

WELCOME!

We are glad to welcome you today as we gather together to worship God! Please be sure you complete the salmon insert inside your bulletin and turn it in to the usher at the time of communion.

This bulletin will assist you in participating in worship. All parts spoken by the congregation are listed in **bold print and preceded by "C:"**

There are also instructions printed in *italics* that will indicate other helpful descriptions of the service. Large Print Hymns are available. Please see an usher.

Thank you for turning off your cell phones or putting them on "silent" during the service.



*We are committed to **invite** and **welcome** all to Jesus Christ, to **equip** all with an active faith that works in real life, and together go into the world to **serve** in Jesus' name.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Jesus , Still Lead On

Paul Manz

The prelude is based on the hymn tune Seelenbrautigam, the tune of today's opening hymn. It was composed in 1665 by Adam Drese, a German court musician. Paul Manz's arrangement of the tune opens with a counter-melody in the soprano voice. The hymn tune is eventually played with this counter-melody using a reed stop in the tenor voice.

Please stand

INVOCATION, CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

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.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Most merciful God,

C: **We confess that we are in bondage 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: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake, 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.**

HYMN 624 "Jesus, Still Lead On"

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

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.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

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.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **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.

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

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: Jesus said, "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.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord! **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

CELEBRATION RINGERS "Ah, Holy Jesus"
(8:15 and 11:00am)

by Johann Cruger
arr. By Brenda Austin

SERMON

Pastor Seth Jersild

HYMN 666 What Wondrous Love Is This

APOSTLES' CREED

C: 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 THE CHURCH

Response: **P:** ...Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

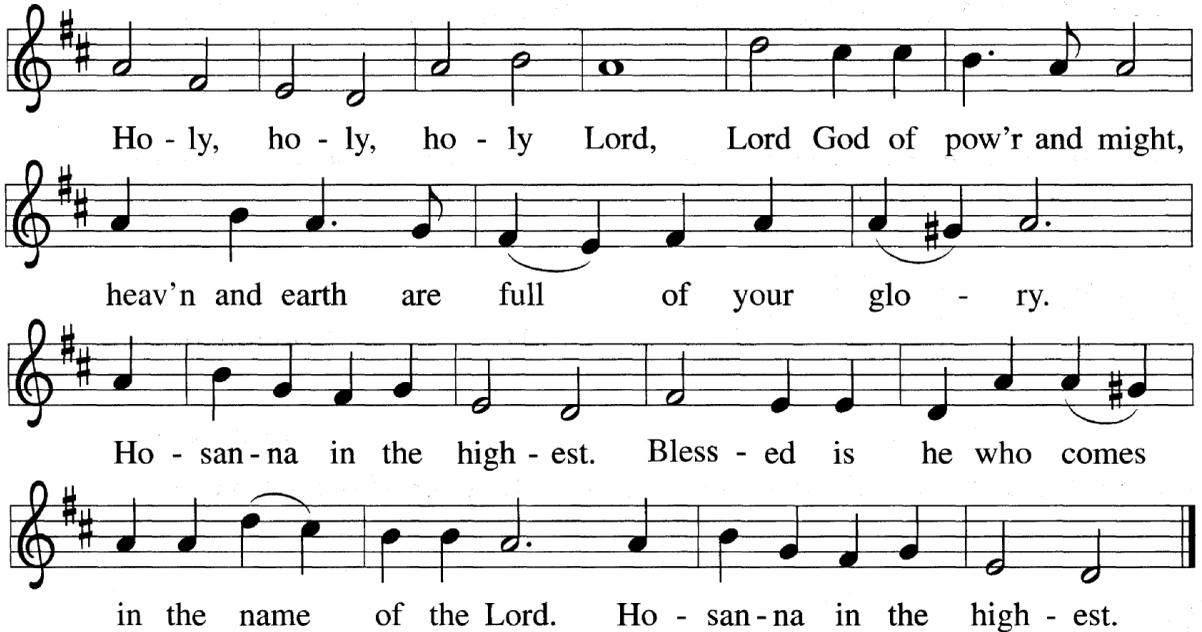
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...

