

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Lost by Ourselves, Found by the Father
March 9 & 10, 2013

AS WE GATHER

Some have called it, "The Parable of the Prodigal Son." Others have named it, "The Parable of the Waiting Father." Still others simply refer to it as, "The Parable." Whatever name it goes by, today's Gospel reading from Luke 15 contains one of the most moving pictures of our heavenly Father's forgiveness in all of Scripture. In this fourth Sunday of Lent, we lament as we see our own sinful selves in the prodigal son and his waywardness. But we also rejoice as we hear our Father's forgiveness in His words to this same son: "For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found" (*Luke 15:24a*). These grace-filled words are meant for everyone, for the sake of the perfect Son, Jesus Christ. "Today Your mercy calls us to wash away our sin. However great our trespass, whatever we have been, however long from mercy our hearts have turned away, Your precious blood can wash us and make us clean today" (*LSB 915:1*).

+ PREPARATION +

5:00 PRESERVICE BELL ANTHEM *"It is Well With My Soul"*

WELCOME

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:25

OPENING HYMN #915 "Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

Today your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been.
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,
your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.

Today your gate is open, And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised, A glorious crown in heav'n.

Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father's home.

Continued

O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,
What should we do without you When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,

People: whose sin is covered.

Pastor: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"

People: and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Psalms 32:1, 5b*

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: The parable in today's Gospel reading calls to mind our sin. Like the younger son in this account, we, too, are sinners who have wandered from our Father---our heavenly Father. Like the older son, we, too, have considered ourselves to be righteous on our own and in no need of repentance. For our sin and lack of repentance, Father in heaven, forgive us. Together as sons and daughters of the Lord, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." *2 Cor. 5:17* Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, you receive us

as your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

10:30 BAPTISM of Claire Rylee Cruft

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Please refrain from taking photographs during the worship service.

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 12:1-6 (*The LORD has become my salvation.*)

In that day you will say: "I will praise you, O LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation." With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say: "Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.*)

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

5:00 ANTHEM

"O Breath of God"

Choir

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (*There was a man who had two sons*)

Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go

back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #609

"Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"

Stanzas 1-4 & 7

Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

We deserve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim; Here our ills have perfect healing.
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live: Jesus sinners doth receive.

I, a sinner, come to Thee With a penitent confession.
Savior, mercy show to me; Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Jesus sinners doth receive; Also I have been forgiven:
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave: Jesus sinners doth receive.

SERMON

"God's Welcome into His Family"

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

(Rise)

5:00 & 8:00 CREEDAL HYMN #953 “We All Believe In One True God”

We all believe in one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Everpresent help in need, Praised by all the heav’nly host;
All He made His love enfolds, All creation He upholds.

We all believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary’s son,
Who descended from His throne And for us salvation won;
By whose cross and death are we Rescued from all misery.

We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who from both in truth proceeds,
Who sustains and comforts us In all trials, fears, and needs.
Blessed, holy Trinity, Praise forever be to Thee!

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

5:00 BELL ANTHEM *“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”*

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: People loved by God, let us come before our Father’s throne of grace with confidence through our Lord Jesus and, in the power of His Spirit, ask His mercy for all in need.

Brief silence.

Pastor: Kind and gracious Father, we are not worthy to be called your children, and yet in love you have embraced us, named us your own, and by your beloved Son have made us co-heirs of all things.

People: Remember all your baptized children and stir up in them a desire for a life of communion with you.

Pastor: Father of glory, kindly regard this family of your people, that we might give a hearty welcome to all fellow sinners who desire the embrace of your love and forgiveness.

People: Assure them that they are wanted and loved in your house.

Pastor: Holy One, your Son sends forth His messengers of reconciliation into all the world. Keep all those in the Office of the Holy Ministry faithful in their preaching and administration of the Sacraments. We rejoice with the Cruft family that this weekend Claire Rylee enters Christ’s kingdom through Holy Baptism.

People: Grant that many more may join the fellowship of believers, and that through the Holy Ministry your Church may be built up and strengthened.

Pastor: Loving Lord, there is no sin that your Son did not carry to death, no one for whom His sacrifice was not offered.

People: Call those who have wandered from their baptismal birthright home to you and renew them by your Spirit.

Pastor: Mighty King, your Word commands us to pray for all those in authority. Remember in mercy our president, Congress and justices, and all who make, administer and judge our laws.

People: Grant them to serve with integrity and wisdom; into your keeping we also commend all serving in our armed forces.

