THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 29-30, 2025

"Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education"



Our Ministry: We are a people of God who are: "Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education."

Welcome! Like a loving father welcoming a prodigal child home and inviting the other to join the feast, God welcomes us all. Let us celebrate such amazing grace.

Devotions & Publications are available in the Main Entryway. Please leave donation envelopes in the offering plate.

..... WORSHIP NOTES

*Communion: The Lord's Supper - A Reverent Sacrament

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:27,29, "Anyone who eats the bread or drinks the Lord's cup in an unworthy way is guilty of sinning against the Lord's body and blood. Anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the Lord's body brings judgment on himself as he eats and drinks." In view of the serious nature of the Lord's Supper, Paul commands us to examine ourselves to see if we are partaking the supper for the purposes for which Christ instituted with our hearts properly prepared. We heartily invite Confirmed members of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod to receive of the Lord's Supper. Other guests, we ask you to see the pastor or lay minister first so that you may receive the supper to your benefit rather than to your harm as the Apostle Paul warns.

NOTE: If you are allergic or cannot drink full strength wine, The two (2) cups in the center of each tray have water with a drop or two of wine.

Note About Attendance Cards...Remember that the only way we may know you are worshiping with us is by seeing your name on an attendance card. These cards may be completed as you enter for worship and will be collected after the offering. Use one card for each family that is gathered. *Please list the name of each person in worship*. (Parents, please take responsibility for signing in your children) There is a "Member" side as well as a "Guest" side. Please fill out the appropriate side and pass them to the center aisle during the gathering of the offerings. The cards are gathered after the offering has been collected.

To Our Visitors...Please sign our guest book found in the main entryway. Our school has a few nooks and crannies, so don't be afraid to ask an usher where things are. Our pastor and any member here today would also be glad to meet and assist you. A guest information packet is available in the main entryway.

Music of Preparation, Welcome, Announcements, Greeting

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE

(The music for the liturgy may be found on page 151 in the Hymnal)

Notes for Worship: As you prepare for worship this day, we invite you to turn to the prayer section of the Hymnal (page 305). In addition to prayers for before and after worship, there are prayers for all aspects of the Christian Life (some of the prayers are also located on the inside front cover of the hymnal). May these prayers be useful in your worship.

Before worship prayer

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new unto us every morning, and though we have not deserved Your goodness, You abundantly provide for all our wants of body and soul. Give us Your Holy Spirit that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness toward us, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

We're So Glad God Brought You Here Today!

Opening Hymn: "In Adam We Have All Been One" LSB, hymn #569, tune 765

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.

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

INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

- P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen. Matthew 28:19b
- P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

 1 John 1:8-9
- P: Dear Friends in Christ, let us humble our hearts before our Holy God and silently reflect upon our sins.

 (Moment of silent reflection)
- P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto 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.

John 20:19-23

C: Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C: (Sung) And also with you.

P: 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.

C: Amen

THE READING OF THE WORD

Epistle Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (A New Creation)

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. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 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. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Stand (as you are able)

Verse - Lent Joel 2:13

C: (Sung) Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

C: (Sung) Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (The Prodigal Son)

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: . . . "There was a man who had two sons. 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. 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. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. 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! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants." 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. 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.' 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. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 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.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, 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. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (Sung) Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be Seated)

Sermon Hymn: "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"

LSB, hymn #609

Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander! Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

We deserve but grief and shame, Pardon, peace, and life proclaim; Here our ills have perfect healing. Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shepherd e'er forsaketh; Weary souls that lost their way Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh In His arms that they may live: Jesus sinners doth receive.

I, a sinner, come to Thee With a penitent confession. Savior, mercy show to me; Grant for all my sins remission. Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scarlet my transgression, It shall be as white as snow By Thy blood and bitter passion; For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Now my conscience is at peace; From the Law I stand acquitted. Christ hath purchased my release And my ev'ry sin remitted. Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Jesus sinners doth receive; Also I have been forgiven; And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven. Dying, still to Him I cleave: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Sermon: "Prodigal" *Luke 15:1-3, 11-32*

Stand (as you are able)

P: Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

- P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. . . . Heavenly Father, we have all been one with Adam in the rebellion of our stubborn wills and in suffering the consequences of sin with its death. Grant us grace that we may return to You with humble hearts and rejoice in Your forgiveness so that our hearts may be at peace and we may be rescued from our guilt, shame, and despair. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.

P: Mighty God, deliver the nations from violence and war, and teach us generosity, compassion, and the path of peace. Bless our president, Congress, governor, legislature, and all who make, administer, and judge Your laws. Bless also those who labor for peace and justice even at the peril of their own lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Compassionate Father, You know our needs even before we ask but still we cry to You on behalf of all the sick and those who suffer. We pray that you be with those hospitalized this past week (*Especially*, . . .). Also be with those who continue treatment and healing at home. We pray for them and all those that we name in our hearts . . . (*Silence*). Give them healing in accordance with Your will, grace to endure their affliction, and peace in the hour of death. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, remembering the faithful who have gone before us, we ask You to keep us by Your grace through the days to come, that we not be lost to You again but kept in faith now until the day of the resurrection of the dead, when we shall join the saints in glory in Your presence forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

