

Grace Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

Pastor Jim Helgren

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG - ELW #807 – “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS - ELW p. 94 *Please stand in body or spirit to receive forgiveness.*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

A: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen. Assembly sits.

GREETING - p. 203

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

A: And also with you.

KYRIE - p. 203

PRAYER OF THE DAY - Please see insert. Response after the prayer: **Amen.**

FIRST READING – Joshua 5:9-12 Please see insert. Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32 - Please see insert and read responsively

SECOND READING – 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Please see insert. Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

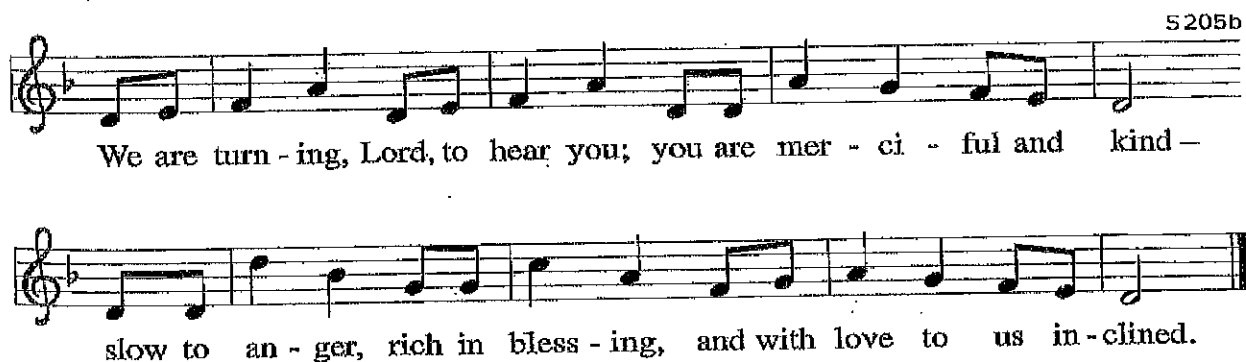
A: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – for Lent p. 205b

Please stand in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

During Lent:

S 205b



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -

slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

P: The holy gospel according to

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL – Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 Please see insert.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ. *The assembly sits.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY - ELW #608 – “Softly and Tenderly Jeus is Calling”

APOSTLES CREED - p. 105

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 believe 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 - p. 206 Response after each portion of the prayer:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

PEACE - p. 206 *Please stand in body or spirit*

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

OFFERING/OFFORTORY HYMN - “Cultivating Love through Response” hymn - ELW #763
“My Life Flows On in Endless Song” – ALL verses

LORD'S PRAYER - p. 208 – *Please stand in body or spirit for 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.

BLESSING - p. 209 - Response after the blessing:

A: Amen.

DISMISSAL - p. 209 - Response after the blessing:

A: Thanks be to God. *The assembly sits.*

SENDING SONG - ELW #328 – “Restore in Us, O God”

POSTLUDE



Announcements

TODAY 3/30/25 *Fourth Sunday in Lent*

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY 4/2/25

8th Grade Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

Lenten Worship @ Grace Lutheran Church – 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY 4/3/25

Thursday Lenten Luncheon Gathering @ Grace Lutheran - 11:30 a.m.

Spring Cleaning – April 4 – April 12

SATURDAY 4/5/25

ELCW Spring Gathering @ St. Johns Church, Beatrice

NEXT SUNDAY 4/6/25 *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

Worship with Communion– 8:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

We pray always for . . .

*Pastor Steve Billington, Linda Daniels, Char Helgren, Becky Knake,
Axl Walters, Joan Wellensiek, Andy Wellensiek & Haleigh Werner*

We also remember in our prayers . . .

Winfride, Juliana, Hassan & Evance, orphans we are sponsoring in Tanzania

Please put items for the bulletins & newsletter in the secretary's box in the south office.

You may email the church office grace68329@gmail.com

***You may contact Pastor Helgren by calling 402-864-4201 (church), 402-864-2113 (home)
or 402-826-0613 (cell)***

Please join us for fellowship in the basement following worship ☺

Tanzania Scholarship Student Info & Letter Writing

We have received the following information about our Tanzania students that we are sponsoring. So, with this information please feel free to write a letter to them introducing our church family as sponsors.

