



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota

Holy Communion

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Variations on Wondrous Love

John Eggert

Entrance Hymn *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

807

Stand.

All are welcome in the many ways we inhabit bodies, minds, and spirits. Throughout the liturgy, the assembly is encouraged to participate as needed in gesture, posture, and movement. Children are, of course, invited to be children, bringing their own joy, sound, and movement to worship.

Greeting

The assembly greets the presiding minister in response. And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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 Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Let the Children Come

Sit.

**You Shall Be a
Watered Garden**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Prayer for Hearing God's Word

*We read texts passed down to us from our ancestors, a record of their experience of God, and we trust that their writing still speaks to us today. Lutherans consider Scripture to be one of the primary ways we experience the living voice of Jesus. Throughout Lent, we take a moment to quiet the racing mind, and the anxiety within. We breathe deeply and center ourselves in God's loving care. After singing a chant, with words from the Wendell Berry poem, The Wild Geese, we pray for the reader, the preacher, and for ourselves as listeners. **What we need is here.***

First Lesson

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.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² 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

The cantor/choir sings the refrain; the assembly repeats the refrain.



Be glad, you right-teous, and re-joice in the LORD.

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions ¹ are forgiven,
and whose sin is ¹ put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD im-¹ putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there ¹ is no guile! R**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones with-¹ ered away,
because of my groaning ¹ all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them. R**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;
I will guide you | with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart. **R**

Second Lesson

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.

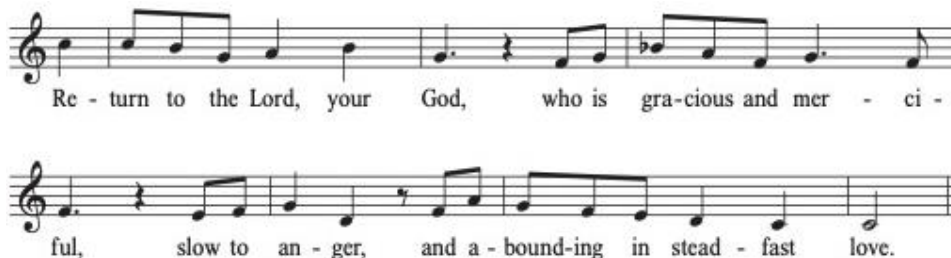
¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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.

Gospel Acclamation

Stand.



Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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.

*After the Gospel is announced the assembly responds: **Glory to you, O Lord.***

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ 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! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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.’ ²² 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. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ But

when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.³² 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.’”

After the Gospel has been read the assembly responds: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Sit.

Hymn of the Day

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

779

Stand.

Welcome of New Members

Prayers of Intercession

Stand.

We pray: **May your mercy be like cleansing water.**

In the prayers for intercession, we pray for all those who cry out for healing and justice. During Lent, these prayers include confession for the ways we have not lived into the baptismal life of love for God, others, and self. Placed before the sharing of the peace and the offering of gifts, we are reminded of Jesus’ words to reconcile with one another first before coming to the table of grace.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Peace

The assembly may greet one another in the peace of the risen Christ.

We practice living a life that offers its hand in healing peace. People may say, “Peace be with you,” as well as shake hands, or place two hands together over the heart, or bow, or by sitting and praying for peace, We recognize that the people of God carry different stories about touch, medical risk, or mental and physical vulnerability. This one, holy body has many gestures. Take care of one another.

Offering

Sit.

The offering is an act of worship, responding with our gifts of talent, time, and money in thanksgiving for God’s love made known in Christ. All have gifts that build up the body of Christ. Passing the plate is a sign of sharing in ministry together. The green papers in the bulletin are a way of participating if you give electronically.

Website

Text
833-608-0559

Venmo



8:15

How Can I Keep From Singing?

arr. Howard Helvey

10:45

Ubi Caritas
Chancel Choir
Sung in Latin

Ola Gjeilo

*Where charity and love are, God is there.
The love of Christ has gathered us together.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Let us revere and love the living God.
And from a sincere heart, let us love one another.*

Setting the Table

Create in Me a Clean Heart

186

The assembly stands as gifts of bread, wine, and money are brought forward.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God,

Creator of clean water and abundant life,

You led your people through the sea,

over the Jordan,

and beside still waters.

We praise you for Christ, the Living Water,
nourishing us in the wilderness of fear and suffering.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized assembled in these forty days.
Nourish us to be a community of witness,
embodying the peace, mercy, and compassion of Christ.

In the Crucified One, we glimpse your glory,
glory that is in, with, and under all things.
With praise and thanksgiving, let the church say, **Amen**

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

**Our Mother,
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.**

Invitation

At this table of mercy, all are welcome.
Come, taste the forgiveness of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Sit.

Communion

Lutherans trust that the love of Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of holy communion. Welcome.

To receive communion:

Receive a cup from the usher.

Come first to the bread station. If you need gluten free bread, please tell the server.

Receive the wine from the silver chalice or juice from the pottery chalice.

Place the cup in the basket and return to your seat.

If you are unable to come forward to for communion, please inform an usher. Communion may be brought to your seat.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymn *Our Father, We Have Wandered* 606

Hymn *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song* 808

Prayer after Communion

Stand.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

Sending Hymn *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* 763

The assembly faces the cross as it is sent into the world.

Dismissal

A few announcements for serving the church and our neighbors precede the dismissal.

Go in peace. Welcome all.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Toccata on In the Cross of Christ I Glory* David Cherwien

Worship Leaders

Thank you to all those who serve today.

If you would like to participate in worship leadership, please speak with any of the pastors.

	8:15 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
Presiding Minister	Bradley E. Schmeling	Bradley E. Schmeling
Preaching Minister	Jodi Houge	Jodi Houge
Assisting Minister	Laura Schurhamer	Kathryn Ostlie
Lector	Mary Ann Teske	Sonya Gindorff
Communion Assistants	Beth Ann Ahlers, Stephanie Allyn, Marcia Ballinger, Maria Conley, Annetta Gardner, Gregg Micholic Amy Hinrichs	Jacque Bieber, Jackson Kruger Kris Nygaard, Tomina Schmitz, Nora Schroeder, Erika Taibl, Anita Young
Acolytes	Bridget Kane, Charlotte Russell	Isaiah Hanno, Charlotte Stevenson
Ushers	Steven Peterson, Katie Russell, Barbara Salava, Chrissy Snider, Megan Snider	Miles Renaas, Michael Burwell, Rob Hauser, William Kase, Judy Renaas
Sacristan	Mark Bergaas	Mark Bergaas
Altar Preparation	Leif Carlson, Mary Ann Teske	Amy Hinrichs, Peter Hinrichs
Livestream		Thor Carlson
Sound	John Teipel	Ethan Sutherland, Rick Sutherland
Organ	Timothy Strand	Timothy Strand
Piano	Dennis Friesen-Carper	Dennis Friesen-Carper
Alb Washing		Carla Gillespie
Library	Joan Kallas, Leslie Kallas	Joan Kallas, Leslie Kallas

Happy Birthday, Anita Young! Donut holes given by Jon Young.

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