

+The Fourth Sunday in Lent+

March 27, 2022 | 8 am



The Parable of the Prodigal Son

The Divine Service

Liturgy Note: throughout the season of Lent, we will pray Divine Service Setting IV, a setting with less chanting and more speaking, to highlight the solemn and penitential nature of the season, thereby to aid our Lenten observance.

The following may be prayed before the Divine Service:

O LORD, I love the habitation of your house,
and the place where your glory dwells. *Ps. 26:8*

As a deer pants for flowing streams,
so pants my soul for you, O God. *Ps. 42:1*

For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of wickedness. *Ps. 84:10*

Almighty God, heavenly Father, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple. Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness; make thy way straight before my face. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments, for thou art the God of my salvation. Amen.

When the bells ring, stand and face the cross.

Opening Hymn | 609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.**

The Service of the Word

Introit (spoken)

Psalm 51:2–6; antiphon: v. 1

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

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

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

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.

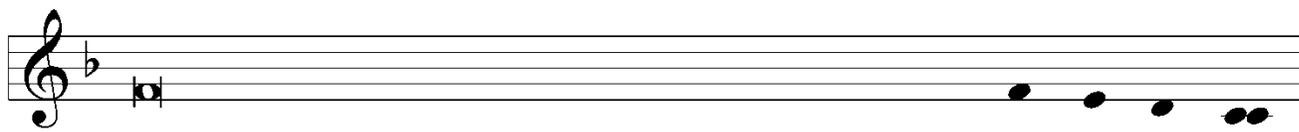
**Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.**

Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

**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.**

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

Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



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

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

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



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

A Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.



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

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P 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.

C Amen.

Sit

The Old Testament

Isaiah 12:1–6

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.”

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.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:16–21

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

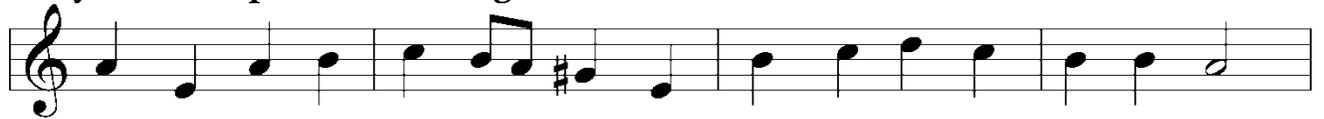
come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

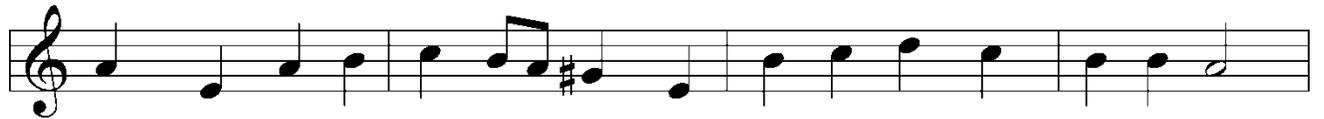
C Thanks be to God.

Stand

422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Nev - er may Your work e - rase;



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

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.

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: . . .

"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.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

back cover of hymnal

Sit

Hymn of the Day | 571 God Loved the World So That He Gave

Sermon

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus unto life everlasting!

Stand

The Prayer of the Church

The Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 208

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, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many. As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

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."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei | 434 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

st. 1



1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,



Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.



All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:



Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Sit

Distribution

Holy Communion at St. Paul

Our congregation confesses the bodily presence of Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar. To care for those who are about to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, the Altar is open to those baptized Christians who repent of their sins, have been catechized in the Faith, and are members of our congregation, another congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or of another Church body with whom we are in fellowship. If you have not communed in a year or are visiting, please speak with one of our Pastors before communing today.

Thank you.

Distribution Hymn | 611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

Distribution Hymn | 562 All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall

Distribution Hymn | 563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

Stand

The Dismissal

P The holy body and precious blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in the one true faith unto life +everlasting! Depart in peace. **Amen.**

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

A 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

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to 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.

Hymn to Depart | 542 When I Behold Jesus Christ

The Service is ended. Depart in peace!

Announcements

St. Paul

Lenten Midweek Services, and Lenten Suppers. Over the next two Wednesdays, we will observe midweek services of Lent with a service at 7PM and a supper at 5:45PM. *There is no Lenten Supper for Holy Week.* The Midweek Series for this year's Lent is called *God's Three Estates: Our Place in the World—the Family, the State, and the Church.* This Wednesday, the meal will be served by Mike and Diana Hoffman, Arlema Ehlerding, Tim and Cheryl Hoffman, Frank and Better Becker, Ralph and Marcia Selking, Carol Selking.

