



Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 30, 2025

PRELUDE

My Song Is Love Unknown (arr. Michael Burkhardt)

WELCOME

GATHERING

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

INVOCATION

The minister leads the congregation in the invocation. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

P In the name of the Father, † Son and Holy Spirit, one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In honesty before God and one another, we acknowledge our sin and recall the cleansing and renewing power of God's promises in baptism.

P 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.

C Amen.

Kneel or sit as you are comfortable. Silence is kept for reflection.

P St. John writes, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:8-9). And so we gather to confess our sin, not because we fear God thinks us unworthy, but because we trust God's promise to receive us always in mercy and grace. Let us therefore pray together with confidence...

P Most merciful God,

C 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 neighbors 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.

P 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.

C Amen.

Please stand and turn to face the processional cross.

GATHERING HYMN

God Loved the World (ELW 323)

**1 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.**

**2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
who was made flesh and suffered death;
all who confide in Christ alone**

are built on this chief cornerstone.

**3 If you are ill, if death draws near,
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus rescues us from death;
that is the firmest ground of faith.**

**4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
forgives all sins that you have done,
and justified by Jesus' blood,
your baptism grants the highest good.**

**5 All glory to the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
be praise now and eternally!**

GREETING

*With Saint Paul and generations of Christians, we greet one another in the name of God (2
Corinthians 13:14)*

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

C **And also with you.**

KYRIE

Cantor: In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain All

Ky-ri - e e - lei - - - son,
Chris - te e - lei - - - son,
Lord, have mer - cy up-on us.
Christ have mer - cy up-on us.

Cantor: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

Cantor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

Cantor: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

Cantor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

All

A - men, A - - - - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

C 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.

Sit

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Joshua 5:9-12

⁹The 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. ¹⁰While 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.

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

R Word of God, Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 32

Sing Refrain following cantor. Chant responsively and go back to refrain (R)

Refrain



Hap-py are they whose trans-gres-sions are for-giv-en and whose sin is put a-way!

Verses



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

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

³While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | 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.**

⁵Then 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.

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

⁷You 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.**

⁹Do 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."

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

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

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From 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. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

R Word of God, Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

KIDS' MESSAGE

Stand (In preparation for the Gospel reading, we stand to honor and receive the story and the words of Jesus Christ.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re-turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful, slow to an-ger,



and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love, and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The 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. ¹³A 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. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But 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! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰So 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. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But 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. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But 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. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But 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.'"

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Andrew Kitzing

Stand

The Word of God and the theme of the day are repeated in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (ELW 807)

**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.**

- 2 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.**
- 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.**

APOSTLES' CREED

- P God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.**
- C 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.**

PRAYERS

P Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

After each petition, respond with, “receive our prayer.”

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their news)

In our prayers with recent concerns: Doris Bushard, Fred Ohles, Michael Dalton, Julius Swen and Shari Peters. *Those with ongoing concerns:* Elaine Kruse, Pastor Bill Peterson, Mary Brass, Vern Westberg, Richard Bouma, Gloria Van Ackeren, and Tracy Troutman. *Those who are part of our homebound community:* Sylvia Kempf, M. Joyce Hansen, Donna Nelson, Cindy Schuster, Betty Miller, Jeanette Metteer, Dennis Schuster, Ralph Hayden, Rod Price and Margrett Wehland.

P Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C **Amen.**

THE PEACE OF CHRIST IS SHARED

In an act of unity; blessing, and reconciliation, we greet one another with the Peace of Christ (Matthew 5:23-24)

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Sit

MUSICAL OFFERING

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (Thomas Wesley)

Adult Choir

Stand

OFFERTORY HYMN

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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with your - free Spir - it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

In our table prayer we offer thanks and praise for God's act of salvation and for the meal we are about to share.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed... *(here the minister continues with the proper preface, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God of pow'r and might,
 ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord. God of pow'r and might.

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho-

san - na in the high - est, ho-san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-

san - na in the high - est, ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C **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 TO THE TABLE

Adapted from Dietrich Bonhoeffer in Life Together.

P As the grains of wheat have been gathered together in this bread, so the members of the community of faith are united in body and blood at the table of the Lord, and so we will be together in eternity. Here joy in Christ and Christ's community is complete. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Sit

LAMB OF GOD

1. Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world. ___

2. Have mer - cy on us. ___

3. Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world. ___

Grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

For Everyone Born (Mann/arr. Trenney)
Erin Pfister-vocal, Brian Niebuhr-cello,
Bonita Thomsen-piano

COMMUNION HYMNS

Amazing Grace How Sweet the Sound (ELW 779)

- 1 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.**
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;**

**he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

- 5 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.**

Stand

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his
grace.
C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Let us pray.
C **Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in
our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a
making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This (ELW 666)

- 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

P Marked with the cross of Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

With Peace and Joy I Go on My Way (Johann Sebastian Bach)

Lead Pastor: Erin Heidelberger

Associate Pastor: Andrew Kitzing

Cantor: Erin Pfister

Livestream: Brian Niebuhr

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