

Trinity Lutheran Church

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E-Mail: washing54@gmail.com**Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.****Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.****President:** Mr. Edwin Peeples**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT****March 27, 2022****The Father Still Waits****As We Gather**

No parable more fully describes the profound character of God's mercy than the prodigal son and the waiting father. We are the rebels who begin to think we deserve our heavenly Father's kindness and who demand from Him what is not our right to claim. But instead of disowning us, He meets us with joy, welcomes us with His forgiveness, restores our tattered righteousness with the robe of Christ's holiness, and sets His Table before us. This is what happens every Sunday as the Lord reclaims us from our sins, restores joy to our heavy hearts, reminds us of His baptismal promise, and feeds our body and soul with the body and blood of His Son. This is the source of our holy joy and this is the peace that passes all understanding.

PREPARATION**Hymn: "There is Power in the Blood"**

1 Would you be free from the burden of sin?
There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood.
Would you o'er evil a victory win?
There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.

Refrain:

There is pow'r, pow'er, wonder-working pow'r
in the blood of the Lamb;
there is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r
in the precious blood of the Lamb.

2 Would you be free from your passion and pride?
There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood.
Come for a cleansing to Calvary's tide.
There's wonderful pow'r in the blood. [Refrain]

3 Would you do service for Jesus your king?
 There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood.
 Would you live daily his praises to sing?
 There's wonderful pow'r in the blood. [Refrain]

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 51:1-2

P Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
C and cleanse me from my sin!

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

Silence for meditation and reflection.

P Merciful Father,
C we beg You, O Lord, to have mercy upon us sinners. Though we deserve nothing of Your kindness, deliver us according to the mercy You have promised in Your Son, Jesus Christ, and restore us as Your own sons and daughters. Forgive us all our sins, create in us new and contrite hearts, and instill in us the will and desire for all that is good and right and true. Make us to know Your will and grant us Your Holy Spirit 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. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. To the impenitent and unbelieving I declare that so long as you continue in your impenitence, God will not forgive your sins and will visit your iniquity upon you until you turn from your sinful ways, come to repentance, and trust in the merits of Jesus Christ alone.

C Amen.

P May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

WORD

Introit*Psalm 51:2–6; antiphon: v. 1*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;*
 according to your abundant mercy blot out my trans- | gressions.
 Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
 and cleanse me | from my sin!
 For I know my trans- | gressions,*
 and my sin is ever be- | fore 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 in- | iquity,*
 and in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.
 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward | being,*
 and you teach me wisdom in the | secret heart.

**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.**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;*
 according to your abundant mercy blot out my trans- | gressions.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Announcement of the Day

P The readings for the Fourth Sunday in Lent fill us with a cause for joy. From the prophet Isaiah comes the song of joy in the God who has become our Savior. In the Epistle, we are reminded that in Christ we are a whole new creation. In the familiar parable of the prodigal son, or, better named, the parable of the waiting father, we see the mercy of God that welcomes His wandering children back, forgives them of their sins, and restores them to be His own children again.

Old Testament Reading

¹You 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.
²"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."

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And 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.
⁵"Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
 let this be made known in all the earth.
⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
 for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From 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. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: . . .

"There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And 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. ¹³Not 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. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in 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 into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷"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! ¹⁸I will arise 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 as one of your hired servants.'" ²⁰And 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. ²¹And 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 servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And 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.' ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but 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. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It 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 Praise to You, O Christ.

803 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore Thee,
 God of glory, Lord of love!
 Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
 Praising Thee, their sun above.
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
 Drive the gloom of doubt away.
 Giver of immortal gladness,
 Fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
 Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
 Stars and angels sing around Thee,
 Center of unbroken praise.
 Field and forest, vale and mountain,
 Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
 Chanting bird, and flowing fountain
 Call us to rejoice in Thee.
- D3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
 Ever blessing, ever blest,
 Wellspring of the joy of living,
 Ocean-depth of happy rest!
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 Fountainhead of love divine:
 Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit!
 Joyful, we by grace are Thine!
- Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1852–1933, alt.
 Text: Public domain

Sermon**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

P As prodigals, we come into the arms of our heavenly Father, waiting even more for us to pray than we are to petition His mercy.