Pastor: God our Healer, look with kindness on those who are taking treatments, those suffering from chronic illness or recovering from accidents, those who mourn and all for whom our prayers are desired especially Kay, Geraldine, David, Dorothy, William, Eleanor, Carol, Bob, Carri, Al, Jean, Lois, Sarah, Irma, Nancy, Gerald, Joe and Kerry.

People: May your Son ever be their joy in sorrow; their health in sickness and their life in death.

Pastor: Almighty God, every good and perfect gift comes from your hand. We rejoice with Mike and Kristy as they celebrate their anniversary as well as the Burkee family celebrating Jonathan’s birthday and the Paul Ficken family as they celebrate the birth of their new son Theodore.

People: Grant us all to rejoice in the manifold gifts which come from your goodness toward us.

Pastor: Bountiful Giver, your Son has provided a feast for your family where they taste your love in the gift of His body and His blood.

People: Give us penitent hearts to receive this most holy Eucharist in firm faith, for our salvation and to our abundant blessing.

Pastor: Great I Am, you are the life that never ends and so we give you thanks and praise for the victory over death and the grave given us through Jesus. With joy we remember those who have departed this life in His faith and friendship. Bless Al Weil and his family as they remember Cindy on her birthday and comfort all those who miss departed loved ones.

People: Bring us with all who have died in faith to share the joys of your eternal home.

Pastor: Join our prayers and praises with those of your faithful people of every time and every place and unite them in the ceaseless petitions of our great High Priest until He comes again in power and great glory as victorious

Lord of all. Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, forever and ever!

All: Amen.

5:00 & 8:00 THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI #434 "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy"

Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.

All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

5:00 BELL ANTHEM *"God So Loved the World"*

HYMN #571 "God Loved the World So That He Gave"

God loved the world so that He gave His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die; His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood, Your Baptism grants the highest good.

If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.

Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

HYMN #560 "Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed"

Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed With healing gifts for souls distresses,
To find in Thee my life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come.

Thou knowest all my griefs and fears, thy grace abused, my misspent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears, Christ crucified, I come.

Wash me and take away each stain; Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain, Christ crucified, I come.

And then for work to do for Thee, Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me, Christ crucified, I come.

HYMN #636 "Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness"

Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
Come into the daylight's splendor, There with joy your praises render.
Bless the One whose grace unbounded This amazing banquet founded;
He, though heav'nly, high, and holy, Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

Hasten as a bride to meet Him, And with loving rev'ence greet Him.
For with words of life immortal He is knocking at your portal.

Open wide the gates before Him, Saying, as you there adore Him:
Grant, Lord, that I now receive You, That I nevermore will leave You.

He who craves a precious treasure Neither cost nor pain will measure;
But the priceless gifts of heaven God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered, None could buy the gifts here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven, And His blood, for you once given.

Now in faith I humbly ponder Over this surpassing wonder
That the bread of life is boundless Though the souls it feeds are countless:
With the choicest wine of heaven Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation, pledge and seal of my salvation!

Jesus, source of lasting pleasure, Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
Peace beyond all understanding, Joy into all life expanding:
Humbly now, I bow before You; Love incarnate, I adore You
Worthily let me receive You And, so forward, never leave You.

Jesus, sun of life, my splendor, Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
Jesus, joy of my desiring, Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
At Your feet I cry, my maker, Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven, For our good, Your glory, given.

Lord, by love and mercy driven, You once left Your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish And to die in bitter anguish,
To forego all joy and gladness And to shed Your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living, Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

Jesus, bread of life, I pray You, Let me gladly here obey You.
By Your love I am invited, Be Your love with love requited;
By this Supper let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace You give me As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have again reconciled us to yourself through your Son's true body and blood given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins. As your new creations, embolden us to be ambassadors for Christ, sharing your message of reconciliation with the world; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Since you are in Christ, you are a new creation!

People: Thanks be to God!

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #605

"Father Welcomes"

Refrain:

**Father welcomes all His children To His fam'ly through His Son.
Father giving His salvation, Like forever has been won.**

Little children, come to Me, For My kingdom is of these.
Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin. *Refrain*

In the water, in the Word, In His promise, be assured;
those who are baptized and believe Shall be born again. *Refrain*

Let us daily die to sin; Let us daily ride with Him.

Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God. *Refrain*

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Organist

Choir Director

Bell Choir Director

Flute

Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Manley Hurst, Frank Coogan, Jim Adams

Christian Kirchner, Jackson Mueller, Andrew Niemer

Roger Gottschalk

Nancy Hoelke

Jan Schneider

Rindee Mowery

Kim Woller