

Trinity Lutheran Church, LC

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Fourth Sunday in Lent

God's Acceptance
Makes You Want
to Sing!

Mar 30, 2025



Pre-Service Announcements Servant Processional

AS WE GATHER

Our worship service today is a “relaxation” from normal Lenten discipline and sadness. Today’s service is inspired by the Old Testament Reading of Isaiah, the First Song of Isaiah: *“Sing praises to the LORD, for He has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth” (Isaiah 12:5)*. So today we take that admonition literally as not only the liturgy is sung but also the Scripture Readings are expanded with hymn stanzas. *“Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel” (Isaiah 12:6)*. In the joy of the faithful father in Jesus’ parable of the Prodigal Son, the amazing forgiveness of our sin and acceptance with God as His baptized sons and daughters ... Well, it just makes you want

to sing! And so ... that is exactly what we will do today!

✠ **PREPARATION** ✠

HYMN “*Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*” *LSB 528*

- 1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!
- 2 My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth
abroad,
The honors of Thy name.
- 3 Jesus! The name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace.
- 4 He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin;
He sets the pris'ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood avails for me.
- 5 Look unto Him, ye nations; own
Your God, ye fallen race.
Look and be saved through faith
alone,
Be justified by grace.
- 6 See all your sins on Jesus laid;
The Lamb of God was slain.
His soul was once an off'ring made
For ev'ry soul of man.
- 7 To God all glory, praise, and love
Be now and ever giv'n

By saints below and saints above,
 The Church in earth and heav'n.
 Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.
 Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

PIn the name of the Father and of the ✠
 Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CAmen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 12:2*

PBehold, God is my salvation;

CI will trust, and will not be afraid;

Pfor the LORD GOD is my strength and my
 song,

Cand He has become my salvation.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION 1

Corinthians 10:13; Psalm 96:2

PBeloved in the Lord, Paul reassures us, saying, “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability.” Let us with confidence and gladness enter God’s presence, confessing our sins and receiving His grace, assurance, and forgiveness.

CLord God, we are exceedingly glad to enter Your house this day, for we have heard and believe in the invitation of Your loving kindness and redemption through Jesus Christ, Your Son. In the trust and hope of the faith You have given us as Your baptized children, we confess to You all our sins and failures to share Your gifts of mercy with others. Grant us the forgiveness for which we ask and give us a renewed heart and

spirit to sing Your praises in worship of You and to the joy of all.

P “Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.” Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 32 ... antiphon: v. 1*

P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

P For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

C For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

P I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

C Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

PYou are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. Selah

C**I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

PBe not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.

C**Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.**

PBe glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

C**Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PLet us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C**Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

“The LORD GOD is my strength and my song.” *Isaiah 12:1–6*

¹ You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me.

² "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." ³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵ "Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. ⁶ Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 32; antiphon: v. 11*

P Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

C Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

P Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

C For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

P For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

C I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the

LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

PTherefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

C**You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. Selah**

PI will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

C**Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.**

PMany are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

C**Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

EPISTLE

A new creation

2 Corinthians 5:16–21

L ¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

HYMN “Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good”

LSB 819 – St. 1

- 1 Sing praise to God, the highest good,
 The author of creation,
 The God of love who understood
 Our need for His salvation.
 With healing balm our souls He fills
 And ev’ry faithless murmur stills:
 To God all praise and glory!

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1640–90; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, adapt.
 Text: Public domain

- L** All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ. God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

HYMN “Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good”

LSB 819 – St. 2

- 2 What God’s almighty pow’r has made,
 In mercy He is keeping.
 By morning glow or evening shade
 His eye is never sleeping.
 Within the kingdom of His might
 All things are just and good and right:
 To God all praise and glory!

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1640–90; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, adapt.

Text: Public domain

- L** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore 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.

HYMN “Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good” *LSB 819 – Sts. 3 and 4*

3 We sought the Lord in our distress;
 O God, in mercy hear us.
 Our Savior saw our helplessness
 And came with peace to cheer us.
 For this we thank and praise the Lord,
 Who is by one and all adored:
 To God all praise and glory!

4 He never shall forsake His flock,
 His chosen generation;
 He is their refuge and their rock,
 Their peace and their salvation.
 As with a mother’s tender hand,
 He leads His own, His chosen band:
 To God all praise and glory!

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1640–90; (st. 3): tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, adapt.; (st. 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, adapt.
 Text: Public domain

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Luke 15:22a, 24a*

P The father said to his servants,

C “This my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.”

HOLY GOSPEL The Parable of the Prodigal Son *Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32*

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

C Glory be to You, O Lord.

¹ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the

law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ... "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹ “ ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ ”

PThis is the Gospel of the Lord.

G**Praise be to You, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE *“Blessed
are the Forgiven”*

Psalm 32

HYMN OF THE DAY “Amazing
Grace” *LSB 744*

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 The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;

He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

3 Through many dangers, toils, and
snares

I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus
far,

His grace will lead me home.

