

St. John Lutheran Church, ELCA

March 31, 2019

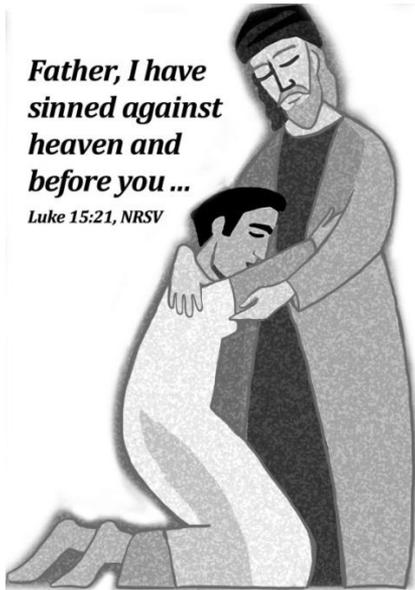
9 AM

Fourth Sunday in Lent

*Welcome to worship at St. John! Our worship materials are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnal. The order of worship is found toward the front of the book, under the second red tab from the top, designated in this bulletin by the word "page," as in Page 94. Service music is incorporated into the order of worship section and is marked with an S, such as S 138. Psalms are found after the last red tab. Hymns are found in the second half of the red ELW hymnal and are listed with a number sign, for example #504. Please join in the assembly portions of the spoken word, indicated by **bold** print in this worship order. An asterisk (*) indicates when to stand as you are able. **Please join us as we raise our hearts and voices in worship!***

***Father, I have
sinned against
heaven and
before you ...***

Luke 15:21, NRSV



Gathering

Gathering Music

"Near the Cross" (Arr. Victor Labenske)

Welcome and Announcements

***Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new. **Amen.**

In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God at the margins,

we have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.

Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of † Christ, leading you from death into life. **Amen.**

***Gathering Song**

#666: What Wondrous Love Is This

***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**

S156

*Canticle of Praise

S159

*Prayer of the Day

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.

Word

First Lesson

Joshua 5:9-12

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

Psalm 32 (sung responsively by verse)

¹Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you
forgave me the guilt | of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of
trouble;**

when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

⁸**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;
I will guide you | with my eye.**

⁹Do 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."

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

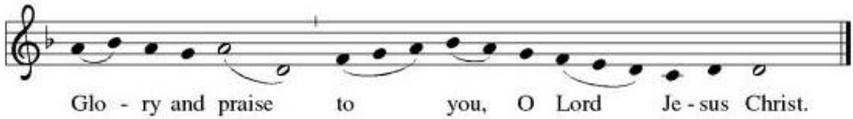
¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from 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

S160b



*Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 15th chapter.

Glory 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 Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

#608: Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

***Apostles' Creed**

Page 105

***Sharing of the Peace**

Prayer

Offering

"When Jesus Wept" (Ruth Elaine Schram)

Bells of St. John

***Offertory Response**

#686: We Give Thee but Thine Own (v. 1 only)

***Offertory Prayer**

Generous God, you feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need. Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. Amen.

***Prayers of Intercession**

The Assembly responds, "Hear our prayer."

***Lord's Prayer**

Page 163, right column

Sending

***Blessing**

***Sending Song**

#763: My Life Flows On in Endless Song

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

***Sending Music**

“The Way of the Cross Leads Home” (Arr. Victor Labenske)

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Saturday Evening - 6 PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:10 AM, Aug.-May

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