

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 27, 2022



Lord of Love Lutheran Church (ELCA)

10405 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134

“Celebrating and sharing God’s Love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others”

Worship 9:00 a.m.

Bold type indicates Congregational responses

Introduction

The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

Prelude “Nothing But the Blood of Jesus”.....arr. Anderson

“Dear Lord and Father of Mankind.....arr. Marchand

Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

***Gathering Song:** “Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing” ELW 807

***Greeting**

P: 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.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: In the name of God,
who makes a way in the wilderness,
walks with us,
and guides us in our pilgrimage.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
**we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.**

Have mercy on us!

Forgive us and turn us again to you.

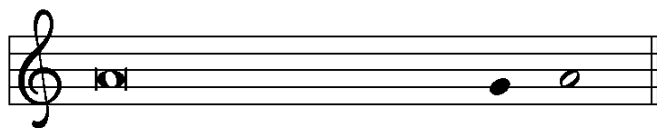
**Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor.**

Amen.

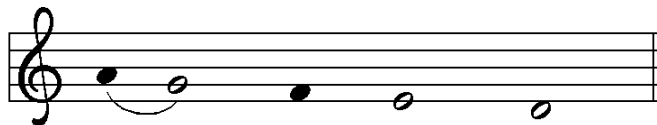
Beloved in Christ,
the Word draws near to you,
and all who call out to God shall be saved.
In Jesus, God comes to you again and again
and gathers you under wings of love.
In ☩ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.
God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

Amen.

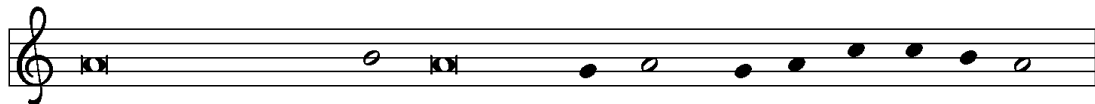
***Kyrie**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



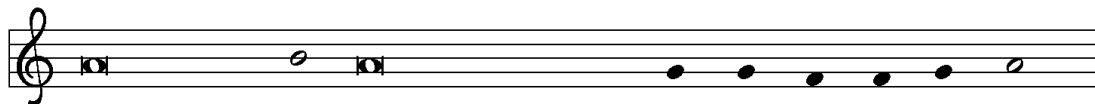
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

****Prayer of the Day***

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

Please be seated.

Choir Anthem “Love Lifted Me”.....Joseph Martin
Flute – Erica Wilkins

Psalm: Psalm 32

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

**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

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

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

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

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

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

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.”

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

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

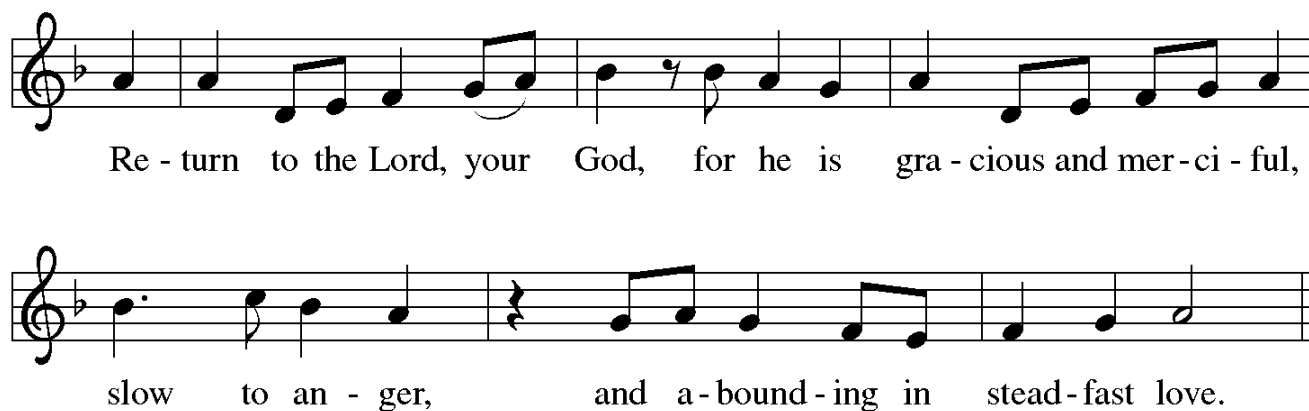
Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

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.

***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.

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

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

Children’s Sermon Rev. Becky Sells

Sermon Rev. Becky Sells

Hymn of the Day: “Our Father, We Have Wandered” ELW 606

****The Apostle's Creed***

L: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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 of Intercession***

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

A brief silence.

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 harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict. 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 for those listed on our prayer list, and the names of those we lift up to you now.... 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 area, we especially pray for the Lord of Love garden, Project Hope, Foodbank for the Heartland, and Holy Cross Pantry. 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.

Please be seated.

Offering

L: We are called to reflect on how we are giving back to God for all the blessings God has given us. This includes continuing to financially support the church and its mission, along with considering how we might be called to give and use our time and talents to further God's kingdom here on earth.

Offertory

(Children are invited to bring their change to the Children's Noise Jar at this time.)



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

*Offertory Prayer

P: Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation... Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

****The Great Thanksgiving***

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

****Holy, Holy, Holy***

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

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

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.

****Words of Institution***

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

****The Lord's Prayer***

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

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.

Please be seated.

Communion Invitation

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good. All are welcome.

Lamb of God



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.

Communion

Distribution Music “Were You There”arr. Slechta

***Table Blessing**

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep, and unite us, now and forever.

Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

P: 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.

***Benediction**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

***Sending Song:** “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing” ELW 545

***Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Ring of the Bell

Postlude “Then Swings My Soul”arr. Anderson

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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