



March 30, 2025

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

## Prelude

### Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

- ♪ 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.
- ♪ 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.
- ♪ 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, O take and seal it. Seal it for Thy courts above.
- ♪ Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;  
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen, How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!  
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom'd soul away;  
Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 686-Text: Robert Robinson 1735-90; Public Domain.

\*"Ebenezer" means "Thus far has the Lord helped us" and was the name given to the stone of remembrance. 1 Samuel 7:12

## Invocation

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

*Matthew 28:19b*

**Amen.**

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.**

*Isaiah 12:2*

## Confession and Absolution

Beloved in the Lord, Paul reassures us, saying, “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability.”

*1 Corinthians 10:13*

Let us with confidence and gladness enter God's presence, confessing our sins and receiving His grace, assurance, and forgiveness.

**Lord God, we are exceedingly glad to enter Your house this day, for we have heard and believe in the invitation of Your loving kindness and redemption through Jesus Christ, Your Son. In the trust and hope of the faith You have given us as Your baptized children, we confess to You all our sins and failures to share Your gifts of mercy with others. Grant us the forgiveness for which we ask and give us a renewed heart and spirit to sing Your praises in worship of You and to the joy of all. A Time of Silence**

“Sing to the Lord, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.”

*Psalm 96:2*

Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **Introit**

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

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

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

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

*Psalm 51:1-6*

**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.**

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

### **Kyrie**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Amen.**

### **Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.

**Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading *Please Be Seated*

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.”

## The 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.

## Gradual Hymn *Music: “How Sweet the Name,” Hymn 524*

“In Adam We Have All Been”

- ♪ In Adam we have all been one, One huge rebellious man;  
We all have fled that evening voice That sought us as we ran.
- ♪ We fled Thee, and in losing Thee We lost our brother too;  
Each singly sought and claimed his own; Each man his brother slew
- ♪ But Thy strong love, it sought us still And sent Thine only Son  
That we might hear His Shepherd’s voice And, hearing Him, be one.
- ♪ O Thou who, when we loved Thee not, Didst love and save us all,  
Thou great Good Shepherd of mankind, O hear us when we call.
- ♪ Send us Thy Spirit, teach us truth; Thou Son, O set us free  
From fancied wisdom, self-sought ways, To make us one in Thee.

## *Please Stand*

- ♪ Then shall our song united rise To Thine eternal throne,  
Where with the Father evermore And Spirit Thou art one.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 569; Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-76;  
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## Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. <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>11b</sup>“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.’”

## **Children’s Message** *Please Be Seated*

### **The Hymn**

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

- ♪ Children of the heav’nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e’er was given.
- ♪ God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms he bears them.
- ♪ Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- ♪ Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne’er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 725 - Text: Carolina Sandell Berg 1832-1903, tr. Ernst W. Olson 1870-1958;  
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### **Proclamation of the Word**

“Influence Joy”

Isaiah 12:1–6

### **Apostles’ Creed**

### **Offering and Musical Offering**

**Prayer of the Church** *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

## Lord's Prayer

## Benediction

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.

*Numbers 6:24–26*

**Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“When Peace Like a River”

♪ When peace, like a river, attendeth my way When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;

Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.

~It is well (It is well) with my soul, (with my soul), It is well, it is well with my soul.

♪ Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blest assurance control,

That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate And hath shed His own blood for my soul. ~It...

♪ He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought; My sin, not in part, but the whole,

Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! ~It...

♪ And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,

The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; Even so it is well with my soul. ~It....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 763-Text: Horatio G. Spafford 1828-88; Public Domain.*

## Postlude