

*Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
*March 31, 2019*

# *Fourth Sunday in Lent*



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!

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**WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, MOMENT, PRAYER PETITIONS,  
PRELUDE, REFLECTION, LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

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## **THE CONFESSION OF SIN**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

**Amen.**

In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God at the margins,

**We have wandered far from your home;**

**again and again, we lose our way.**

**We turn inward, afraid of the world around us.**

**We forget that you have saved your people before  
and promise to do so again.**

**Do not remember the deeds of our past,**

**but turn our faces toward the future,**

**where your forgiveness is sure,**

**your welcome is clear,**

**and your love overflows.**

**Amen.**

Like a hen who gathers her chicks,

God embraces you in tender care.

Like manna in the desert,

God feeds you with surprising mercy.

Like a loving parent,

God runs to meet you again this day,

forgiving your sins for the sake of † Christ,

leading you from death into life.

**Amen.**

## ENTRANCE HYMN

### ***"What Wondrous Love Is This", LBW 385***



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

## THE FIRST LESSON: Joshua 5:9-12

<sup>9</sup>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.

<sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup>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.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 32

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup>**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

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

<sup>5</sup>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.

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

<sup>7</sup>You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup>**I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup>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."

<sup>10</sup>**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup>**Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

## THE SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God.**

Those able, please stand

## THE 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.

## CHOIR ANTHEM

*“Come, Come Unto Me”*  
By Ken Dosso  
Accompanist Julie Conschafter

## THE GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the fifteenth chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

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

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

<sup>25</sup>Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He

replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.'<sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> 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.



Please sit

## SERMON: PASTOR JAMIE

### HYMN OF THE DAY

#### "Our Father, We Have Wandered", WOV 733



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
 3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
 be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.  
 com - pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,  
 In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,  
 grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.  
 in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of abundant grace, guide your church to look upon people as you look upon them, with compassion and as deserving of mercy. Shape us to be worthy ambassadors of Christ. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bestow dignity on migrant and seasonal farm and factory workers. When the time comes for them to leave jobs, provide new ways for them to make a livelihood. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Inspire musicians and poets (*like John Donne, whom we commemorate today*) to point to your unfathomable beauty and creativity. Enhance our vision of your holiness through their works. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Protect and preserve all people who look to you to be their hiding place (*especially*). Be their respite from trouble, and give them hope. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Erase the pain of trauma and the shame and stigma of social contempt. Change the hearts of those who bully or mistreat others, and heal broken relationships. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Invite your whole company of saints into eternal, joyful feasting. When we question your abundant mercy, soften our hearts to receive the gifts of faith and love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our LORD.

**Amen.**

## **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the LORD be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS AND OFFERTORY



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

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Generous God,  
You feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need.  
Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that  
welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest.  
**Amen.**

## THE 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 God thanks and praise.**

## THE PREFACE (Pastor)

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, ...who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of  
your Name:





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.

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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the LORD's death until he comes.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

LORD, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**  
**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.**  
**Amen**

**THE AGNUS DEI**



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.

# THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

## COMMUNION HYMNS

### *"Just As I Am, Without One Plea"*



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y\_a con - flict,  
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,  
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
man - y\_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,  
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

## **"There's A Wideness In God's Mercy", LBW 290**



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;  
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;  
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;  
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in his jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
and the heart of the e - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;  
There is plen - ti - ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been shed;  
If our love were but more sim - ple, we should take him at his word;



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
there is joy for all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the head.  
and our lives would be all sun - shine in the sweet - ness of our Lord.

The body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**

Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -  
 filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -  
 pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the  
 na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,  
 and will be for - ev - er. A - men

## THE PRAYER

Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy. Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## THE BENEDICTION

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The LORD lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

### "My Life Flows On In Endless Song", WOV 781



- 1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
- 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

*Refrain*



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**