



A Journey Through Lent

St. Luke Lutheran Church • Fourth Sunday in Lent

Pastor Eric Hanson • 9:30AM • March 27, 2022

Prelude: *Debbi St. John, Pianist/Organist*

Welcome and Announcements

Lenten Greeting *(please stand as you are able)*

P: Friends in Christ, we gather during this season of Lent to remember Jesus' Passover from death to life. We journey through this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's grace. We are created to live in joyful communion with God and one another, but we oftentimes wound our relationship with God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended. As disciples of Jesus, we long for repentance leading to change.

C: **God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek your will for our lives.**

Confession and Forgiveness:

P: With honesty of heart, we confess our sin together. Merciful God,

C: **Lord, Forgive us. Our will is handcuffed to sin, & we cannot break free. We have spoken when we should have kept quiet. We were silent when we should have said something. We were still when we should have moved. We moved when we should have been still. For the wrong we have done, and for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us & bring us new life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.**

P: Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces us in tender care. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet us again this day. In Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. We are created anew, freed from sin & death for new life in Christ. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: *"Come Thou Font of Every Blessing" #807*

Vs 1: **Come thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love, teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.**

Vs. 2: **Here I raise mine Ebenezer: "Hither by Thy help I'm come"; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.**

Vs. 3: **Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be; Let Thy grace Lord like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.**

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray together,

C: **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.**

New Testament Reading - 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Gospel Acclamation: "Lamb of God" #336 (stand as you are able)

**Verse 1: Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side
to walk upon this guilty sod and to become the Lamb of God.**

**Refrain: O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God.
Oh wash me in your precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

**Verse 2: Your gift of love we crucified. We laughed and scorned him as he died.
The humble king we named a fraud and sacrificed the Lamb of God. [Refrain]**

**Verse 3: I was so lost. I should have died, but you have brought me to your side
to be led by your staff and rod and to be called a lamb of God. [Refrain]**

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

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³Then Jesus told them this parable:

¹¹Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. ²⁵"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' ²⁸"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' ³¹"My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

P: This is the Word of our Lord, C: **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message: *Pastor Eric Hanson*

Congregation and 2nd-6th Graders Sing: "Holy is the Lord"

We stand and lift up our hands. For the joy of the Lord is our strength.

We bow down and worship Him now. How great, how awesome is He And together we sing.

**Chorus: Holy is the Lord, God Almighty. The earth is filled with His glory. Holy is the Lord, God Almighty.
The earth is filled with His glory. The earth is filled with His glory.**

We stand and lift up our hands. For the joy of the Lord is our strength.

We bow down and worship Him now. How great, how awesome is He And together we sing. [Chorus]

Yeah, it's rising up all around. It's the anthem of the Lord's renown. It's rising up all around.

It's the anthem of the Lord's renown. [Chorus]

Sermon: *Pastor Eric Hanson*

Hymn of the Day: "Our God Is An Awesome God" 3X

Our God is an awesome God. He reigns from heaven above.

With wisdom, power, and love. Our God is an awesome God

Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray together,

C: **God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us & these your gifts, which we receive first from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Baptism of Carson Meyer

Solo: *“Children of the Heavenly Father”* sung by Laura & Larry Stephanie

The Prayers: *(call and response)*

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.* 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, **receive our prayer.**

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, **receive our prayer.**

Countries are divided and leaders often harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict. 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, **receive our prayer.**

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 have been deployed, are sick or grieving especially: Jessica Huemann, Keith Brown, Kathy Nardinger, Dolly Mensink, Finley Budensiek, Sara Nolte, Roger Kurtti, Judy Carpenter, Donald & Nancy Nord, Rita Klug, Larry Reese, Dan Hedeem, Ken Bremer, Matt Ludwig, Sue Majerus and Jan Benidt. Console us with the promise that everything can become new. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Lord, we come, rejoicing in your grace, grateful that we grow in our faith as we worship and as we study Your word. Help us to do Your work with our hands, serving people in need here and everywhere. Confident in Your plans for us, grant our hearts and minds the confidence to commit to always giving generously of our time, talents and treasure, but especially in our present capital campaign ~~ for we know that everything we have is a gift from you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

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, **receive our prayer.**

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

Sharing the Peace:

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

The Great Thanksgiving:

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 & praise.**

The Words of Institution

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 Meal & Hymns: *“Tree Of Life”* vs 1-3 & Lent 4 #334

Verse 1: Tree of Life and awesome myst'ry, in your death we are reborn;
though you die in all of hist'ry, still you rise with ev'ry morn, still you rise with ev'ry morn.

Verse 2: We remember truth once spoken, love passed on through act and word;
ev'ry person lost and broken wears the body of our Lord, wears the body of our Lord.

Verse 3: Christ, you lead and we shall follow, stumbling though our steps may be;
one with you in joy and sorrow, we the river, you the sea, we the river, you the sea.

Lent 4: Give us eyes to see you clearly; make us children of your light.
Give us hearts to live more nearly as your gospel shining bright, as your gospel shining bright.

"Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling" #608

Verse 1: Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

Refrain: Come home, come home; you who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!

Verse 2: Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]

Verse 3: Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing, passing from you and from me;
shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming, coming for you and for me. [Refrain]

Verse 4: O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. [Refrain]

"Amazing Grace" #779

Vs 1: 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.

Vs 2: 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed!

Vs 3: Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.

Vs 4: The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be, As long as life endures.

Vs 5: 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.

Communion Prayer: P: Let us pray together,

C: Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of life. 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 Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Blessing: (*stand as you are able*)

P: May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, & claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you & keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you & be gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with favor & give you + peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: *"What Wondrous Love Is This"* #666

Vs 1: 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?

Vs 2: 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.

Vs 3: 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.

Vs 4: 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 God's love for me, and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and through eternity I'll sing on.

Dismissal: P: Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude