

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
MARCH 30, 2025



Pre-service Music

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Absolution

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven; whose sin is covered. When we draw near to God, He draws near to us. Therefore, let us draw near to our loving God to confess our sins knowing that,
- C** **our God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- C** **Gracious and merciful God, we confess that while we have been made new creations through the waters of our baptism, we still live ensnared by sin, and are unable to free ourselves. We have not always lived our lives in accordance with the identity that you have given us in Jesus. We have not always done the things that you have called us to do. We have not always loved you above all else and with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. We have not always loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us all our sins. Renew our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that our lives would show the identity you have given us in baptism, and the new creations that you have made us to be. Amen.**
- P** Our God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love toward those who honor Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does our God remove our transgressions from us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I, therefore, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Peace of the Lord

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** And also with you.

Service of the Word

Gathering Hymn: LSB 726 Evening and Morning



1 Eve - ning and morn - ing, Sun - set and dawn - ing, Wealth, peace, and
2 Fa - ther, O hear me, Par - don and spare me; Calm all my
3 Ills that still grieve me Soon are to leave me; Though bil - lows
4 To God in heav - en All praise be giv - en! Come, let us



glad - ness, Com - fort in sad - ness: These are Thy works; all the
ter - rors, Blot out my er - rors That by Thine eyes they may
tow - er, And winds gain pow - er, Af - ter the storm the fair
of - fer And glad - ly prof - fer To the Cre - a - tor the



glo - ry be Thine! Times with - out num - ber, A - wake or in
no more be scanned. Or - der my go - ings, Di - rect all my
sun shows its face. Joys e'er in - creas - ing And peace nev - er
gifts He doth prize. He well re - ceiv - eth A heart that be -



slum - ber, Thine eye ob - serves us, From dan - ger pre - serves us,
do - ings; As it may please Thee, Re - tain or re - lease me;
ceas - ing: These shall I trea - sure And share in full mea - sure
liev - eth; Hymns that a - dore Him Are pre - cious be - fore Him



Caus - ing Thy mer - cy up - on us to shine.
All I com - mit to Thy fa - ther - ly hand.
When in His man - sions God grants me a place.
And to His throne like sweet in - cense a - rise.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; (sts. 1–2): tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.; (sts. 3–4): tr. Hermann H. M. Brueckner, 1866–1942, alt.

Tune: Johann G. Ebeling, 1637–76

Text (sts. 1–2): Public domain

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Tune: Public domain

Kyrie

- L** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** 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.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

L The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

L Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning. You receive us, in love and grace, 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 willingly serve You in love all the days of our lives; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lenten Litany

You are the way; to you alone
From sin and death we flee;
And they who would the Father seek
Your followers must be.

L Jesus came not to be served but to serve

C **And give his life as a ransom for many.**

L His ultimate act of service was his death on the cross for us.

C **By his wounds we are healed.**

You are the way; you serve those lost
In sin and guilt and greed.
You made a way at your great cost
That we from death are freed.

L Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself.

C **Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.**

L After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them,

C **"Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am.**

L So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet,

C **You also ought to wash one another's feet.**

L For I have set you an example,

C **That you also should do as I have done to you.**

L Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me."

C **Let us love and serve the Lord by loving and serving one another in his name.**

You are the way, the truth, the life;
Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win,
Whose joys eternal flow.

Children's Message

Old Testament

Isaiah 12:1–6

A The Old Testament reading is from the twelfth chapter of the book of Isaiah.

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, and you comforted me. ² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; 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 on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵ Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 32; antiphon: v. 11

L Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C **Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

L While I kept silence, my body 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.**

L Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

C **Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**

L You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

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

L Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

C **Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

L Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,

C **and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

C **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:16–21

A The Epistle reading is from the fifth chapter of the book of 2 Corinthians.

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

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual for Lent

- L** O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
C **the founder and perfecter of our faith,**
L who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,
C **and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Solo: Our Father, We Have Wandered

Text - Kevin Nichols Tune- Hans Leo Hassler

Verse for Lent

- C** **Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**
- P** The father said to his servants, "This my son was dead, and is alive again;
C **he was lost, and is found.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Luke 15:1–32 (NRSV)

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: LSB 612 As Rebels, Lord, Who Foolishly Have Wandered



1 As reb - els, Lord, who fool - ish - ly have wan - dered
 2 Still we re - turn, our con - trite words re - hears - ing,
 3 A feast of love for us You are pre - par - ing;



Far from Your love— un - fed, un - clean, un - clothed—
 Speech, that with - in Your warm em - brace soon dies;
 We who were lost, You give an hon - ored place!



