

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 27, 2022

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN

*EvLW # 807 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (verses 1 and 3)*

1. 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.
3. 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, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

**Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, we give you thanks and praise.

**Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory forever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

### Joshua 5:9-12

*By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.*

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 32

Count yourself lucky, how happy you must be - you get a fresh start, your slate's wiped clean.

**Count yourself lucky - God holds nothing against you and you're holding nothing back from him.**

When I kept it all inside, my bones turned to powder, my words became daylong groans.

**The pressure never let up; all the juices of my life dried up. Then I let it all out; I said, "I'll come clean about my failures to God."**

Suddenly the pressure was gone - my guilt dissolved; my sin disappeared.

**These things add up. Every one of us needs to pray; when all everything breaks loose and the dam bursts we'll be on high ground, untouched.**

God's my island hideaway, keeps danger far from the shore, throws garlands of hosannas around my neck. **Let me give you some good advice; I'm looking you in the eye and giving it to you straight: "Don't be ornery like a horse or mule that needs bit and bridle to stay on track."**

God-defiers are always in trouble; God-affirmers find themselves loved every time they turn around.  
**Celebrate God. Sing together everyone! All you honest hearts, raise the roof!**

**SECOND READING**

**2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

*One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.*

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSEL**

**Luke 15:1-3, 11-32**

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.*

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout 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 to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up 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 like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then 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 slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe - the best one and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**EvLW # 608 *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling***

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.  
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

#### *Refrain*

"Come home, (Come home,) come home! (come home!)  
You who are weary, come home."  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"

2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? *Refrain*
3. Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. *Refrain*

## **CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING**

Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

**Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe; just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations. Who can fail to honour you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name?**

Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

**For you alone are the Holy One and blessed is the one whose name is the Word of God. All praise and thanks to you, holy God!**

Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

## **CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

**Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

You make the land to produce a harvest that sustains your entire creation. Equip farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Nourish the earth with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Heal grounds tainted by pollution or misuse. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**Countries are divided and leaders often harbour grudges. Reconcile nations that experience the tragedy of conflict especially Ukraine and Russia. Act quickly to bring an end to war. Anoint peacemakers trained in the art of diplomacy and foster a spirit of collaboration among political rivals. Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

Your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Save those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving especially Lloyd, Josh, Jordon, Ferolyn, Elethia, Daryl, Carol and those we name in our hearts. Console us with the promise that everything can become new. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**Your love comes to us when a table is set, and a feast is prepared. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation (especially Woolwich Family Service and DISTRO at Martin Luther University College). Bring an end to hunger in our community and around the world. Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

The one who was dead is alive again. We give thanks for those who have died, confident that steadfast love surrounds them. Shelter them in your love until we are gathered at your heavenly banquet. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favour and give you peace. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

## EvLW # 666 *What Wondrous Love Is This*

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul,  
for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?
2. When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down,  
sinking down, when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.
3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb I will sing;  
to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme,  
I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme, I will sing.
4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,  
I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing God's love for me,  
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and through eternity I'll sing on.

## DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all  
people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	Mar 28	Leviticus 23:26-41	Revelation 19:1-8	Psalm 53
Tue	Mar 29	Leviticus 25:1-19	Revelation 19:9-10	Psalm 53
Wed	Mar 30	2 Kings 4:1-7	Luke 9:10-17	Psalm 53
Thu	Mar 31	Isaiah 43:1-7	Philippians 2:19-24	Psalm 126
Fri	Apr 01	Isaiah 43:8-15	Philippians 2:25-3:1	Psalm 126
Sat	Apr 02	Exodus 12:21-27	John 11:45-57	Psalm 126
Sun	Apr 03	Isaiah 43:16-21	John 12:1-8	Psalm 126 (5)
			Philippians 3:4b-14	

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