Individual Confession/Absolution will be offered through the Sundays in Lent at 6:30-7:30am. For those sins that you know and feel in your heart, come and hear the Absolution pronounced. No appointment is needed—enter when the person before you leaves. Pastor is bound by his office to never divulge the sins confessed, but to pronounce God's Absolution in obedience to God's command, the forgiveness of sins, as from God himself. You are invited to avail yourself of this holy practice not only throughout the season of Lent but throughout the Church year, by appointment with Pastor (260-226-0375).

Easter breakfast. We will host our Easter breakfast from 7:30—8:30am on Easter morning 4/17 and we could use your help! The youth and confirmands of St. Paul will be serving, but we would be grateful to have you bring a breakfast casserole, pastry (cinnamon rolls, etc.), fruit bowl, or whatever you have in mind. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for help with the Easter breakfast in the narthex. Free-will offering will go to support the youth/confirmands of St. Paul.

Gently Used/Bake Sale. St. Paul Ladies' Aid is happy to put on our Gently Used and Bake sale. Friday, April 22 from 8am-4pm and Saturday, April 23 from 8-11am. \$2/bag on Saturday. We will also have home made baked goods and noodles for sale. Thank you for helping us spread the word!

Flowers. Anyone interested in donating flowers throughout the year, place your name on the chart in the narthex and contact a Ladies' Aid committee member assigned to that month for assistance. These flowers will be placed on the altar on the Sunday requested.

Office of Deacon. We are going to install an informal, three-month rotation of four assistant deacons for winter (January to March 15), four assistant deacons for Spring (March 15 to the Sunday prior to Memorial Day), two assistant deacons for summer (Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend) and four assistant deacons for fall (Sunday after Labor Day to the end of the year). *If you think you would be able and willing to help your Church for this part-time, limited three month stretch of time, please talk to Pr. Yeager.*

Youth

High School Youth Activities

+Sunday, March 27; 6:30-8:30 p.m. – Wyneken Service Night

Wyneken

Congratulations! We celebrate with Ms. Rebecca Klenke (resource teacher) for 45 years of service, Mrs. Julie Smith (grade 4 teacher) with 15 years of service, and Mrs. Courtney Butcher (2nd grade teacher) with 10 years of service in the teaching ministry. We also give thanks to God

for Cheryl Reinking (Wyneken Childcare and business assistant) for 5 years of faithful service. Praise be to our Lord and Savior for devoted teachers and staff who serve at Wyneken!

First Grade Teacher. The Wyneken Memorial Lutheran School Board of Education has offered the position of grade 1 teacher to a roster eligible candidate. We ask the Lord to bless her deliberation and prayerfully await her decision.

GRANDPARENTS / VIP DAY: We are excited to welcome grandparents and special guests to Wyneken on Friday, April 1 from 7:45-10:45am.! Invite your loved ones to pre-register and check out the schedule for our special day using the link below. Registration and check-in will start at 7:45am. Classroom visits for Kindergarten-8th grades only will take place from 7:45am-10am with a Chapel service to follow in the main gym. Dismissal of guests will follow the Chapel service. A link for information for Grandparent's Day can be found on our website – www.wyneken.org). All attendees are encouraged to pre-register for the event. We hope you are able to join us! If you are unable to register your guests on-line, you may call the office with your guests' names.

St. John Bingen annual **Fish and Tenderloin Dinner** is Sunday, March 20, 2022 held at Wyneken memorial School, 11565 N US 27, Decatur from 10:00am - 1:00pm. Adults \$12.00 Children 6-12 \$6.00 5and under free. DINE IN or Drive thru Takeout. CASH or CHECK: NOT accepting credit cards this year. Contact Kevin Brown 260-639-6178.

Do you have a love for children? The **Wyneken Child Care** has some part-time positions open. If interested, please contact Christine Cornett, Director , at 639-6064.

District, Synod, Other

POE Fire Dept. Sausage and Pancake Brunch, Sunday, April 10, 9-1pm at Poe Firestation. Adults \$8, Children 6-12 \$4, children under 6 eat free. Carry out available. All proceeds will go to purchasing a Life Pak 15 monitor for our Ambulance.

