

Saturday, March 26, 2022 and Sunday, March 27, 2022
4th Sunday in Lent

Confession and Forgiveness

P: We gather in the name of our baptism, in the name of the Father, and of the [☩] Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

P: During the season of Lent, we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

P: Merciful God,

A: you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

P: Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Almighty God, have mercy on us; forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

A: Amen.

Apostolic Greeting

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

A: And also with you.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 608: "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling"

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch-ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

watch-ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
par - don for you and for me.

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest-ly, ten - der - ly,
Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909
Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

Kyrie:

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

A: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

A: Lord, have mercy.

P: 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.

A: Lord, have mercy.

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

A: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

A: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: 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

The 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. While 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. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The 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.

P: The word of the Lord,

A: Thanks be to God!

Psalm 32

P: Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

A: Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

P: While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

A: For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

P: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

A: Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

P: You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

A: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

P: Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

A: Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

P: Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

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

P: The word of the Lord,

A: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation:

P: Let anyone with ears listen,

A: I will arise and go to my father and say, I have sinned against heaven and before you.

P: Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

P: The Gospel according to Luke.

A: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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

So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. 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. 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. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 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. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 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! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."'" 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. 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.' 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. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 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. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 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: The gospel of the Lord.

A: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW 465: "As the Grains of Wheat"

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat - tered on the hill were

gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from

all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen
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Apostles' Creed

A: 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

P: Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

P: Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

P: You make the land to produce a harvest that sustains your entire creation. Equip farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Nourish the earth with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Heal grounds tainted by pollution or misuse. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

P: Countries are divided and leaders often harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict (especially). Act quickly to bring an end to war. Anoint peacemakers trained in the art of diplomacy and foster a spirit of collaboration among political rivals. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

P: Your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Save those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving (especially). Console us with the promise that everything can become new. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

P: Your love comes to us when a table is set and a feast is prepared. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation (especially). Bring an end to hunger in our community and around the world. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

P: The one who was dead is alive again. We give thanks for those who have died, confident that steadfast love surrounds them. Shelter them in your love until we are gathered at your heavenly banquet. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

P: Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

A: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

P: Creator God,

A: you made everything and you provide for every need. The bread we break and the wine we pour come from you. As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, fill us with your love; let that love flow through us to others; and join us to the saints before us in a holy and boundless communion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!"

(ELW 413, Verse 2)

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

Thanksgiving at the Table

P: 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.

P: 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.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

A: 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.

“Just As I Am, without One Plea”

(ELW 592, Verse 3)

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Invitation to Communion

P: Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

Communion Distribution

Communion Music:

“Come to the Table” by Sidewalk Prophets

ELW 471: “Let Us Break Bread Together” as interpreted by Dan Gresh

Verse 3:

Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees.

Prayer After Communion

P: Compassionate God,

A: you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

P: Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, \pm bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace. **Amen.**

Sending Song: ELW 327: "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow"

Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow

The musical score consists of five staves of music in G clef, 2/4 time, and B-flat key signature. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with each line of text corresponding to a specific staff. Measure numbers 1 through 12 are indicated above the staves. The lyrics describe a pilgrim's journey through a dark night of doubt and sorrow, guided by God's light and love.

1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward
2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the
3 One the strain that lips of thou - sands lift as
4 On - ward, there - fore, sis - ters, broth - ers; on - ward,

goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -
ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and
from the heart of one; one the con - flict, one the
with the cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its

ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -
ter - ror, bright - ning all the path we tread. One the
per - il, one the march in God be - gun. One the
bat - tle till we rest be - neath its shade. Soon shall

fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the
ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which
glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the far e -
come the great a - wak - 'ning; soon the rend - ing

guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of
nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing
ter - nal shore, where the one al - might - y
of the tomb! Then the scat - t'ring of all

pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.
for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.
Fa - ther reigns in love for - ev - er - more.
shad - ows, and the end of toil and gloom.

Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789–1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.
Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Let your light shine.

A: Thanks be to God.