You can send a photo as well as up to \$20 in cash to your student if you would like to do so but it is not required.

Please have letters back to the church office no later than April 3rd.

The following students we are sponsoring all attend the Nronga Secondary School and the Headmaster is Elirehema Massawe. Nronga Secondary School is owned and operated by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, Northern Diocese, and is located on the northwest side of Mt. Kilimanjaro, in a rural area of Moshi. Students who study at Nronga board there from January – early December, with holiday breaks at Easter and during the month of June. Nronga educates students in Forms 1-4 (similar to our 8-10th grade), as well as Advanced Levels 5-6 (similar to our 11-12 grade).

We have 2 students that we are sponsoring again and 2 new students.

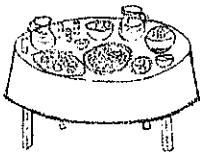
Winfrida Mongi is 18 years old, Form 4. Both parents are deceased, her guardian is Monica Mongi, Grandmother & farmer. She is interested in Sports/Games and her Career Goal is to be a Teacher.

Evance Sam is 19 years old, Form 4. Both parents are deceased. She is interested in singing and composing music. Her Career Goal is to be a Pastor.

Our New Students are:

Hassan Mmbaga, she is 12 years old, Form 1. Her father is deceased Her mother is Phina Joseph and she is a Small Business Woman. She has 4 siblings. She loves singing and reading novels. Hassan is from our sister congregation, Karansi Parish. Her Career Goal is to be a lawyer.

Juliana Thomas is 14 years old, Form 1. Her parents are deceased, and her guardian is Asteria Raphael, Neighbour, Farmer. She has 4 siblings. She enjoys singing church music and being in the choir. Her Career Goal is to be a Pastor.



Today's Readings

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

Prayer of the Day

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.**

First Reading

Joshua 5:9-12

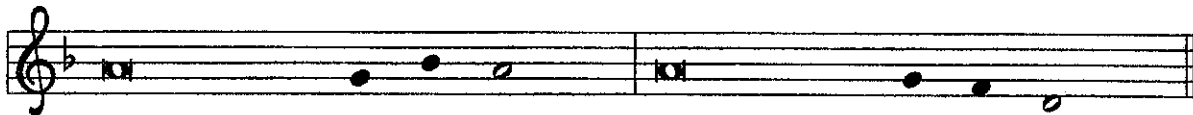
The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

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.

Psalm

Psalm 32; tone 9



Happy are they
whose transgressions ¹ are forgiven,
and whose sin is ¹ put away!
²Happy are they
to whom the LORD im- ¹ putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit
there ¹ is no guile!

³While I held my tongue,
my bones with- ¹ ered away,
because of my groaning
¹ all day long.

⁴For your hand was heavy upon me
¹ day and night;
my moisture was dried up
as in the ¹ heat of summer.

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not con- ¹ ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess
my transgressions to the LORD."
Then you forgave me
the guilt ¹ of my sin.

⁶Therefore all the faithful will make
their prayers to you in ¹ time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow,
they ¹ shall not reach them.

⁷You are my hiding-place;
you preserve ¹ me from trouble;
you surround me
with shouts ¹ of deliverance.

⁸"I will instruct you and teach you
in the way that ¹ you should go;
I will guide you ¹ with my eye.

⁹Do not be like horse or mule,
which have no ¹ understanding;
who must be fitted
with bit and bridle,
or else they will ¹ not stay near you."

¹⁰Great are the tribulations
¹ of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those
who trust ¹ in the LORD.

¹¹Be glad, you righteous,
and rejoice ¹ in the LORD;
shout for joy,
all who are ¹ true of heart.

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.¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;¹⁹ that is, in Christ God

was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus].² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable:

^{11b}"There was a man who had two sons.¹² The 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.¹³ A 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.¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout 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 to his fields to feed the pigs.¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.¹⁷ But 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!¹⁸ I will get up 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 like one of your hired hands."²⁰ So 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.²¹ Then 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 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.²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate;²⁴ for 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.²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.'²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.²⁹ But 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.³⁰ But 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.³² But 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.'"

TODAY'S READINGS March 30, 2025

Volume 56, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8.

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