

A Lent Series

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Grace Instead of Condemnation

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church | *Jordan, Minnesota*

March 30, 2025

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! In our service we gather before our almighty and saving God to offer him our worship and praise. We also assemble to hear God's holy and powerful word and celebrate his life-giving sacraments. Through these means, God strengthens our faith and walks us ever closer to our eternal home with him.

TODAY'S THEME

We assume people get what they deserve. We assume that what goes around comes around. We assume God helps those who help themselves. Those assumptions are false. God does not operate on the principle of merit but of grace. No one is beyond the reach of God's grace. God never turns it off. At the entrance of God's open door is not a Father looking to condemn us, but a Father who has eagerly longed for our return. When we do, he takes us in his loving arms and assures us we are still his child. When the weight of our sin makes us fearful of God's condemnation, he reveals his grace yet again.

Pastor.....Jeremy Glowicki

Organist.....Lois Zander

579 His Mercy Is More

CW 579 – Soloist vss. 1-2 Cong. Sings refrain and vs. 3

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

When God's children rebel and wander from his ways, he desires that they return to him for pardon and peace through his Son. The courts of heaven resound with joy when a single wayward child returns home.

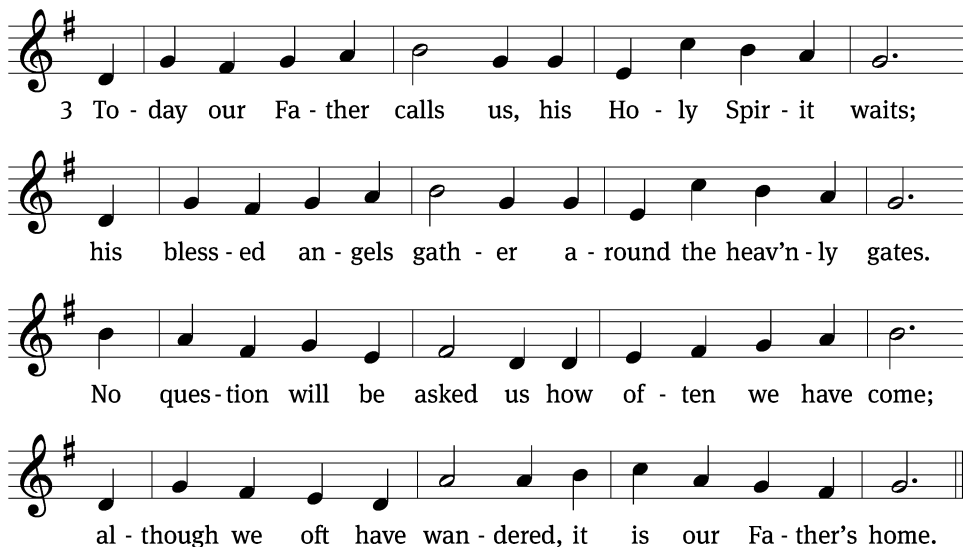
There is rejoicing in the presence of angels of God over one sinner who repents.

Children of God, the time to turn to our Father for forgiveness is now. God made Christ our sin that we might become his righteousness. He implores us to be reconciled to him, promising:

In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you

916 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

CW 916 st. 3



3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us, his Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
his bless - ed an - gels gath - er a - round the heav'n - ly gates.
No ques - tion will be asked us how of - ten we have come;
al - though we oft have wan - dered, it is our Fa - ther's home.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–1878, alt.
Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857
Text and tune: Public domain

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

916 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

CW 916 st. 2

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 2 To - day your gate is o - pen, and all who en - ter in shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come and par - don for their sin. The past shall be for - got - ten, a pres - ent joy be giv'n, a fu - ture grace be prom - ised, a glo - rious crown in heav'n.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–1878, alt.
Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857
Text and tune: Public domain

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For minds set on heavenly things, for hearts that long for heavenly glory, and for the will to bear our earthly crosses, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the gifts of humility and repentance, for faith that finds security in Christ and does not use God's patience as an excuse for sin, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For perspective to see that, apart from Christ, gain is loss, and in Christ, loss is gain, and for the perseverance to press on and take hold of our heavenly prize, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

916 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

CW 916 st. 4

4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,
what should we do with - out you when heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem a - gainst us, to drive us to de - spair,
we know one gate is o - pen, one ear will hear our prayer.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff continues the melody and lyrics. The fourth staff concludes the melody and lyrics with a double bar line.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 12:1-6

God's grace turns the fear of our condemnation into the joy of our salvation.

In that day you will say: I will give thanks to you, LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger has turned away, and you comfort me. Surely God is my salvation. I will trust him and will not be afraid, because Yah, the LORD, is my strength and song, and he has become my salvation. Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say: Give thanks to the LORD! Proclaim his name. Declare among the peoples what he has done. Proclaim that his name is exalted! Sing to the LORD, for he has done amazing things! Let this be known in all the earth! Shout aloud and sing for joy, daughter of Zion, for the Holy One of Israel is great among you!

