

LARGE PRINT EDITION



HOLY COMMUNION

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025 + 9:30 am

Parable of the forgiving father

Learn Live and Share God's Word

Christ the path leads all people to God's mercy

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away ... the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

Lent 2025 (Year of Luke) - Reconciliation and Compassion

We journey to the place of God's mercy

March 9	Jesus tempted in the wilderness)
March 16	Jesus desires to gather Jerusalem as a hen gathers chicks
March 23	Jesus speaks of repentance with the fig tree parable
March 30	Jesus speaks of forgiveness with the prodigal parable
April 6	Mary anoints Jesus foreshadowing his burial

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

GATHERING MUSIC

"Amazing Grace/My Life Flows On"

W. Walker/R. Lowry

At the sound of the bell please stand if you are able and face the worship leaders.

GATHERING HYMN

(hymn) ELW 407

“O Living Breath of God”

- 1 O living Breath of God, wind at the beginning upon the waters;
O living Breath of God, bearing the creation to wondrous birth;
- 2 O living Breath of God,
by whose pow'r the Son came to birth among us;
O living Breath of God, who to the creation gives life anew;
- 3 O living Breath of God,
bearing us to life through baptismal waters;
O living Breath of God, sighing with creation for freedom's birth;

Refrain

Come now, and fill our spirits; pour out your gifts abundant.

O living Breath of God, Holy Spirit, breathe in us as we pray.

Text: Osvaldo Catena, 1920-1986; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Tr. © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly is invited to stand or kneel; and all may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us turn to God and confess our sin
in the assurance of God's abiding love.

silence is kept for reflection

P Merciful God,

**C You are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the
world. We do not show others the tender compassion you
have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical**

hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of Jesus. Amen.

P Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ☩ Christ your sin is forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

C Amen.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.

The presider continues with words of welcome.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

CHILDREN'S WORD

Children are invited forward; parents are welcome to come with their children.

FIRST READING

Israel eats bread and grain, the produce of the land Joshua 5:9-12
By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

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.

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.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 32 (ICEL)

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord. (32:12)

A Happy the pardoned, whose sin is canceled,
in whom God finds no evil, no deceit.

**C While I hid my sin,
my bones grew weak from endless groaning.**

A Day and night, under the weight of your hand,
my strength withered as in a summer drought.

**C Then I stopped hiding my sin and spoke out,
"God, I confess my wrong." And you pardoned me**

A No wonder the faithful pray to you in danger!
Even a sudden flood will never touch them.

C You, my shelter, you save me from ruin.

You encircle me with songs of freedom.

A "I show you the path to walk. As your teacher,
I watch out for you. "Do not be a stubborn mule,
needing bridle and bit to be tamed."

**C Evil brings grief;
trusting in God brings love.**

A Rejoice in the Lord. Be glad and sing, you faithful and just.

**C Give praise to the Father Almighty;
to the Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord;
to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts;
both now and forever. Amen.**

SECOND READING

The mystery and ministry of reconciliation 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

Paul writes to the church at Corinth:

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. 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.
C Thanks be to God.

LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joel 2:13

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel, singing: (ELW setting 3, p. 142)



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The parable of the prodigal father and the repentant son

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believed it was his obedience that earned his place in the father's home.

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Now 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: ¹¹ "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.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

silence is kept for reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY

(hymn) ELW 807

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

- 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.
- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've 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.
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now 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.**

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

APOSTLES' CREED

A Living together in trust and hope,
we proclaim the faith that we share.

C I PUT MY TRUST IN God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I PUT MY TRUST 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 PUT MY TRUST 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

Prayers are offered for the Church, the earth, the nations, and those in any need.

each petition concludes:

...hear us O God.

C Your mercy is great.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

PEACE

P In Jesus Christ God has made peace with us.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

The assembly is invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

OFFERING

When bread and wine are broken and shared in the Lord's Supper an offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Please leave your offerings in the baskets in the aisles or give online. During this time, the table is set. Please stand as the offering procession reaches the chancel. Thank you for your generosity.

"My Song Is Love Unknown"

E. T. Childs

Presentation of the Gifts

Offertory Procession

(ELW hymn #186)

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

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray together.

C Gracious Provider,

you set your immense treasures in our midst, opening your heart to the world. Bless us and these your gifts, and inspire us to follow you in sharing these treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The assisting minister pours out the wine.

