

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Welcome Home!

March 5 & 6, 2016

### AS WE GATHER

This Sunday, once called *Laetare*, which is Latin for “rejoice,” lifts the somberness of Lent a bit. The reason is all that God has already done for us in the past. The reading from Isaiah looks ahead to our day, when we know that the Lord “has become my salvation.” We have known what David rejoices over in the psalm: that when he confessed his transgressions, the Lord “forgave the iniquity of my sin.” God’s forgiveness has reconciled us through Christ as completely, Paul writes, that it is as if “the old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” We can be confident that each day brings us closer to our last on earth, when, like the prodigal son, we shall hear our heavenly Father’s “welcome home.” So, even in Lent, rejoice!

### WELCOME

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." Psalm 51:17

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

### OPENING HYMN #605

“Father Welcomes”

**Refrain:** Father welcomes all His children To His fam’ly through His Son.  
Father giving His salvation, Life 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 rise with Him.

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

(Rise)

### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

**People: Amen.**

Assistant: Today is the Lord’s Day, a Sunday *in* Lent, but not part *of* it—a little Easter. Let us rejoice and be glad in it,

**People: in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Assistant: O Lord, open my lips,

**People: and my mouth will declare your praise.**

Assistant: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**People: make haste to help me, O Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Assistant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Assistant: 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 heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience;**

Assistant: 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 Chloe Jae Holsten

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*Please refrain from taking photos during the worship service.*

✠ WORD ✠

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 12:1–6* (God has answered our prayers.)

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* (Be reconciled to God.)

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 CHOIR ANTHEM**            *“Deeper Than the Sea”*

(Rise) *Our Gospel reading today is the same message our Guatemala Team is teaching in Guatemala this week.*

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 15:1–3, 11–32* (The parable of the prodigal son)

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." Then Jesus told them this parable: "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 men 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 men.' 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 #744**            ***“Amazing Grace”***

Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,  
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven's joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

**SERMON**                            ***“The Parable Of The Angry Son”***            ***Luke 15:1-3, 11-32***

(Rise)

**5:00 & 8:00 NICENE CREED** (*found on the inside back cover of the hymnal*)

(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

Assistant: 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.

After each petition:

Assistant: Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Assistant: . . . almighty Father, forever and ever.

**People: Amen.**

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

+ SACRAMENT +

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Assistant: As we are about to receive our Lord's body and blood in, with, and under this bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, let us make confession to our heavenly Father. "I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,'

**People: and you forgave the iniquity of my sin."**

Assistant: With God's people when Isaiah's prophecy would be fulfilled, we "give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name."

**People: But we confess that when we are drained in our broken relationships, we do not always remember that God is the source of every blessing, nor do we remember that He is always ready to listen when we call out to Him.**

Assistant: With David, we rejoice that "against [us] the Lord counts no iniquity."

**People: But we confess that we do not always admit all our transgressions to the Lord, groaning instead all day long.**

Assistant: With Paul, we rejoice that Christ "gave us the ministry of reconciliation."

**People: But we confess that we do not always regard one another as His new creations, failing to be reconciled to one another or to God.**

Assistant: With the prodigal son in Jesus' parable, we have felt our heavenly Father's forgiving embrace, welcoming us home.

**People: But we confess that at times we are more like the elder brother, feeling sorry for ourselves and seeking tangible blessings for serving our Lord through the years.**

Assistant: The Pharisees were correct, saying that Jesus "receives sinners and eats with them." Let us therefore confidently go to God, asking His forgiveness for Jesus' sake. Almighty God, heavenly Father,

**People: we confess that we are by nature sinful. We have failed to love you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have considered ourselves better than others; we have expected you to bless us in all things. For the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, forgive us, and by the power of your Holy Spirit cleanse our hearts and minds that we might walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Christ Jesus, true man and true God, was obedient to His Father in all things and in our place perfectly fulfilled God's will. By His death, He destroyed death, and by His rising opened eternal life to all who call on Him for forgiveness. Our heavenly Father is therefore ready to welcome us to our heavenly home at the end of our pilgrimage on earth. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May God strengthen you in your Lenten journey toward the joys of Easter.

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

## 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 #628      “Your Table I Approach”**

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.

Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;  
a contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,  
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;  
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined  
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night  
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

**HYMN #637      “Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord”**

Draw near and take the body of the Lord,  
And drink the holy blood for you out-poured;  
Offered was He for greatest and for least,  
Himself the victim and himself the priest.

He who His saints in this world rules and shields,  
To all believers life eternal yields;  
With heav’nly bread He makes the hungry whole,  
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,  
And take the pledges of salvation here.

O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow  
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

**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’rence 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.

**HYMN #910 "Now the Silence"**

Now the silence Now the peace Now the empty hands uplifted  
Now the kneeling Now the plea Now the Father's arms in welcome  
Now the hearing Now the pow'r Now the vessel brimmed for pouring  
Now the body Now the blood Now the joyful celebration  
Now the wedding Now the songs Now the heart forgiven leaping  
Now the Spirit's visitation Now the Son's epiphany  
Now the Father's blessing Now Now Now

**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. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; 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: God is a hiding place for us; He preserves us from trouble.

**People: He surrounds us with shouts of deliverance.**

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you in His welcoming embrace. The LORD make His face shine on you in His reconciling grace. The LORD look upon you as His new creation and ✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN #571 "God Loved the World So That He Gave" Stanzas 1,3,6**

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.

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.

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

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Acolytes  
Children's Message  
Organist

Pastor Gregg Stanton  
Principal Rick Schneider  
Debbie Ulbing, Marc Stefanic, Marty Osell  
Emily Reinhardt, Montana Wendt, Macky Wessler  
Laurel Privatt  
Roger Gottschalk

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**Restored in Christ - Our Midweek Lenten Journey**

**Midweek - March 9: "Broken Promises" based on Matthew 26:69-75**

**10:00am & 6:00pm**

Lenten Meal: Lasagna, garlic bread, green beans, Boston cream pie bars

**Call Committee has been formed**

As Roger Gottschalk has expressed his clear intention to retire at the end of this school year and as Shannon Krueger's husband, Brian, has accepted a call up north which will prevent her from serving as our school music director, we are seeking a full-time Director of Music to lead our programs for both church and school.

A Call Committee has been formed with the following members: Rick Schneider, chairperson, Marty Osell, Stacy Kukor, Rebecca Knight, Mike Carson, Dale Pipkorn, Melissa Leon, and Pastor Bender. We are seeking candidates that are commissioned ministers of the Gospel in the LCMS. If you have a name of someone you think would be a blessing to St. Paul's, please submit their name and contact information to the school or church office.