4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.

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.

Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred
Ballads, 1790, Richmond
Text: Public domain

SERMON Welcome Home, Joe!

Luke 15:11-32

CREED *Apostles' Creed*

**☐ I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,**

**And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

**The third day he rose again from the
dead.**

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God

the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

You are God; we praise You.

C **You are the Lord; we acclaim You,**

P You are the eternal Father;

C **all creation worships You.**

P To You all angels, all the powers of heaven, sing in endless praise.

C **The glorious company of apostles praise You.**

P The noble fellowship of prophets praise You.

C **The white-robed army of martyrs praise You.**

P You, Christ, are the king of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.

C **You became man to set us free,**

P You overcame the sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

C **You are seated at God's right hand in glory.**

P Lord God, we pray for Your whole church on earth. Grant that Your life-giving, life-sustaining Word be rightly proclaimed and firmly believed, that many may come to repentance and faith and the eternal life of Your new creation. Lord, in Your mercy,

Chear our prayer.

P For Your whole creation, we praise and glorify You, almighty God. Let Your blessing be upon seedtime and harvest, commerce and industry, and all the realm of our life together as a nation. Preserve us, O Lord, in justice and honor that we may live in peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

Chear our prayer.

P For all who are in any need, the sick, the hospitalized, the homebound; for the lonely and abandoned; for the oppressed and the afflicted, come to all with healing, hope, and restoration of freedom and health. Lord, in Your mercy,

Chear our prayer.

Other intercessions may be added here.

P Throughout the world the holy church acclaim You:

C Father, of majesty unbounded;

P Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship;

C and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

P Come, then, Lord, and help Your people, bought with the price of Your own blood,

Gand bring us with Your saints to glory everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN “O God, My Faithful God” LSB 696 – St. 1

1 O God, my faithful God,
 True fountain ever flowing,
 Without whom nothing is,
 All perfect gifts bestowing:
 Give me a healthy frame,
 And may I have within
 A conscience free from blame,
 A soul unstained by sin.
 Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr.
 Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Text: Public domain

LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

GOur 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.

BENEDICAMUS

PBless we the Lord.

GThanks be to God.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and
 ✠ give you peace.

G **Amen.**

HYMN “O Sing to the Lord”

LSB 808 – Sts. 1-5

- 1 O sing to the Lord,
 O sing God a new song.
 O sing to the Lord,
 O sing God a new song.
 O sing to the Lord,
 O sing God a new song.
 O sing to our God,
 O sing to our God.

- 2 For God is the Lord!
 And God has done wonders.
 For God is the Lord!
 And God has done wonders.
 For God is the Lord!
 And God has done wonders.
 O sing to our God,
 O sing to our God.

- 3 So dance for our God
 And blow all the trumpets.
 So dance for our God
 And blow all the trumpets.
 So dance for our God
 And blow all the trumpets.
 And sing to our God,
 And sing to our God.

- 4 O shout to our God,
 Who gave us the Spirit.

O shout to our God,
 Who gave us the Spirit.
 O shout to our God,
 Who gave us the Spirit.
 O sing to our God,
 O sing to our God.

5 For Jesus is Lord!
 Amen! Alleluia!
 For Jesus is Lord!
 Amen! Alleluia!
 For Jesus is Lord!
 Amen! Alleluia!
 O sing to our God,
 O sing to our God.

Text: tr. Gerhard Cartford, 1923–2016; Brazilian

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Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C,
 Quarter 2.

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HANDS OF JESUS THAT RAISE THE DEAD

This is the theme of the 5th Midweek Lenten devotional service on **Wednesday, April 2, at 6:30 pm.** Jesus used His PHYSICAL HANDS on this earth to literally raise people from the dead and draw them back from the darkness of physical death and draw them back into the light of human life. We invite you to join us **at 5:30 pm** for another Lenten Soup Supper, followed by the abbreviated devotional worship service at 6:30 pm.

STEWARDSHIP IS A SPIRITUAL ISSUE is the title of the second monthly All-Congregation Stewardship Bible Study.

Your pastor will facilitate the discussion of this study next **Sunday, April 6, from 9:00 - 9:45**. This insightful Bible Study is part of our three-year Stewards by God's Design stewardship learning process, led by our Trinity Board of Evangelism and Stewardship. We encourage ALL members and friends of Trinity to "plug-in" to this vital study of the Holy Scriptures.

THE HOLY SPIRIT is calling all confirmed and communicant Voting Members of Trinity to attend the vitally important **CONGREGATION CALL MEETING** next **Sunday, April 6**, at approximately 11:15 am - shortly after the abbreviated Sunday Morning Worship Service with Holy Communion. Congregation Chairman Greg Eppler and Call Committee Chairman Ray Swanson will facilitate the spiritual process for extending a divine call to one of the pastors on the Pastoral Candidate Call List provided to us by the Michigan District - LCMS,