

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Makes You Want to Sing!

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!

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

MINISTRY MOMENT – 8th Grade Banquet Fundraiser

Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? Romans 2:3-4

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #528 “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer’s praise,
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad, The honors of Thy name.

Jesus! The name that charms our fears, That bids our sorrows cease;
‘Tis music in the sinner’s ears, ‘Tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow’r of canceled sin; He sets the pris’ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood avails for me.

Look unto Him, ye nations; own Your God, ye fallen race.
Look and be saved through faith alone, Be justified by grace.

See all your sins on Jesus laid; The Lamb of God was slain.
His soul was once an off’ring made For ev’ry soul of man.

To God all glory, praise, and love Be now and ever giv’n
By saints below and saints above, The Church in earth and heav’n.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

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 & ABSOLUTION

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.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

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.

(Be seated)

☩ WORD ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 12:1–6* (“The LORD GOD is my strength and my song.”) You 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.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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.

5:00 CHOIR

“Welcome Home”

10:30 GRADES 6-8

“Taste Here My Grace”

(Rise)

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.

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. 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. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And 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! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ ²⁰ And 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. ²¹ And the son said to him, ‘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 servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For 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. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And 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.’ ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but 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. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It 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.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“Do You Know Who Died For Me?”

Do you know who died for me? Jesus did, Jesus did,
Lovingly He died for me, Yes, He really did.

Do you know who rose for me? Jesus did, Jesus did,
Lovingly He rose for me, Yes, He really did!

Do you know who lives for me? Jesus does, Jesus does,
Lovingly He lives for me, Yes, He really does!

Do you know who cares for me? Jesus does, Jesus does,
Lovingly He cares for me, Yes, He really does.

SERMON HYMN #941 “We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God”

We praise You and acknowledge You, O God, to be the Lord,
The Father everlasting, by all the earth adored.

To You all angel powers cry aloud, the heavens sing,
The cherubim and seraphim their praises to You bring:
“O holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
Your majesty and glory fill the heavens and the earth!”

The band of the apostles in glory sing Your praise;
The fellowship of prophets their deathless voices raise.
The martyrs of Your kingdom, a great and noble throng,
Sing with the holy Church throughout all the world this song:
“O all majestic Father, Your true and only Son,
And Holy Spirit Comforter-forever Three in One!”

You, Christ, are King of glory, the everlasting Son,
Yet You, with boundless love, sought to rescue ev’ry one:
You laid aside Your glory, were born of virgin’s womb,
Were crucified for us and were placed into a tomb;
Then by Your resurrection You won for us reprieve-
You opened heaven’s kingdom to all who would believe.

You sit in splendid glory, enthroned at God's right hand,
Upholding earth and heaven by forces You command.
We know that you will come as our Judge that final day,
So help Your servants You have redeemed by blood, we pray;
May we with saints be numbered where praises never end,
In glory everlasting. Amen, O Lord, amen!

SERMON

(Rise)

OFFERTORY

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Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

SONG DURING OFFERING #422 "On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

On my heart imprint Your image, Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation!

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love. Give us a proper knowledge of the evil we have done in your sight. Move us to confess our offenses against you, and justify us with your holy absolution. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Holy God, you delight in truth in the inward being and teach us wisdom in the secret heart. Give to our pastors every good gift as your ambassadors, that we may grow in faith and hope. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Comforting Father, be with all who mourn. Be especially with the Graf family as they remember Melissa's mother on her birthday. Be with Larry and Carol Hoffman as they remember their brother Donald Weiland. And be with Grant Gundersen and family as they mourn the passing of Dorothy. Comfort them in their mourning, pointing all eyes to the return of your Son Jesus and the Resurrection of the Dead that is to come. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father of mercy, remember your baptized children who have left your household and departed from the faith. Call them to repentance according to your gracious will. Remember parents, grandparents and all who mourn their departure. Sustain them in faithful patience to wait and pray. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious Father, be with Lorraine as she celebrates her 95th birthday. Thank you for pouring out your blessings upon her throughout her life. Keep her in the faith that she may have an eternity to spend with you. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers for all who cry out to you for mercy, healing and help including Katherine, Lois, Wendy, Jack, Kay, Rhonda, Harland, Liz, Jerry, June, Sharon, John, David, Helga, Dick, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Marlene, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Cathy and Sarah. Deliver them according to your will and, as you have made them a new creation in Christ, keep them mindful of the day when sorrow and sickness will be no more. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Great in our midst is the Holy One of Israel, who visits us this day with His body and blood! Give to all who partake of this Holy Communion penitent hearts to receive Christ Jesus as our strength and salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before you, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to you alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the Paschal Feast in sincerity and truth. 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

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Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THE 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #543

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down Beneath God’s righteous frown,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I Am,

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,

While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on.

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing His love for me,

And through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,

And through eternity I’ll sing on.

HYMN #542

“When I Behold Jesus Christ”

When I behold Jesus Christ, True God who died for me,

I wonder much at His love As He hung on the tree.

Refrain

What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?

You showed Your love, Jesus, there To me on Calvary.

What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?

You showed Your love, Jesus, there To me on Calvary.

For me You gave all Your love, For me You suffered pain;

I find no words, nothing can Your selflessness explain. **Refrain**

You had no sin, holy Lord, But You were tortured, tried;

On Golgotha there for all My sins You bled and died. **Refrain**

What love is this? Greater love No one has ever known.

My life with God-This I owe To You, and You alone. **Refrain**

HYMN #435

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;

Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,

In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.

Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;

From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,

Wash your robes and make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.

Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;

Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.

Health this fountain will restore; They that drink shall thirst no more.

They that drink shall live forever; ‘Tis a soul renewing flood.

God is faithful; God will never Break His covenant of blood,

Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when He was glorified.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

People: and His mercy endureth forever.

Pastor: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Bless we the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

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.

CLOSING HYMN #744 “Amazing Grace”

Amazing grace-how sweet the sound-That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven’s joy and peace.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise Than when we’d first begun.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
Pastor Harold Bender
Katie Scepanski, Katie Librizzi, Debbie Nier
Deaconess Carole King

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April Worship

Wednesday April 2 at 10:00am & 6:00pm

Saturday April 5 at 5:00pm

Sunday April 6 at 8:00 & 10:30am

Wednesday April 9 at 10:00am & 6:00pm

Saturday April 12 at 5:00pm (Palm Sunday Service)

Sunday April 13 at 8:00 & 10:30am (Palm Sunday Services)

Thursday April 17 at 10:00am & 6:00pm (Maundy Thursday Services)

Friday April 18 at 1:00 & 6:00pm (Good Friday Services)

Saturday April 19 at 5:00pm (Easter Vigil)

Sunday April 20 at 6:30, 9:00 & 11:00am (Easter Celebration Services)

Lenten Meals: Wednesday April 2 & 9 at 4:45pm

8th Grade Banquet Fundraiser: April 6 at 5:00pm

Easter Breakfast: April 20 at 7:30am