



“...‘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; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’”

Luke 15: 21-24

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent – March 6, 2016

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Jacob Gordon, Director of Music Ministries

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION

Fourth Sunday in Lent – March 6, 2016

The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

PRELUDE: *We Sing to You, O God* – Matthew H. Corl

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who brings us safely through the sea,
who gives us water from the rock,
who leads us into the land of milk and honey.
Amen.

Let us come home to God, confessing our sin.

Merciful Father,
we have sinned against heaven and before you.
We do not fully live as your sons and daughters.
We use your gifts to our own ends.
Forgive us and restore us,
that we may resist all that draws us away from you,
and be at peace with one another.
Amen.

We are reconciled to God through Christ;
for his sake, God does not count our trespasses against us.
Once dead in sin, we are now alive to God.
Once lost, we now are found.
God clothes you in the finest robe of all,
the righteousness of + Jesus Christ,
forgiving you all your sins
and making of you a new creation.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG #791: *We Sing to You, O God

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

*KYRIE

Leader Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is for the Leader and the second for the Assembly. The lyrics are: "Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy." and "Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy." The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final cadence at the end of the third staff.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**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. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9–12

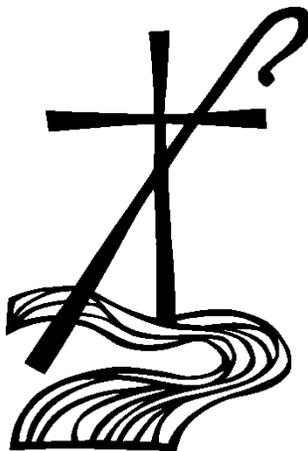
By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

⁹The 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.

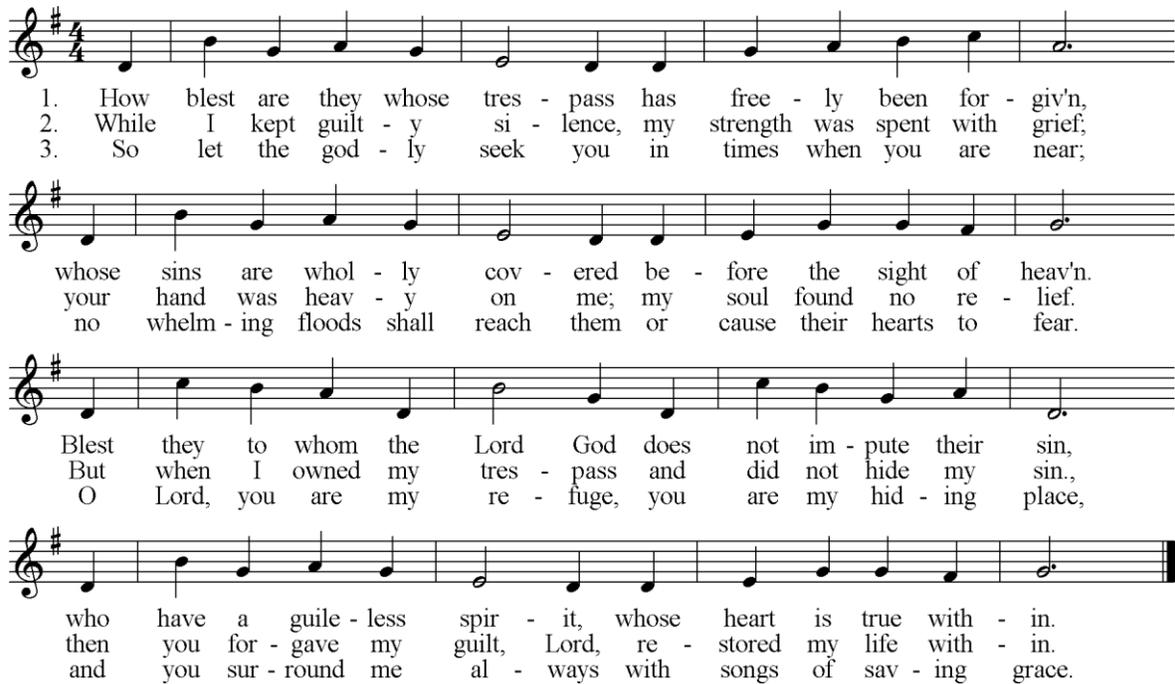
¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



