

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

New Life Today
March 30 & 31, 2019

AS WE GATHER

The parable of the prodigal son may be one of the most familiar in the repertoire of our Teacher. Jesus speaks His truth into the heart of every person who needs Him, regardless of whether their brokenness is known to everyone and their brother or known only to the sinner and his or her Creator. Jesus' story of a son's foolish ways and a father's lavish grace is a moving parable with a profound impact. But that's not even the full story. The elder son, who wrongly thought that he had it all together and had not sinned against his father, looks with indignation upon the prodigal's homecoming celebration. The father responds with a message for both of his children, and both of his children desperately need the father's mercy. We do too. Reflect on your brokenness and confess it. Rejoice in your Father's forgiveness and receive it. Relish the celebration of the feast that's been prepared for you and share its joy with every other prodigal you know.

WELCOME

“Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him.
As surely as the sun rises, he will appear;
he will come to us like the winter rains,
like the spring rains that water the earth.” Hosea 6:3, NIV

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #686 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the bloodwashed linen, How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.

(Rise)

OPENING VERSICLES

Pastor: Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid;
People: **for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.**

INVOCATION, CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

Pastor: That we may receive the blessing of Christ's forgiveness, let us draw near to God, confessing the brokenness of our sin and receiving the fullness of our Father's mercy. Together, we pray:

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

Pastor: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;

People: **I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Pastor: In Holy Baptism, almighty God, our merciful Father has declared you to be His children and has gathered you into His family, the Church, in which He daily and richly forgives all your sins and the sins of all believers. This new life is yours today! As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen!**

Pastor: Steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

People: Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

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. Though we deserve only punishment, you receive us as your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul.

People: Grant that we may acknowledge your merciful goodness, give thanks for all your benefits, and share your love with all those who, like us, are lost and hopeless without you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 12:1-6* (The Lord God has become my salvation.) You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me.

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted." "Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *2 Corinthians 5:16-21* (In Christ, the old has passed away, & the new has come.) From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away;

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behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

8:00 ANTHEM *"Sweet Are the Prayers of a Friend"*

Oo, Oo, Sweet are the prayers of a friend. How Sweet, how sweet are the prayers, are the prayers, that are offered up by a friend, by a friend who calls, calling up to heav'n, calling, "Lord, come down, come down and bless again." Friends, Friends pray for healing, they pray revealing the heavy burden of our souls. They pray for courage, unfailing courage, asking God to make us whole. O how sweet are the prayers, are the prayers that are offered up by a friend, by a friend who calls, calling up to heav'n, calling, "Lord, come down, come down and bless again." Friends pray us through troubles, through all our struggles when life seems to fall apart. They pray us through grieving, always believing, Our God can heal the broken heart, the broken heart, the broken heart. How sweet! Are the prayers that offered up by a friend who calls, calling up to heav'n calling, "Lord, come down, come down and bless again." Come, come down and bless again. Oo, Oo, Sweet are the prayers of a friend for a friend.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 15:1-3, 11-32* (The father embraces his prodigal son.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need.

So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #700 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find Thy promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;

Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee,

Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav'n we take our place

Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

SERMON "In Christ, You Are A New Creation" 2 Corinthians 5 & Luke 15

(Rise)

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(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. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: We are your prodigal sons and daughters, O Lord, who come pleading for your mercy and praying for your grace to hear the prayers of your people and answer them in accordance with your will.

Brief silence for personal prayers

Pastor: Eternal God, though your anger was righteous, your mercy had triumphed and rescued your fallen people. Keep us in faith and in the covenant of our Baptismal grace.

People: Fill us with your Spirit that we may rejoice to live as your people and serve you as ambassadors for Christ.

Pastor: Glorious Father, you established your Church and filled it with sons and daughters from across the world, a people joined to Christ and united in doctrine and life.

People: Keep us faithful amid dangerous and threatening times, that we may not depart from your ways nor forsake our calling as your children.

Pastor: O merciful Lord, in every age and time you have raised up servants to do your bidding. Continue to raise up pastors and teachers and servants of your Word, and bless their efforts with your success. Bless especially our Together in Mission Partners, Pastor Chuck Ferry and Family and Rachel Meyer.

People: Bless also those who are considering church-work vocations, and guide those who are even now preparing for your full-time service.

Pastor: Blessed Lord, you are the hope of the hopeless, the refuge of the oppressed and the giver of peace to all in distress. Bless the poor, and open our own hearts to share with them the abundance you have given. Give employment to those without work, and give to all a sense of nobility in the labors of our hands.

People: Fill the hungry with the good news of your Kingdom and with the good things that are the fruits of the earth.

Pastor: Almighty God, you give us more than justice and bestow upon us the riches of your mercy. Deliver us from all jealousy and discontent, and fill our hearts with generosity and love.

