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# FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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March 30-31, 2019

## AS WE GATHER

The parable of the prodigal son may be one of the most familiar in the repertoire of our Teacher. Jesus speaks His truth into the heart of every person who needs Him, regardless of whether their brokenness is known to everyone and their brother or known only to the sinner and his or her Creator. Jesus' story of a son's foolish ways and a father's lavish grace is a moving tale with a profound impact. But that's not even the full story. The elder son, who wrongly thought that he had it all together and had not sinned against his father, looks with indignation upon the prodigal's homecoming celebration. The father responds with a message for both of his children, and both of his children desperately need the father's mercy. We do too. Reflect on your brokenness and confess it. Rejoice in your Father's forgiveness and receive it. Relish the celebration of the feast that's been prepared for you and share its joy with every other prodigal you know.

## HYMN

*God Loved the World So That He Gave*

*LSB 571*

*Stand*

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  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 an 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.**

## Service of the Word

INTROIT

*Ps. 51:2–6; antiphon: Ps. 51:1*

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

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

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

**C** **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.**

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

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

**C** **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.**

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

Kyrie 

*LSB 204*

**C** *Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

## 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*

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 12:1-6*

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> “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.”

<sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

<sup>4</sup>And 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.

<sup>5</sup> “Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be made known in all the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Shout, 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.

**GRADUAL***Heb. 12:2*

- P** [O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,  
**C** **the founder and perfecter of our faith,**  
**P** who for the joy that was set before him  
 endured the cross, despising the shame,  
**C** **and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

**EPISTLE***2 Corinthians 5:16–21*

<sup>16</sup>From 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. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For 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***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.**

<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: . . .

<sup>11</sup>And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>And 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. <sup>13</sup>Not 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.

<sup>14</sup>And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>"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! <sup>18</sup>I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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.' <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup>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.' <sup>28</sup>But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' <sup>31</sup>And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>It 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.

[Saturday] **APOSTLES' CREED**

*LSB 207*

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge  
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

[Sunday] **NICENE CREED**

**C** 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.

*Sit*

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**HYMN**

*I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus*

*LSB 729*

**SERMON**

"Heaven on Earth" Luke 15:12-13, 18-20

*Stand*

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- ☐ We are Your prodigal sons and daughters, O Lord, who come pleading for Your mercy and praying for Your grace to hear the prayers of Your people and answer them in accordance with Your will.
- ☐ Eternal God, though Your anger was righteous, Your mercy had triumphed and rescued Your fallen people. Keep us in faith and

in the covenant of our Baptism, that we may rejoice to fulfill that baptismal vocation and serve You as ambassadors for Christ.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Glorious Father, You established Your Church and filled it with sons and daughters from across the world, a people joined to Christ and united in doctrine and life. Keep us faithful amid dangerous and threatening times, that we may not depart from Your ways nor forsake our calling as Your children. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** O merciful Lord, in every age and time You have raised up servants to do Your bidding. Continue to raise up pastors and teachers and servants of Your Word, and bless their efforts with Your success. Bless us as we continue the process to call a pastor. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Almighty God, You give us more than justice and bestow upon us the riches of Your mercy. Relieve us of all jealousy and discontent, and fill our hearts with generosity and love, that we may bring to You the tithes and offerings of a grateful people and acknowledge You, the Giver of all good gifts. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Loving God, by the wounds of Christ we are made whole. Look with kindness upon the sick, the suffering, the troubled in mind, the grieving and the dying. Especially do we pray on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ and those named in our hearts. Give confidence of Your will and purpose to all who are afflicted, and help them in patience to await the day when they shall no more be troubled by the weaknesses of the flesh and shall see You face to face.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Gracious Lord, you have granted us the gift of government that we may be protected from our enemies. Preserve and protect all those who serve You and us in the armed forces of our nation, and as law enforcement officers, fire fighters, and emergency medical personnel. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Holy Lord, though we in no way deserve Your compassion or Your kindness, we give You thanks that You welcome us into the arms of Your mercy and restore the fallen. Recall the erring, and renew to Your fellowship those absent too long from Your house, Your Word and Your table. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

### **OFFERING**

*While we worship the Lord with our offerings, please write your names in the fellowship registers, indicating the date and time of the service you are attending. To help us serve you more effectively, please use the blanks provided to indicate a change in mailing address, phone numbers (home, work, cell, fax) or e-mail address(es). Please tear out the sheets with names on them and let them stick out of the top of the folder so that the ushers can collect them. Thank you!*

*Saturday's service continues with the Lord's Prayer*

## Service of the Sacrament

*Stand*

### **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** *Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim  
shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly 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.

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**

*LSB 209*

- C** **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.**

*Saturday's service continues with the Benediction*

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

### PAX DOMINI

*LSB 209*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

### AGNUS DEI

*LSB 210*

**C** O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*Sit*

### DISTRIBUTION

*Just as I Am, without One Plea*

*LSB 570*

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

*LSB 427*

*Stand*

### NUNC DIMITTIS

*LSB 211*

**C** O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**A** Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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 AND BENEDICTION

**A** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**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**

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer*

*LSB 918*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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