...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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

- ◆ *Persons who know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and believe in his real presence in the sacrament are invited to commune. Grape juice is available in the center of the tray.*
- ◆ *Children not yet communing may come forward with their parents to receive a blessing.*
- ◆ *Adults who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Please indicate you desire a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.*
- ◆ *If you are not able to come forward to receive communion, please let the pastor know by raising your hand as he/she scans the congregation. The pastor will come to you.*

BLESSING, PRAYER and BENEDICTION

HYMN 807 “Come Thou Fount”

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

+In observance of Lent, there will be no concluding organ music+

MARCH 27, 2022
FOURTH SUNDAY
IN LENT



Confessing our need for God brings joy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Parable of the forgiving father
Monday	Joshua 5:9-12	Passover at Gilgal
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	The ministry of reconciliation
Wednesday	Psalms 103:1-12	Thanksgiving for God's goodness
Thursday	Genesis 45:1-28	Joseph reveals himself
Friday	Luke 15:3-7	The parable of the lost sheep
Saturday	Psalms 32	The joy of forgiveness
Sunday	John 12:1-8	Mary anoints Jesus at Bethany

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart. Psalm 32:10-11 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we thank you for your love that reunites us to you through Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Be present at our table, Lord; be here and everywhere adored; your mercies bless and grant that we, may strengthen for your service be. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of grace bless you with the joy of forgiveness and new life.



MARCH 27, 2022

HYMN OF THE WEEK

God of the Sparrow



taking
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about a time you forgave a person or a person forgave you. How did you feel?
- How does faith in God help you resolve differences you have with others?

DEVOTIONS



Read: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.

Recognizing our sin and need for God is foundational to the Christian faith. Lent is a time to acknowledge our sin, our separation from God. As the psalmist notes, *"Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven"* (Psalm 32:1). Naming our need for forgiveness and receiving forgiveness leads to joy. The prodigal son experiences the surprise of his total acceptance and the waiting father experiences the delight of the return of a son who had been lost (Luke 15:20-32). We also experience the joy of the truth that in Christ we have been reconciled—reunited—back to God. We have been given the life-giving ministry and joy of telling the good news of God's reconciling power in Christ to all people. The challenge, of course, is that, like the older brother in the parable of the prodigal son, we may not want God's love and undeserved kindness to bless people who we might see as less deserving than ourselves.

Discuss: How does forgiveness lead to joy?

Pray: Dear God, help us to be people of joy, glad that you forgive us and reconcile us to you and to all you create through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how might you bring joy to someone others see as less deserving?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Lent is a time to focus on prayer. We all have photo albums, whether printed or digital. Not all of our friends and family may know of God's reconciling power and forgiveness that leads to joy. While looking at pictures of family and friends, think about your relationships. Pause and pray for that person. Light a candle and say: *Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome.* Close with the Lord's Prayer.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Fourth Sunday of Lent – March 27, 2022

“And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.”

- Luke 15:20 -

The verbs in the verse above speak volumes. The rebellious son “arose” and “came” (to his father). The father “saw,” “felt,” “ran,” “embraced,” and “kissed” (his wayward son). These verbs so beautifully tell the story of the Good News of the Gospel. They tell our story and, most importantly, they tell the story of our heavenly Father’s response to us within our story.

Of course, the details of our stories vary widely from person to person. But we all, like the prodigal son of Luke 15, “have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). And, whether we view our particular sins as small or great, we all need to arise and, through Christ, come to our Father.

Arising and coming, however, can be very difficult for us. Especially if we experience a great deal of fear and/or shame as a result of our sins. When this happens, we can easily resort to hiding and isolating ourselves from God as Adam and Eve did in the Garden after sinning against him (see Gen. 3:10).

But Jesus’ parable of the prodigal son reveals the outcome for all who resist the urge to hide, isolate, and/or remain distant and, instead, arise and come. It reveals the heart of the Father toward all, no matter how great our sin, no matter how far we may have wandered. It reveals that, when we arise and come, we will discover a Father expectantly and longingly waiting for us. It reveals that we will experience our Father seeing us coming, even when we are still “a long way off,” and feeling such compassion for us that he runs toward us, embraces us in his loving arms, and showers us with kisses.

In actuality, we need to arise and come every day. That is why this is our story. Indeed, the verbs remain the same today as they were when Jesus first told this parable. So, let’s take full advantage and live this beautiful story daily by arising and coming and, thus, experiencing the unhesitating, unconditional love of the Father that greets us anew each day (see Lam. 3:22-23).