Dare we re - call Your wealth so rash - ly squan - dered,
 All of our guilt, our shame, our pain re - vers - ing
 "Come, eat; come, drink, and be no more de - spair - ing—



Dare hope to glean that boun - ty which we loathed?
 As tears of joy and wel - come fill Your eyes.
 Here taste a - gain the trea - sures of My grace."

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955
 Tune: Jeffrey N. Blersch, 1967
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Apostles' Creed

C 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 thence 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

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

(Each petition ends with the words, "Lord, in Your Mercy." The congregation responds with the words, "Hear our prayer.")

L All these things and everything else for which we should ask, we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Offering

C Offer, offer, offering, we give our gifts to say,
 "Thank you Lord for loving us and blessing us each day."
 Time to share our gifts and say,
 "Thank you Lord for each new day."

Offertory Prayer

- L** Merciful Lord, You gave up Your Son for us so that we would have life with You forever. As we journey through this Lenten season toward the cross open our eyes to see the greatness of Your love for us. Grant that Your love for us would move us to love others in word and action. Accept these offerings that we bring before You with thanksgiving and gratitude for all of Your blessings and gifts to us. Use them for Your glory and to further the work that You are doing in this place and all around our world. In Jesus' name, we pray,
- C** Amen

Offertory

- C** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

- 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 Him thanks and praise.
- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The Lord's Prayer

L God, remember us in your love and teach us to pray:

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.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Distribution

Distribution Hymn: LSB 878 Abide with Me



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,
4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.
O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
 Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
 Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
 In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

*Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847, alt.
 Tune: William H. Monk, 1823-89
 Text and tune: Public domain*

Distribution Hymn: LSB 636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with
 3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther
 4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver



gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day - light's
 lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -
 cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of
 this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is



splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - der.
 mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - tal.
 heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.
 bound - less Though the souls it feeds are count - less:



Bless the One whose grace un - bound - ed This a - maz - ing
 O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you
 Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the
 With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to



ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and
 there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
 gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you
 us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.
 riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.
 la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!

Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
 Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
 Peace beyond all understanding,
 Joy into all life expanding:
 Humbly now, I bow before You;
 Love incarnate, I adore You;
 Worthily let me receive You
 And, so favored, never leave You.

Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,
 Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,

Jesus, joy of my desiring,
Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
At Your feet I cry, my maker,
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven,
For our good, Your glory, given.

Lord, by love and mercy driven,
You once left Your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish
And to die in bitter anguish,
To forego all joy and gladness
And to shed Your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living,
Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,
Let me gladly here obey You.
By Your love I am invited,
Be Your love with love requited;
By this Supper let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace You give me
As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; (sts. 1, 4–5): tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; (sts. 2–3, 6–8): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
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The Dismissal

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.
- C** Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

- C** Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;
Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which You have prepared in the sight of every people:
A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Post-Communion Collect

- P** Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen

Benedicamus

- L** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
- L** Bless we the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

- L** As we depart from this place, we celebrate the ways God has blessed us in this service. We have received forgiveness of all our sins and remembered the identity given to us in our baptism.
- C** **Our God has equipped us for life lived in His kingdom.**
- L** We have heard the good news of the gospel and the word of God read and proclaimed.
- C** **Our God has encouraged us in discipleship and following Jesus.**
- L** We have received the gifts of God given in Holy Communion.
- C** **As our God has served us, so we go from this place to be engaged in service to God, to one another and to our neighbors.**
- L** As we depart from this place, we go as people who have been equipped for life, encouraged in discipleship, and engage in service.
- C** **We go as people who have been invited by God to join God in the work that He is doing in this place.**
- P** As you go, receive the blessing of our God:

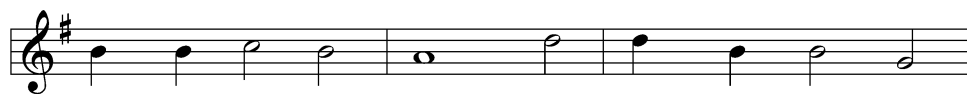
Benediction

- 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.
- C** **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: LSB 528 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing My
 2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, As -
 3 Je - sus! The name that charms our fears, That
 4 He breaks the pow'r of can - celed sin; He



great Re - deem - er's praise, The glo - ries of my
 sist me to pro - claim, To spread through all the
 bids our sor - rows cease; 'Tis mu - sic in the
 sets the pris - 'ner free. His blood can make the



God and King, The tri - umphs of His grace!
 earth a - broad, The hon - ors of Thy name.
 sin - ner's ears, 'Tis life and health and peace.
 foul - est clean; His blood a - vails for me.

Look unto Him, ye nations; own
 Your God, ye fallen race.
 Look and be saved through faith alone,
 Be justified by grace.

See all your sins on Jesus laid;
The Lamb of God was slain.
His soul was once an offering made
For ev'ry soul of man.

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.

Tune: Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

Text and tune: Public domain

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