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 Blessed Lord, in Baptism You made us anew, raising up from the water a new person, created in Christ Jesus for good works. Give us the will and desire to do what is good, right, and pleasing in Your sight. 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 Merciful God, deliver us from rebellion and bitterness that we not only find a home in Your mercy but show forth Your grace, forgiveness, and joy to all those around us. Bless the missionary and church planter as they bring Your saving Word to those who have not heard it and plant congregations for Your people to gather around Your Word and Table. 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, [*especially . . .*]. 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 Kindly Father, You sent forth Your Son into our death and what He has accomplished by His suffering and death You have given to us freely in this Holy Sacrament. Grant that we with repentance and faith come forth to His Table to receive His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins and for the strengthening of our faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Blessed Lord, Your mercies are daily new and with fresh goodness You replenish the earth. Give us wisdom to use well all Your resources, and grant us giving hearts that we share with those in need all that You have given in abundance. Receive also these tithes and offerings, signs of our faith and symbols of our thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Additional petitions may be inserted here.

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; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray.

C Amen.

Offering

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.
 God of love, through Your Son You have restored us to You as Your own
 sons and daughters, forgiven all our sins, and delivered us to everlasting life.
 By the guidance of Your Word and Spirit, keep us in this holy faith and fear,
 that we may learn submission to You and our hearts may rest in Your peace;
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy
 Spirit, one God, one Lord, 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 Amen.

Dismissal

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
C Thanks be to God.

568 If Your Beloved Son, O God

1 If Your beloved Son, O God,
 Had not to earth descended
 And in our mortal flesh and blood
 Had not sin's power ended,
 Then this poor, wretched soul of mine

In hell eternally would pine
Because of my transgression.

2 But now I find sweet peace and rest;
Despair no more reigns o'er me.
No more am I by sin oppressed,
For Christ has borne sin for me.
Upon the cross for me He died
That, reconciled, I might abide
With You, my God, forever.

3 I trust in Him with all my heart;
Now all my sorrow ceases.
His words abiding peace impart;
His blood from guilt releases.
Free grace through Him I now obtain;
He washes me from ev'ry stain,
And pure I stand before Him.

4 All righteousness by works is vain;
The Law brings condemnation.
True righteousness by faith I gain;
Christ's work is my salvation.
His death, that perfect sacrifice,
Has paid the all-sufficient price;
In Him my hope is anchored.

D5 My guilt, O Father, You have laid
On Christ, Your Son, my Savior.
Lord Jesus, You my debt have paid
And gained for me God's favor.
O Holy Spirit, Fount of grace,
The good in me to You I trace;
In faith and hope preserve me.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (sts. 1–4): Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; (st. 5): Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1661, Braunschweig

Text: Public domain

924 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

1 Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing,
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us; O refresh us,
Trav'ling through this wilderness.

2 Thanks we give and adoration
 For Your Gospel's joyful sound.
 May the fruits of Your salvation
 In our hearts and lives abound.
 Ever faithful, ever faithful
 To Your truth may we be found.

3 Savior, when Your love shall call us
 From our struggling pilgrim way,
 Let not fear of death appall us,
 Glad Your summons to obey.
 May we ever, may we ever
 Reign with You in endless day.

Text (sts. 1–2): attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.; (st. 3): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME – A warm welcome to everyone! If you are our GUEST, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. **BLESSINGS!**

PALM SUNDAY – Palm Sunday this year will be even more special than usual. As I mentioned on last Sunday we will welcome into Membership Pastor and Mrs. Marvin and Shirley Griffin. The Griffins will join us having finished serving God's people in their final Call to St. Philips Lutheran Church, Detroit. **Praise Be to God!**