People: Move us also to bring to you the tithes and offerings of a grateful people, acknowledging you, the Giver of all good gifts.

Pastor: Loving God, by the wounds of Christ we are made whole. Look with kindness upon the sick, the suffering, the troubled in mind, the grieving and the dying, and those facing difficult times. Especially do we pray on behalf of Sarah, Felicia, Marion, Katie, Marilyn, Susan, Henry, LuEva, Marge, Dolores, Dick, Herb, Cindy, Arlene, Shirley, Russ, Gladys, John, Arlene, Jack, Shirley, Jonathan, Sarah and those named in our hearts.

People: Give confidence of your will and purpose to all who are afflicted, and help them in patience to await the day when they shall no more face illness or adversity, when we shall see you face to face.

Pastor: God of every good gift, we rejoice with the Strand family as they celebrate the 89th birthday of Norma and all the blessings of life.

People: Make us to be a thankful people who rejoice in your goodness day by day.

Pastor: Holy Lord, though we in no way deserve your compassion or your kindness, we give you thanks that you welcome us into the arms of your mercy and restore the fallen. Recall the erring, and renew to your fellowship those absent too long from your house, your Word and your table.

People: Prepare us that we may receive faithfully this blessed supper and thereby be strengthened in body and soul.

Pastor: O Lord, endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have begun in us the good work of our new lives in Christ; bring them to completion on the Day of your visitation.

People: We give you thanks for the faithful who have gone before us, and we pray you will ultimately bring us with all your people into your eternal presence forevermore.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

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

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O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

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.

HYMN #641 "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

**Refrain: You satisfy the hungry heart With gift of finest wheat.
Come give to us, O saving Lord, The bread of life to eat.**

As when the shepherd calls his sheep, They know and heed his voice;
so when you call your fam'ly, Lord, We follow and rejoice.

With joyful lips we sing to you Our praise and gratitude
That you should count us worthy, Lord, To share this heav'nly food.

Is not the cup we bless and share The blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare Our oneness in the Lord?

The myst'ry of your presence, Lord, No mortal tongue can tell:
Whom all the world cannot contain Comes in our hearts to dwell.

You give yourself to us, O Lord; Then selfless let us be,
To serve each other in your name in truth and charity.

HYMN #743 "Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

Jesus, priceless treasure, Fount of purest pleasure, Truest friend to me,
Ah, how long in anguish Shall my spirit languish, Yearning, Lord, for Thee?
Thou art mine, O Lamb divine! I will suffer naught to hide Thee;
Naught I ask beside Thee.

In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would molest me Cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking, Ev'ry heart be quaking, Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash And thunders crash; Yet, though sin and hell assail me,
Jesus will not fail me.

Satan, I defy thee; Death, I now decry thee; Fear, I bid thee cease.
World, thou shalt not harm me Nor thy threats alarm me
While I sing of peace. God's great pow'r Guards ev'ry hour;
Earth and all its depths adore Him, Silent bow before Him.

Hence, all earthly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure, Jesus is my choice.
Hence, all empty glory! Naught to me thy story Told with tempting voice.
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my Savior move me
Since He deigns to love me.

Evil world, I leave thee; Thou canst not deceive me, Thine appeal is vain.
Sin that once did blind me, Get thee far behind me, Come not forth again.
Past thy hour, O pride and pow'r, Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,
Leave thee now forever.

Hence, all fear and sadness! For the Lord of gladness, Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father, Though the storms may gather,
Still have peace within. Yea, whate'er I here must bear,
Thou art still my purest pleasure, Jesus, priceless treasure!

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. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son's body and blood. Enable us by your Holy Spirit to be strengthened and renewed in the gift of forgiveness, life, and salvation that we have here received.

People: **Help us to leave our past behind, and guide us forward each day by grace until that day we behold you face-to-face; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid;

People: **for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.**

Pastor: Confident of our salvation, let us go forth in the name of the Lord. 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 #685 "Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus"

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,
full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share your woe; Help me there your joy to know.

Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with you I die, There to live with you on high.

Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken. Jesus, you are now our head.
We are your own living members; Where you live, there we shall be
In your presence constantly, Living there with you forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be, Life eternal grant to me.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Organist

Pastor Noah Kegley
Pastor Harold Bender
Mary McPartland, Debra Nier, Jane Adams
Logan Rauter, Ryann Gutknecht, Luna Ramos
Michelle Prince

Lenten Mid- Week Worship

Mid Week April 3:

Rosh Hashanah - The Feast of Trumpets

Mid Week April 10:

Christ IS the Passover

Steve Cohen - Apple of His Eye Ministry

Lenten Dinners:

April 3: Baked Potato Bar

April 10: Mostaccioli