disasters, such as droughts, floods and fires. The funds are allocated based on applications received, endorsed by the relevant district and approved by the General Church Board. Donations to the fund are tax-deductible. To donate, go to www.lca.org.au/lca-disaster-welfare-fund

ST PAUL'S COMMUNITY CARE—Wednesdays 11:30-1:30

St Paul's Hall, 48 Brighton Road, Glenelg

Hours of operation for Emergency Food Relief is Wednesdays from 11.00am to 2.00pm. Donations of non-perishable food and basic toiletries greatly appreciated.

Any inquiries can be made through St Paul's church office on 8295 6376 or

stpaul.glenelg.sa@lca.org.au

SHARE WITH US

Do you have a prayer request? Leave a note in the gold box on the Welcome Table — the ILC Prayer Group meets in the Prayer Chapel at 9:00am Sundays and 9:10am Thursdays to lift these prayers to God. All welcome!

We also welcome your feedback — please use the locked wooden box on the Welcome Table. Paper and pens are provided, and you're welcome to remain anonymous if you prefer.



Psalm 145:18

PARISH VACANT

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COMING UP at ILC † HOLY WEEK

Sunday 12 April	9:00am	Prayer in the Prayer Chapel— <i>all welcome</i>
	9:30am	Worship with Holy Communion—Pstor Joyce Graue—2nd Sunday of Easter—Baptism of Daniel Albert Fensom
	11:00am	Special morning tea for Daniel
Thursday 23 April	9:10am	Prayer Group in the Prayer Chapel— <i>all welcome</i>

Sunday 26 April	9:30am	Worship without HC
	11:00am	ILC 2026 AGM
	5:30pm	Gather & Grow in the ILC Room— <i>all welcome</i>

REGULAR ELECTRONIC GIVING (REG)

To use REG, fill and lodge a Direct Debit Request Form (available from the office), giving the LLL authority to transfer a specific amount from your bank account to ILC's REG account.



LCA Child Safety Standards for Congregations

What does ILC do to keep our children and vulnerable people safe?

LCA Child Safety Standards for Congregations:

<https://www.lca.org.au/ministry-support/child-safety-standards/>

LCA Policies and Procedures:

<https://www.lca.org.au/services-resources-training/policies/>

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalms 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

Peter gives witness that God raised Jesus

You show me the path of life

New birth through the resurrection of Christ

Thomas sees the risen Christ and believes