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 our thanks and praise.

P ...and join their unending hymn: *(setting 3, p. 144)*

C 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 presider continues with the Great Thanksgiving, concluding:

Lord's Prayer (1789)

P As Christ teaches, we pray:

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.

Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to Communion

Communion

"Lamb of God"

(setting 3; page 146)

C 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.

silence for reflection concludes the communion

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray.

Generous and merciful one, you have shared your feast with
us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and
grace in our communities, that your liberating love might
nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified
and risen one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

We are sent to be God's hands in the world

BLESSING

P Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
With all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength.
Keep these words in your heart as you walk the way of Lent.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"My Life Flows on in Endless Song"

(hymn) **ELW 763**

stanzas 1, 2, 4

**1 My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.**

Refrain

**No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

**2 Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? Refrain**

**4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? Refrain**

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

DISMISSAL

Please face the worship leaders for the dismissal.

A Marked with the cross of Christ,
go forth to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

J. Wyeth

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor Foy Christopherson, *presiding*

Sinéad Carolan, *assisting minister*

Al Erickson, *reader*

Ruth Bills, *director of music & worship*

Sanctuary Choir

Erik Ruser, Matti Gurney, *technology desk*

Janell Partyka, *sacristan/altar guild*

Dave Samletzka, Fred Chinquist, *ushers*

Rick Labandz, *bus ministry*

Jim and Nancy Felicetta, *coffee hosts*

Chancel flowers this weekend are given by Bob and Barb Hollister
in honor of their 48th anniversary.

If you wish to donate flowers sign up in the narthex or call the church office.

If you wish to sponsor the webcast sign up in the narthex or call the church office.

Please join us for coffee fellowship in the lower level following worship.

This service is being streamed live on the internet.

LENT AND HOLY WEEK

11am Wednesday Lunches at Culver's

includes responsive prayer for Lent and brief scripted reflections on the passion "Reflections from the Edge of Faith"

Wednesday Suppers in Lent (including Ash Wed)

5:30 – 6:30 arrive any time; serving until 6:30 pm

Hosted by ministry teams

Midweek Lenten offerings designated for five of our hunger ministries

6:45 Wednesday evenings

Holden evening prayer

includes brief scripted passion "Reflections from the Edge of Faith"

7 pm April 17 Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion worship service

Celebration of the pre-confirmation daily prayer milestone this year

Includes commemorating the first Lord's Supper, corporate and individual absolution/forgiveness, and foot or hand washing (optional).

7 pm April 18 Good Friday

Good Friday Prayer around the Cross worship service

Includes a contemplative reading of the passion from John, prayer for the world, and prayer around the cross with optional participation in votive candle lighting

WELCOME



Everyone is welcome. We are a faith community participating in the life of God, a life that is a gift to us and in which we are actively engaged. That gift compels us to be actively engaged in the neighborhoods of Northeast Minneapolis as well. We are a multigenerational community that proudly celebrates our history while joining together with younger generations to follow where God is leading. We build our community through faith practices like prayer, dwelling in the Word and hospitality.

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. If you would like more information about Mt. Carmel, please contact us at 612-781-2796, or email pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org

Children are welcome at all services. Worship bulletins for children and activity bags are available outside the sanctuary.

Welcome to the Lord's Table. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please follow the guidance of the ushers and instructions in the order of service. During communion, ministers will bring bread and wine to you where you are seated if you require accessibility accommodation. Please inform the ushers. Communion may be received in one kind (only bread or only wine) from any station if wheat bread or alcohol presents a health concern. White grape juice is available by request at most liturgies from most communion stations.

Welcome to the Holy Baptism. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome to receive Holy Baptism. Please visit with any worship leader, staff member, hospitality volunteer, contact the church office, or complete an information card, indicating that you wish to be baptized. Our pastor will contact you.

Friends of Mt. Carmel...Stay connected

Across the country and beyond there are many people who have a soft spot in their heart for Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church – people who feel a connection both to the history and the ongoing mission of this congregation. If you're one of them, we invite you to join a new network of Friends of Mt. Carmel. Email pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org for more information or to join.



Digital giving is available at Mt. Carmel. You can easily donate online through our website at mountcarmelmpls.org and click on **Give**. Mt. Carmel Lutheran is supported by generous people like you. Questions? Contact the church office at 612-781-2796.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

MT. CARMEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

learn, live and share God's word

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