(Additional prayers of the congregation. Each petition concludes with. . .) P: . . . Lord, In Your Mercy,

C: Hear Our Prayer.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

(Please be Seated)

Tithes and Offerings/Attendance Cards

OFFERTORY - Let The Vineyards

LSB, Hymn # 955

C: (Sung) Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

HOLY COMMUNION

(In preparation to receive the Sacrament, please read the Communion notes on page 2)

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

- C: (Sung) And also with you.
- P: Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

- C: (Sung) We lift them to the Lord.
- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalm 136

- C: (Sung) It is right to give him thanks and praise.
- P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the Paschal Feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You singing:

SANCTUS ~ Holy, Holy, Holy

Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9

- C: (Sung) 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.
- P: O Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to 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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me. In the same way also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Mt 26:26-28, Mk 14:22-24, Lk 22:19-20, 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. John 20:19

C: And also with you.

Agnus Dei ~ The Lamb of God

John 1:29

C: (Sung) 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.

(Please be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB743 - Jesus, Priceless Treasure

Jesus, priceless treasure,
Fount of purest pleasure, Truest friend to me,
Ah, how long in anguish
Shall my spirit languish, Yearning, Lord, for Thee?
Thou art mine, O Lamb divine!
I will suffer naught to hide Thee;
Naught I ask beside Thee.

In Thine arms I rest me;
Foes who would molest me Cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking,
Ev'ry heart be quaking, Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash And thunders crash;
Yet, though sin and hell assail me,
Jesus will not fail me.

Satan, I defy thee;
Death, I now decry thee; Fear, I bid thee cease.
World, thou shalt not harm me
Nor thy threats alarm me While I sing of peace.
God's great pow'r Guards ev'ry hour;
Earth and all its depths adore Him,
Silent bow before Him.

Hence, all earthly treasure!
Jesus is my pleasure, Jesus is my choice.
Hence, all empty glory!
Naught to me thy story Told with tempting voice.
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross,
Shall not from my Savior move me
Since He deigns to love me.

Evil world, I leave thee;
Thou canst not deceive me, Thine appeal is vain.
Sin that once did blind me,
Get thee far behind me, Come not forth again.
Past thy hour, O pride and pow'r;
Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,
Leave thee now forever.

Hence, all fear and sadness!

For the Lord of gladness, Jesus, enters in.

Those who love the Father,

Though the storms may gather, Still have peace within.

Yea, whate'er I here must bear,

Thou art still my purest pleasure,

Jesus, priceless treasure!

LSB725 - 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.

LSB562 - All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall

All mankind fell in Adam's fall; One common sin infects us all. From one to all the curse descends, And over all God's wrath impends.

Through all our pow'rs corruption creeps
And us in dreadful bondage keeps;
In guilt we draw our infant breath
And reap its fruits of woe and death.

From hearts deprayed, to evil prone, Flow thoughts and deeds of sin alone; God's image lost, the darkened soul Seeks not nor finds its heav'nly goal.

But Christ, the second Adam, came To bear our sin and woe and shame, To be our life, our light, our way, Our only hope, our only stay.

As by one man all mankind fell And, born in sin, was doomed to hell, So by one Man, who took our place, We all were justified by grace.

We thank You, Christ; new life is ours,
New light, new hope, new strength, new pow'rs.
This grace our ev'ry way attend
Until we reach our journey's end.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. . . . Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

BENEDICTION

P: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C: (Sung) Amen

Closing Hymn: "Christ, the Life of All the Living"

LSB, hymn #420

Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe, Who, Thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe: Through Thy suff'rings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit. Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod; Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee, O Thou sinless Son of God! Thus didst Thou my soul deliver From the bonds of sin forever. Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast borne the smiting only That my wounds might all be whole; Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, Rest to give my weary soul; Yea, the curse of God enduring, Blessing unto me securing. Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Heartless scoffers did surround Thee, Treating Thee with shameful scorn And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee. All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou mightest own me And with heav'nly glory crown me. Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee, That from pain I might be free; Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee: Thence I gain security; Comfortless Thy soul did languish Me to comfort in my anguish. Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast suffered great affliction And hast borne it patiently, Even death by crucifixion, Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon, For Thy sorrows deep and sore, For Thine anguish in the Garden, I will thank Thee evermore, Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing, For Thy bleeding and Thy dying, For that last triumphant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

See You In Worship Next Week!

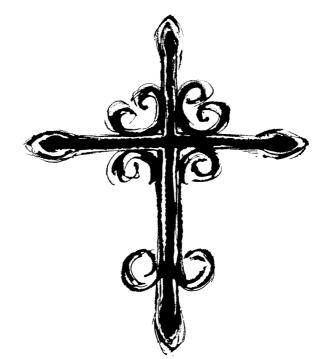
After worship prayer

Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

There will be Prayer Ministry Member(s) in each service that will be wearing a prayer ministry tag around their neck. Please look for them if you are wanting prayer for yourself, someone else or prayer for a concern or situation you may have.

Please join us for coffee and donut holes in the cafeteria after Sunday services.

Altar Flowers: Altar flowers this weekend are given in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Les Jennings.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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