PSALM 32: *How Blest Are They Whose Trespass*



1. How blest are they whose tres - pass has free - ly been for - giv'n,
2. While I kept guilt - y si - lence, my strength was spent with grief;
3. So let the god - ly seek you in times when you are near;

whose sins are whol - ly cov - ered be - fore the sight of heav'n.
your hand was heav - y on me; my soul found no re - lief.
no whelm - ing floods shall reach them or cause their hearts to fear.

Blest they to whom the Lord God does not im - pute their sin,
But when I owned my tres - pass and did not hide my sin,
O Lord, you are my re - fuge, you are my hid - ing place,

who have a guile - less spir - it, whose heart is true with - in.
then you for - gave my guilt, Lord, re - stored my life with - in.
and you sur - round me al - ways with songs of sav - ing grace.

SECOND READING: 2Corinthians 5:16–21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

¹⁶From 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. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The cantor sings the refrain, and all repeat it.



Praise to you, Lord Je-sus Christ, King of e-ter-nal glo - ry!

*Verse (cantor): I will arise and go to my father and say,
I have sinned against heaven and before you. (Luke 15:18)*

***GOSPEL READING: Luke 15:1–3, 11b-32**

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believed it was his obedience that earned his place in the father's home.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The 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. ¹³A 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. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout 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 to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But 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! ¹⁸I will get up 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 like one of your hired hands.’” ²⁰So 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. ²¹Then 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 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. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for 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. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But 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. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But 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.’”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #606: *Our Father, We Have Wandered

***APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 INTERCESSION**

Hearing the call to return to the Lord, let us join the whole people of God in prayer for all who cry out in pain and in hope.

For campus ministries, we give you thanks, eternal Lord. Equip the students, staff, and ministers to share your steadfast love with their university community and all whom they meet. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For polluted oceans and rivers, we seek your healing, creative Lord. Restore the homes of manatees and sea turtles. Teach us to love the earth as you do. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For conflicts between political parties, we ask for your discernment and wisdom, merciful Lord. Enable citizens and elected officials to listen to one another and to work together for your justice. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the unemployed, the working poor, and all who struggle to make ends meet, we pray for your provision, gracious Lord. We pray especially for Frieda, Raymond, Wanda Jean, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Fred & Jane, David & Ellen, and all those we remember aloud or in our hearts. Break down systems that shame, and hold all in the truth that they are your children. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all who engage in the disciplines of Lent, we seek your strength and grace, loving Lord. Even as we rest in your mercy, create a new heart within us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all the saints, sinners of your own redeeming, we praise your name, faithful Lord. Grant that we continue to grow as your people by their teaching and example. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

To you, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN #807: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

All stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God our provider,
you have not fed us with bread alone,
but with words of grace and life.

Bless us and these your gifts,
which we receive from your bounty,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