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

32C Be Glad, You Righteous Ones; Rejoice

Soloist introduces refrain and vs. 1. Cong. Joins in the second refrain and the rest of the Psalm

Refrain

Be glad, you right - eous ones; re - joice!

Trust in the LORD and sing for joy.

Tone

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are for- / given,
whose / sins are covered.

Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count a- / gainst them
and in whose spirit is / no deceit.

When I kept silent, my bones wast- / ed away
through my groaning / all day long.

For day and night your hand was heav- / y on me;
my strength was sapped as in the heat of / summer.

Then I acknowledged my / sin to you
and did not cover up my in- / iquity.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions / to the LORD."

And you forgave the guilt / of my sin. *Refrain*

You are my / hiding place;
you will protect / me from trouble.

Many are the woes of the / wicked,
but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who / trusts in him.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the / Holy Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Second Reading

Romans 8:1-10

In Christ Jesus, God has already condemned all sin. For us there is only grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

So then, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For in Christ Jesus, the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. Indeed, what the law was unable to do, because it was weakened by the flesh, God did, when he sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with sin. God condemned sin in his flesh, so that the righteous decree of the law would be fully satisfied in us who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the spirit. To be sure, those who are in harmony with the sinful flesh think about things the way the sinful flesh does, and those in harmony with the spirit think about things the way the spirit does. Now, the way the sinful flesh thinks results in death, but the way the spirit thinks results in life and peace. For the mind-set of the sinful flesh is hostile to God, since it does not submit to God's law, and in fact, it cannot. Those who are in the sinful flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the sinful flesh but in the spirit, if indeed God's Spirit lives in you. And if someone does not have the Spirit of Christ, that person does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 15:10



Refrain

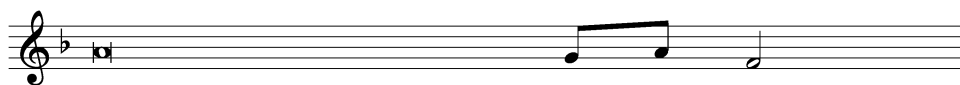


Glo - ry and praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.



Glo - ry and praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Tone



There is rejoicing in the presence of the an - gels of God



over one sinner who re - pents.

Refrain

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Gospel

Luke 15:1-3,11-32

How does God respond to those who object to or are enraged by his grace? He responds with more grace.

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming to Jesus to hear him. But the Pharisees and the experts in the law were complaining, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” He told them this parable: Jesus said, “A certain man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered together all that he had and traveled to a distant country. There he wasted his wealth with reckless living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that country, and he began to be in need. He went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He would have liked to fill his stomach with the carob pods that the pigs were

eating, but no one gave him anything. “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, and I am dying from hunger! I will get up, go to my father, and tell him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’ He got up and went to his father. “While he was still far away, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, hugged his son, and kissed him. The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick, bring out the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let us eat and celebrate, because this son of mine was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.’ Then they began to celebrate. “His older son was in the field. As he approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant told him, ‘Your brother is here! Your father killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ The older brother was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. “He answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I've been serving you, and I never disobeyed your command, but you never gave me even a young goat so that I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours arrived after wasting your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ “The father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. But it was fitting to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Sermon

Ages 3 and up are invited to come forward for a Bible lesson.

576 Amazing Grace

CW 576

Sermon

Children's Church

During the sermon, parents may choose to take their children ages 2-5 to children's church. Meet today's chaperone in the gathering area. They will hear a Bible story and sing songs. They will return to the sanctuary during the offering.

Stand

Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there 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.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to free us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

We confess that without your love we are lost.

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

Guard and guide those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and values as Christians.

By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

Keep in your care those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, and those victimized by war and injustice. Comfort all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

Watch over those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Hear us as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Offering

During the offering, please fill out the Friendship Register in the pew and pass it down to those sitting next to you.

657 Baptismal Waters Cover Me

CW 657

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

Choir

Luther's Morning Prayer

Acknowledgments

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Holy Thursday – April 17 – 7 pm (Stripping of the Altar)

Good Friday – April 18 – 7 pm

Easter Sunday Schedule

Easter Dawn with Holy Communion- 6:30 am

Easter Breakfast - 7:30 am

The Festival of the Resurrection of Our Lord - 9 am



CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF WELS



"We cannot and dare not rely on Germany. . . . We must dig a well in our country, in our synod, that will supply the workers."

- John Bading, 1862 convention proceedings

THE FOUNDING OF THE SEMINARY

The timing wasn't great. The Wisconsin Synod was quite small. Most of the members were recent immigrants who had not yet established themselves financially in their new homeland. There just wasn't much money to go around. The United States was in the middle of the Civil War. The Battle of Gettysburg was only about a month away.



The Northwestern campus in the late 1880s; the building on the right is the Kaffeemühle, the first building constructed on the campus in 1865.