We are excited to have speaking to us on that Sunday Mrs. Izola Gayles of Epiphany, Arlington. Mrs. Gayles, who is now I believe 100 years old, is still full of life and vibrancy, and if all goes well, will share with us her story.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PALM SUNDAY (CONTINUED) – Finally, that Sunday will be our Kick-Off to what’s called the DEEP initiative. It’s Diabetes Empowerment Education Program and is designed to improve the overall health outcomes by reducing risk factors for diabetes. The Initiative will be presented during 8 Sessions. We’ve determined that since our Senior Day activity is already an establish group it would work well to do it there. Therefore, we invite everyone interested to join us on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. The DEEP presentations will take about the first 45 minutes of our time each S D O until completed. Then, of course, we will conclude with our usual games, fun and lunch. The first of these Sessions will be on Maundy Thursday, the Thursday after Palm Sunday. What a great day to look forward to on 2nd Sunday of April, Palm Sunday. Please also keep in mind that on that Thursday Holy Communion will be served in the Sanctuary during the noon hour.

SENIOR DAY OUT – Senior Day Out resumes on Thursday, April 14, 2022.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE (RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS FOR LWML) – During the month of January, a membership drive was held to recruit new members for LWML. As of this writing, five (5) new members joined LWML – Mrs. Evelyn Barber, Mrs. Lorenza McIntosh, Dr. Cheryl Washington, Mrs. Jackie Wilder, and Mrs. Yolanda York. We have twenty-one (21) active LWML members at Trinity. If there are others who wish to join, please let us know. **A heartfelt welcome is extended to our new members!**

CONGRATULATIONS – We have 3 members of our Congregation whose recent accomplishments we should proudly acknowledge and congratulate. 1) Ms. Courtney Washington has been appointed to the Board for the Arts Revive Organization. 2) Mrs. Debra McDaniel has been elected President of the Central Alabama Zone of LWML. 3) Mr. Shawn Washington recently received the “Commitment to the School and Academic Success of Students” Award from Jackson Steele Elementary School. **Congratulations to you all!**

SCHEDULE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY/LENT/HOLY WEEK/EASTER

Ash Wednesday starts the season of Lent. As we continue to live cautiously in the midst of Covid, here is our schedule for this Lenten season with that awareness.

- 1) On each Wednesday in Lent you are invited out for meditation and Communion between Noon and 1 p.m. On Holy Week, Communion will not take place on that Wednesday but on that Maundy Thursday same time.
- 2) We will omit the Holy Saturday hot dog give-a-way, one of our favorite activities, for obvious reasons.
- 3) Easter Sunday, which is usually our busiest day of the year will have just the one activity, a 6 a.m. Sunrise Easter Service with Holy Communion.
- 4) The omission of some of our beloved activities including no Mid-week night Services, no hot dog outreach event, no Easter morning breakfast, no Children's Easter Program, no Easter egg hunt are all excluded in an effort to be as safe as possible in our current situation. Thanks for your patience and understanding and let's pray that we'll have a normal experience on next year.

BULLETIN/NEWSLETTER – If anyone has news or information for the bulletin and/or newsletter, please email the information to Mrs. Veazey at dorothyveazey@outlook.com. Information for the bulletin should be submitted or emailed by Friday of each week.

VIRTUAL SERVICES – Worship services will now be available via Zoom for those of you that are unable to attend the in-person worship services. The following link will be used for every service: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87066538071>. The meeting ID is 870 6653 8071. The bulletin for every worship service will be available on the church's website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER HOUR – Please join us each Saturday @ 11 a.m. for prayer. Dial 1/681-999-0264; Access Code 391959#. Also, I invite you to go on our website and view our monthly newsletters and other information. On there you will also see a complete listing of prayer requests/concerns.

VERSE OF THE WEEK – Each week there will be a different verse in the bulletin. Members are encouraged to memorize and meditate on the verses.

VERSE OF THE WEEK – Romans 1:16 (KJV)

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ:
for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one
that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”*

“Happy Birthday”

March 27th Ulysses Blackmon, Jr.

March 27th Miles Knox

March 27th James Ware

“Happy Anniversary”

March 29th Mr. & Mrs. Chrystopher Hatcher

A Prayer for Lent . . .

*Father in Heaven, as I stumble through this world, I am amazed by Your constancy and love. Guide me away from temptation and distraction so that I may have increased awareness of those who suffer so much more than I. Help me reach out and lift them up because they are my brothers and sisters in Christ. In Your holy name, I pray . . . **Amen!***

