

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

“If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17, NRSV).

Welcome to new life, my friends. And welcome to the joy of worship!

Welcome pads are at the end of each pew; please sign your name and pass it along.

Sunday, March 31, 2019, 8:30am

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Welcome

Mission Opportunities and Sharing of the Peace

Invocation, Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new. **Amen.**

In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God’s promise of mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God at the margins,

We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.

Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of ☩ Christ, leading you from death into life. **Amen.**

Opening Song

“Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)”

All these pieces Broken and scattered In mercy gathered Mended and whole
Empty handed But not forsaken I've been set free I've been set free

(Pre-Chorus) Amazing grace How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me

Oh I once was lost But now I am found Was blind but now I see

(Chorus) Oh I can see You now Oh I can see the love in Your eyes

Laying Yourself down Raising up the broken to life

You take our failure You take our weakness You set Your treasure In jars of clay

So take this heart Lord I'll be Your vessel The world to see Your life in me *(Pre-Chorus and Chorus)*

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.

Song of Praise

“Messiah”

Someone’s shouting from the desert. Someone’s shouting from the sea.

Someone’s shouting from the mountain. Someone’s shouting from the valley.

Messiah, Come and be our King. Messiah, Come and be our King.

Someone’s shouting from the city. I am young I am cold,

Someone’s shouting from the country, I am lonely I am old.

Messiah, Come and be our King. Messiah, Come and be our King.

Someone’s shouting I am broken. Someone’s shouting make me whole.

Someone’s shouting come and change me. Someone’s shouting save my soul.

Messiah, Come and be our King. Messiah, Come and be our King.

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Psalms

Psalm 32

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

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

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From 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.

Special Music

“Hail Thou Once Despised Jesus” by Jason W. Krug

Handbell Choir

Directed by Bev Splinter

Children’s Church

in the Chapel with Tammy DeLange

Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

¹Now 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: ^{11b}“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.

[continued to next page]

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.’”

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Pastor Dan Ofstehage

Song

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been; love is come again like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain, thinking that he would never wake again;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen; love is come again like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen; love is come again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been; love is come again like wheat arising green.

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Offering

Prayer Song

“Mercy”

(Chorus) Mercy, Oh, mercy, ever-loving kindness that sees beyond our blindness.

Mercy, Oh, mercy we’re calling on you Lord for us to be restored, Oh, mercy.

I know I hurt you with things I do and say.

I want to love you but I lose my way.

(Chorus) Mercy, Oh, mercy, ever-loving kindness that sees beyond our blindness.

Mercy, Oh, mercy we’re calling on you Lord for us to be restored, Oh, mercy.

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Prayers of the Church

Hospitalized/III: Linda Schoepp, JoAnn Urdahl, Diane Hane, Kerry Jorgenson, Carter Hansen, Kyleigh Hansen, Starr Cole, Drake Rounds, Carmen Bakken, Eric Meyer, Stan Peterson, Kathy Hibbert, Christine Walraven, Avery West, *granddaughter of Deb Larson* Brent Ireland, *nephew of Phyllis Bowersox* Nancy Hauck, *mother of Jesse (Rachel) Hauck and Rachele (Brandon) Johnson* Josh Anderson, *grandson of Terri Bruner* John Lahey-Wiggs, *brother of Chala (Tom) Lechner* Jim Wiggs, *brother of Chala (Tom) Lechner*

Deaths: Daryl Hopkins, *father of Brian (Stephanie Hopkins)*
Avis Jeppesen, *sister of Jeanie Ochsendorf and aunt of Janelle (Toby) Wishard*

Prayer Song

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(Chorus) Mercy, Oh, mercy, ever-loving kindness that sees beyond our blindness.

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The Lord’s Prayer and Benediction

Sending Song

“We Are Called”

We are called (we are called). We are claimed (we are claimed).

We are loved (we are loved) by the holy name.

We are healed (we are healed). We are whole (we are whole).

The Savior ransomed our souls---and we’re singing

(Chorus) Glory, Glory, Glory, Hallelujah! Glory, Gloria Oh,

Glory, Glory, Glory Hallelujah. Glory, Gloria!

We are here (we are here). To proclaim (to proclaim).

God is here (God is here); calls us each by name.

We are here (we are here). To give praise (to give praise).

The love of God will not change—and we’re singing. *(Chorus)*

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Call to Service

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

Sound amplification devices and/or large print bulletins
are available. Just ask an Usher.

Serving This Morning

Presiding: Pastor Kent Stillson; **Preaching:** Pastor Dan Ofstehage
Worship Team: directed by Jim Miller; **Head Ushers:** Darwin Brinkman, Carl Bevers
Acolytes: Brooke Hlavacek, Griffyn Muller; **Sound & Projection:** Bob Jenson, Pete Juba
Greeters: Gregg & Barb Struwe; **Lector:** Barb Struwe; **Ushers:** Gregg & Barb Struwe
Sunday Morning Helpers: Doug & Shelly Alvine; **Coffee Servers:**
Welcome Center: Kathy Scharn



Palm Sunday, April 14

8:30am Contemporary Worship
Preschool—4th Grade Sing
9:30am Church School
10:30am Traditional Worship
Preschool—4th Grade Sing



Maundy Thursday, April 18

5:30pm Living Last Supper
7:00pm Living Last Supper

*These two worship experiences are also
when we recognize the students who have
prepared for their First Communion.



Good Friday, April 19

6:00pm Tenebrae Worship



Easter Sunday, April 21

Resurrection of Our Lord

Worship at 7:00am, 8:30am & 10:30am
Coffee & Muffins served 8—10am