

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT March 29 & 30, 2025

AS WE GATHER

Traditionally, the Fourth Sunday in Lent has been known as Laetare Sunday, from the Latin Introit *Laetare Jerusalem*: “Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her” (Isaiah 66:10). Though still in the penitential season of Lent, this Sunday is a relaxation from normal Lenten discipline. Flowers may appear, and ministers may wear rose-colored vestments as a lighter shade of violet.

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). Today we take that admonition literally as not only the liturgy is sung but also the 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 forgiveness of our sin and reconciliation with God as His baptized sons and daughters, well, it just makes you want to sing! So we shall!

PRELUDE / ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” LSB 686, sts. 1-4

(Please stand)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 12:2*

Pastor: Behold, God is my salvation;

People: I will trust, and will not be afraid;

Pastor: for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,

People: and He has become my salvation.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 Corinthians 10:13; Psalm 96:2*

Pastor: Beloved 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.

People: **Lord 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.**

Pastor: “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.

People: **Amen.**

INTROIT *Psalm 51:2–6; antiphon: v. 1 (spoken responsively)*

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

People: **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!**

Pastor: For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

People: **Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.**

Pastor: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

People: **Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being,
and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

People: **Glory be 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.**

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;
according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let 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.

People: **Amen.**

(Please sit)

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 12:1–6*

(“The LORD GOD is my strength and my song.”)

¹You 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.”

(continued...)

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴And 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.

⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 32 (*spoken responsively*)

Pastor: ¹Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**People: ²Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

Pastor: ³For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**People: ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

Pastor: ⁵I 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.

**People: ⁶Therefore 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.**

Pastor: ⁷You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**People: ⁸I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

Pastor: ⁹Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.

People: ¹⁰Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

Pastor ¹¹Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

People: **Glory be 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.**

EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 5:16–21

(A new creation)

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. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them,

and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN “In Adam We Have All Been One” LSB 569, sts. 1-6△

(Please stand)

VERSE Luke 15:22a, 24a

Pastor: The father said to his servants,

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

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

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

People: Glory be to You, O Lord.

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus].

²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives

sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: . . .

(continued...)

“There was a man who had two sons.
¹²And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them.

¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ ²⁰And 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.

²¹And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his

servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise be to You, O Christ.

(Please sit)

TITHES AND OFFERING

(8:00 ONLY – “How Deep the Father's Love for Us”)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY “Today Your Mercy Calls Us” LSB 915, sts. 1-4

SERMON “PARABLES OF THE LOST SHEEP, THE LOST COIN, THE LOST SON”
The Rev. Peter Gueldner

(Please stand)

APOSTLES' CREED

People: 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

Pastor: 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.

People: You are the Lord; we acclaim You,

Pastor: You are the eternal Father;

People: all creation worships You.

Pastor: The noble fellowship of prophets praise You.

People: The white-robed army of martyrs praise You.

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

People: You became man to set us free,

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

People: You are seated at God's right hand in glory.

Pastor: 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,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: 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,

People: hear our prayer.

Other intercessions may be added here.

Pastor: Throughout the world the holy church acclaim You:

People: Father, of majesty unbounded;

Pastor: Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship;

People: and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: 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.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Bless we the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

(Please sit)

HYMN “The Old Rugged Cross” sts. 1-4

1. On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

2. O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary.

Refrain

3. In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see,
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me.

Refrain

4. To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.

Refrain

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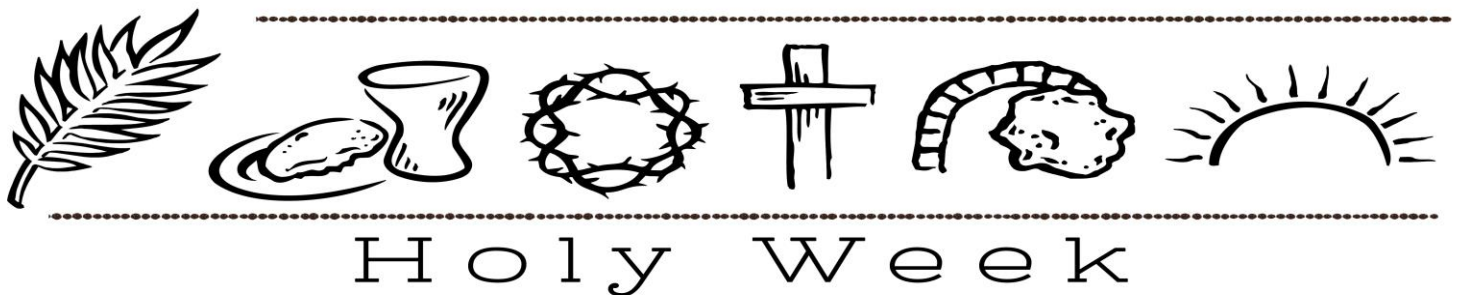
(10:30 ONLY) CONFIRMATION FAITH STATEMENT

*** * * TO GOD BE THE GLORY * * ***

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

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✠ **MAUNDY THURSDAY—April 17, 10:30 a.m. Senior Service with Holy Communion**
(followed by lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to the church office for lunch)

✠ **MAUNDY THURSDAY— April 17, 7:00 p.m. with Holy**

Communion

(live streamed and KDHL 920AM)

‡ **GOOD FRIDAY—April 18, 7:00 p.m.:**

(live streamed and KDHL 920AM)

‡ **EASTER VIGIL Remembrance of Baptism—April 19, 5:30 p.m.
with Holy Communion**

‡ **EASTER SUNDAY—April 20**

8:00 a.m. - Festival Service with

Holy Communion *(live streamed and KDHL 920AM)*

‡ **EASTER SUNDAY—April 20**

10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Service with Holy Communion *(live
streamed)*

EASTER BREKFAST: 9-11 a.m. in the Trinity gym.

EASTER EGG HUNT: 10:00 a.m.