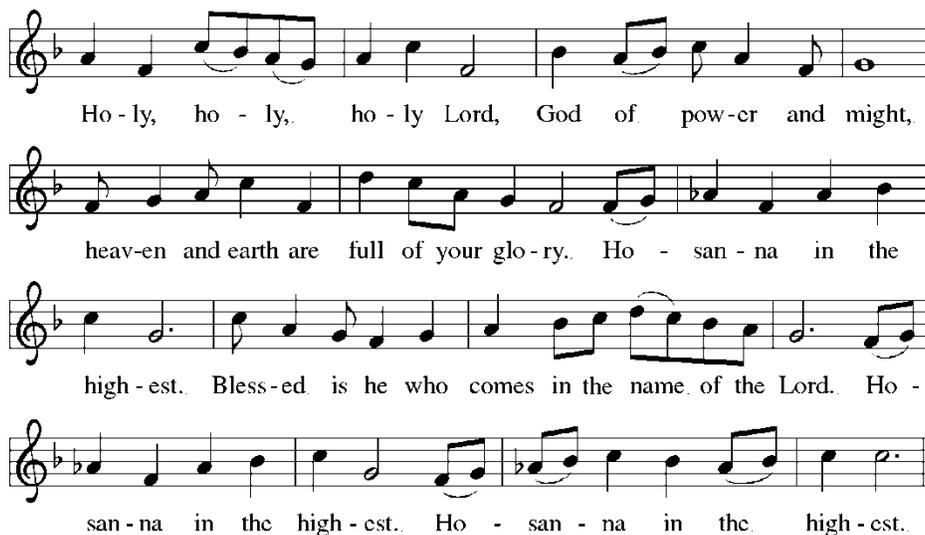
***PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth,

burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who thirst, all who hunger,
come and be filled with the goodness of God.

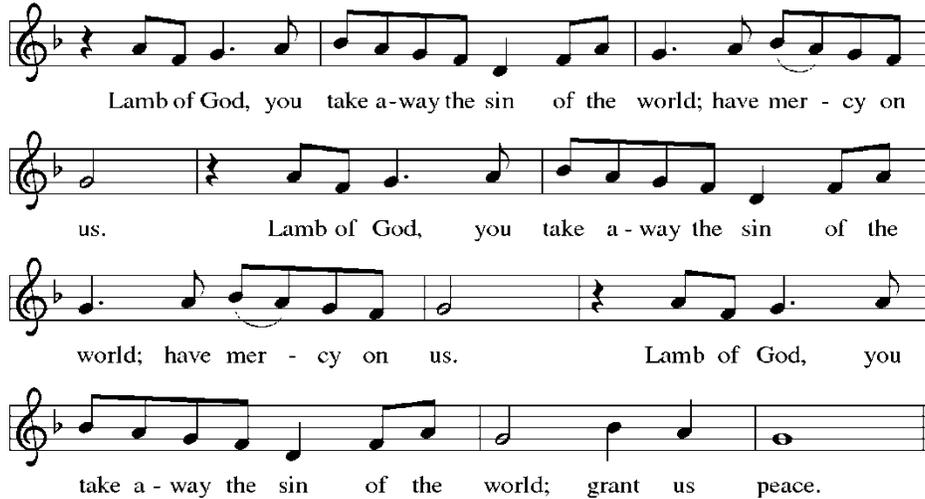
COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice.

COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN #608: *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.

Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

O God, we thank you for gathering and feeding us
as a mother hen embraces her young.

Release us now to go on our way in these forty days,

ready to see our work as prayer,

ready to fast from complacency,

and ready to share with those in need;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***LENTEN BLESSING**

May you go from this place having acknowledged yourselves
as sinners in word and deed and in what has been left undone. **Amen.**

May you know always that God's response to our repentance
is never less than grace-filled and loving forgiveness. **Amen.**

May you be given the grace to forgive others as God has forgiven you. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, + the Son,
and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG #588: *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Our Father, We Have Wandered* – Anton Wilhelm Leupold

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Marlene Strabel

Communion Assistant: Clarence Strabel

Acolyte:

Lector:

Usher: John Tully

Attendance Last Week: 64

Weekly Budgeted Expense: \$ 3,374.14

YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$ 33,741.36

YTD Actual Expense: \$ 25,322.80

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Sally Foster

Communion Assistant: Valerie Cardinal

Acolyte: S. Brower

Lector:

Usher: Jim Ward

Attendance Last Year: 49

Last Week's Giving: \$ 2,247.00

YTD Receipts: \$22,805.00

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