Lutherhaven. Registration for summer camp at Lutherhaven has begun! It may not seem like it, but summer is right around the corner. Have you made plans yet? Camp Lutherhaven has something for everyone: campfires, swimming, making paracord bracelets, Wacky Olympics, or just spending time with friends and family. There are programs for kindergarten all the way through High School, as well as some time for the whole family! Register online at www.lutherhaven.org or call for more information 636.7101.

Last Supper Drama Group. Scott Marbach is a member of the Last Supper Drama group of Ft. Wayne and plays St. Thomas. For information about schedule and events, check out the website for the Last Supper Drama Group: lastsupperdramafw.simplesite.com.

**A MIDWEEK SERIES
FOR THE SEASON OF LENT:**

God's Three Estates

Our place in the World: the Family, the State, and the Church

**Join us for the midweek Lenten Series
Wednesdays at 7PM**

***+A supper will precede each midweek service at 5:45PM+*
(With the exception of Ash Wednesday and Holy Week).**

The schedule is as follows:

Ash Wednesday | March 2, 7PM
Divine Service with the Imposition of Ashes

Lent Midweek 1 | March 9, 7PM | Vespers
God's Three Estates: an Introduction

Lent Midweek 2 | March 16, 7PM | Divine Service
Divine Hierarchies and Love

Lent Midweek 3 | March 23, 7PM | Vespers
The Estate of the Family

Lent Midweek 4 | March 30, 7PM | Divine Service
The Estate of the State

Lent Midweek 5 | April 6, 7PM | Vespers
The Estate of the Church

Holy Week & Easter

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7PM

Good Friday, April 15, 7PM

Easter Sunrise, April 16, 6AM

Easter Breakfast, April 16, 7:30-8:45AM

Easter Day, April 16, 9AM

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

The story of the Prodigal Son is all about the surprising grace of God. Surprising, because God delights in seeking out and saving lost sinners who in no way deserve his compassion or his love. And yet, even after the younger son made off with his inheritance, treating his father as if he was already dead—even after that same younger son squandered that inheritance on reckless living—still the father sought his son, and when he saw him, had compassion. This is the surprising grace of God for lost sinners.

And, this is the story of Christianity. In sin, we turned away from God toward our own selfish desires. Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, desiring to be gods themselves. But the path away from God, the God who is himself life and love—that path always leads to our certain destruction. And so the younger son, turned away from the safety and love of his father's house and presence, began to be in need. Charged with the duty of slopping pigs, he was “longing to be fed with the pods the pigs ate,” but, “no one gave him anything” (v16). This is the sad story of man in sin.

The son began to despair of his evil ways as he began to feel want. And so, through the preaching of God's Law, coupled with the experiences of life, we come to an awareness of our sin, and the destruction that sin has caused in our lives. We lament our sinful reality, with a godly sorrow called contrition. And so, the son came to himself (v17). He realized his sorry state of affairs. He recognized that apart from his father, there was no life worth living.

And, he remembered his father's love for slaves. He intended to go to his father in confession: “I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants” (v18,19). This shows how our natural tendency is always to create remedies for sin. We imagine that in order to be forgiven, we have to do penance, which means working off our debts to God by our works. The Father does not allow this! The only payment for sin is the death of Christ. Forgiveness comes to us by grace alone, for Christ's sake. God's Absolution is full and complete, without any merit of our own.

And so, the son turned back to his father. An amazing line is: “while [the prodigal son] was still a long way off...” (v20). What does this mean? The father was out seeking his son the whole time! Like the gracious shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine and goes out in search of the one lost sheep, God seeks the salvation of sinners by sending his Son Jesus Christ. This is the surprise of grace, and it baffles human reason. No shepherd in his right mind would go out in search of one lost sheep. In the same way, the son did not deserve to be welcomed home.

But the father “saw him and felt compassion” (v20). This is what motivates God to send Jesus into the world: his compassion. As the father dispatched his servants to put the best robe on his son, a ring on his hand, sandals on his feet, so does God the Father dispatch his pastors to forgive the sins of all his children who have been brought to repentance and faith in Christ. Holy Absolution restores us to our baptismal status as sons of God. By the Holy Absolution, we are “re-dressed” in the “best robe” of Christ's righteousness, we are seated anew at the Table of the Lord to feast upon our salvation in Christ, and moved to celebrate the feast of salvation with the angels, archangels, and all the company of heaven.