Nevertheless, the synod in convention in 1863 followed the lead of the synod's president, John Bading, and resolved to establish a seminary of its own. The reasons were clear. The quantity of pastors the synod had been receiving from various sources was never enough. The quality of those pastors was often less than desirable.

Soon after the convention, Bading left on a journey to Germany and Russia to seek contributions for the new school. He brought back \$10,000 to Wisconsin.

The seminary opened in Watertown, Wisconsin, in the fall of 1863. The beginnings were small. Dr. Edward Moldehnke was the only professor instructing one student in a rented house. That student was dismissed for disciplinary reasons in October, but another student enrolled in November.



Seminary students on the front steps of the Wauwatosa seminary building in the early 1900s.

In 1863 the synod also made plans to establish a college to prepare students for the seminary. The Watertown campus would also provide high school education. The first building was dedicated on Sept. 14, 1865, and Northwestern was born.

Soon after, the seminary moved to a different campus. The seminary (now known as Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary) has had several homes throughout the years: Watertown (1863-1870), Milwaukee (1878-1893), Wauwatosa (1893-1929), and Mequon (1929-present). From 1870 to 1878, the synod's pastors were trained at the Missouri Synod's seminary in St. Louis for financial reasons. Our forefathers' hope for the future in 1863 turned into a blessed reality. Since 1863, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary has graduated more than 3,800 men for the pastoral ministry.

Northwestern College served the synod on the Watertown campus until 1995, when it merged with Dr. Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota, to form today's Martin Luther College. Luther Preparatory School continues pre-ministerial education on the original Watertown campus.

Learn more about the history of
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.



News & Notes

Radio Broadcast

The radio broadcast is sponsored by Bill and Nancy Stocker in celebration of their 40th Wedding Anniversary. Thank you!

Easter Silent Auction

The silent auction is underway. Check the selection of items in the Fellowship Hall and bid using your envelope #. The proceeds will be used to fund the many mission and outreach projects of Woven. If you have any questions, please see a member of Woven.

Theology On Tap

There is no Theology on Tap in April because the third Thursday falls on Holy Thursday.

Easter Outreach

Join our Evangelism Committee in inviting our community to worship with us this Easter. There are two dates you can choose from for hanging doorhangers. April 5 from 9-11 am, and April 6 from 1-3 pm. Meet at church for refreshments and to receive your assigned area. Sign up for your slot on the counter near the Fellowship Hall.

Lord, Have Mercy Lent Series

Next Wednesday, Pastor Slaughter will join us preaching on the theme: Lord, Have Mercy For Treating Others Like Trash, Not Treasure. Soup Supper is put on by the Summer Service Group. Supper is at 5 pm and worship at 6:30 pm.

Senior Fellowship

The next Senior Fellowship Coffee Hour will be at 10 am on Thursday, April 3rd.

Thank-You

Thank you to our Meals on Wheels drivers for March. Your service to our community is greatly appreciated!

Celebrate Jordan

There will be a signup sheet on the table for anyone who is interested in signing up to work the Celebrate Jordan booth on April 13th. There will be 1 hour time slots from 1-4 pm.

APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Soup Supper 5 pm Foundations 5:30 pm Lent Service 6:30 pm	3 Senior Coffee Fellowship 10 am	4	5 9 am Doorhangers
6 Worship 9 am Communion Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 am 1 pm Doorhangers	7	8 Council Meeting 6:30 pm	9 Lent Service 6:30 pm Soup Supper 5 pm Foundations 5:30 pm	10	11	12
13 Worship 9 am Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 am Fellowship Sunday 1 pm Celebrate Jordan	14	15 Oak Terrace 9:45 am	16	17 Holy Thursday Worship 7 pm	18 Good Friday Worship 7 pm	19
20 Easter Sunrise 6:30 am Easter Break- fast 7:30 am 9 am Easter Festival	21	22	23 Foundations 6 pm	24	25	26
27 Worship 9 am Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 am WELS Connec- tion Examination	28	29	30			

SERVING THE LORD

		Acolytes	Ushers	Media Booth	Organist
3/30	9 Am	(Need Volunteer)	4	(Need Volunteer)	Lois Zander
4/2	9 AM	(Need Volunteer)	1	(Need Volunteer)	Lois Zander
4/6	9 AM	Leah Bertrang	2	Ryan Bertrang	Noah Helke

April Altar Guild	April Cleaners
Dianne Jabs/Lynn Sorenson	Carlstroms
April Counters	Spring Service Group Leader
Debbie Glowicki/Heather Nelson	Craig and Melanie Sparby
May Altar Guild	Children's Church Volunteer
Donna Breeggemann/Janet Robling	3/30 -

Attendance	
Sunday	96
Total	96

Gifts To Our Lord		
	Received	Needed
Current	\$1516	\$3834
Online Giving	\$966	
Total	\$2482	\$3834



For more information, be sure to subscribe to St. Paul E-News and Like us on Facebook!

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