



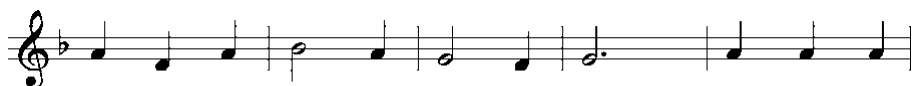
Sunday, March 30, 2025
The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Service Theme
GRACE INSTEAD OF CONDEMNATION

We assume people get what they deserve. We assume that what goes around comes around. We assume God helps those who help themselves. Those assumptions are false. God does not operate on the principle of merit but of grace. No one is beyond the reach of God's grace. God never turns it off. At the entrance of God's open door is not a Father looking to condemn us, but a Father who has eagerly longed for our return. When we do, he takes us in his loving arms and assures us we are still his child. When the weight of our sin makes us fearful of God's condemnation, he reveals his grace yet again.

657 Baptismal Waters Cover Me

CW 657



1 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me as I ap -
2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, his bod - y
3 Lord, may your wound - ed hand im - part your heal - ing
4 From your own mouth comes forth a word; your shep - herd
5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's wound - ed



proach on bend - ed knee; my Fa - ther's mer - cy
bro - ken there for me; I lay be - fore him
to my bro - ken heart; your love a - lone can
speaks, but you are heard; through him your hand now
hand has set me free. Held in my Fa - ther's



here I plead, for griev - ous sins of thought and deed.
all my sin, my dark - est se - crets from with - in.
form in me a heart that serves you joy - ful - ly.
stretch - es out, for - giv - ing sin, de - stroy - ing doubt.
strong em - brace, with joy I praise him for his grace.

Text: Kurt E. Reinhardt, b. 1969

Tune: Sammlung alter und neuer ... Melodien, 1742

Text: © 2003 Kurt E. Reinhardt. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719723

Tune: Public domain

The Service

Service of Word and Prayer (page 266)

I rejoiced with those who said to me,

“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!

**Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are
ever praising you.**

The Lord is near to all who call on him,

to all who call on him in truth.

Time of Easter

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us

so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins

and was raised to life for our justification.

Death has been swallowed up in victory!

Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The following prayer is spoken:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament

Isaiah 12:1-6

God's grace turns the fear of our condemnation into the joy of our salvation.

'In that day you will say:

I will give thanks to you, LORD,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger has turned away,
and you comfort me.

²Surely God is my salvation.

I will trust him and will not be afraid,
because Yah, the LORD, is my strength and song,
and he has become my salvation.

³Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of
salvation.

⁴In that day you will say:

Give thanks to the LORD! Proclaim his name.
Declare among the peoples what he has done.
Proclaim that his name is exalted!

⁵Sing to the LORD, for he has done amazing things!
Let this be known in all the earth!

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, daughter of Zion,
for the Holy One of Israel is great among you!

32A I Turn to You, O LORD

Psalm 32A

Refrain

I turn to you, O LORD, in time of
trou-ble, and you fill me with the joy of sal - va - tion.

Tone

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are for- / given,
whose sins are / covered.

Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count
a- / gainst them
and in whose spirit is / no deceit.

When I kept silent, my bones wast- / ed away
through my groaning / all day long.
For day and night your hand was heav- / y on me;
my strength was sapped as in the heat of / summer.

Then I acknowledged my / sin to you
and did not cover up my in- / iquity.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions / to the LORD."
And you forgave the guilt / of my sin. *Refrain*

You are my / hiding place;
you will protect me from / trouble.
Many are the woes of the / wicked,
but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who
/ trusts in him.

**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. *Refrain***

Text: Michael Guimont

Tune: Michel Guimont

Setting: Michel Guimont

Text: © 1998 GIA Publications, Inc. (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719723

Music: © 1998 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719723

Epistle

Romans 8:1–10

*In Christ Jesus, God has already condemned all sin. For us there is only grace
and the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

¹So then, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For in Christ Jesus, the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³Indeed, what the law was unable to do, because it was weakened by the flesh, God did, when he sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with sin. God condemned sin in his flesh, ⁴so that the righteous decree of the law would be fully satisfied in us who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

⁵To be sure, those who are in harmony with the sinful flesh think about things the way the sinful flesh does, and those in harmony with the spirit think about things the way the spirit does. ⁶Now, the way the sinful flesh thinks results in death, but the way the spirit thinks results in life and peace. ⁷For the mind-set of the sinful flesh is hostile to God, since it does not submit to God's law, and in fact, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the sinful flesh cannot please God.

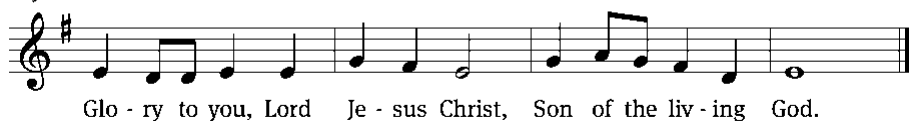
⁹But you are not in the sinful flesh but in the spirit, if indeed God's Spirit lives in you. And if someone does not have the Spirit of Christ, that person does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

Verse of the Day

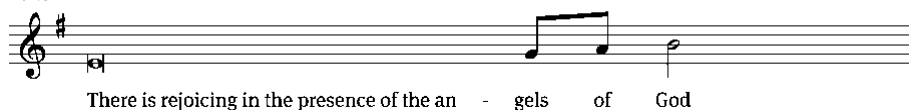
Luke 15:10



Refrain



Tone



Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

*How does God respond to those who object to or are enraged by his grace?
He responds with more grace.*

¹All the tax collectors and sinners were coming to Jesus to hear him. ²But the Pharisees and the experts in the law were complaining, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³He told them this parable:

¹¹Jesus said, “A certain man had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered together all that he had and traveled to a distant country. There he wasted his wealth with reckless living. ¹⁴After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵He went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶He would have liked to fill his stomach with the carob pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, and I am dying from hunger! ¹⁸I will get up, go to my father, and tell him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’ ²⁰He got up and went to his father.

“While he was still far away, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, hugged his son, and kissed him. ²¹The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²²“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick, bring out the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴because this son of mine was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.’ Then they began to celebrate.

²⁵“His older son was in the field. As he approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. ²⁷The servant told him, ‘Your brother is here! Your father killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸The older brother was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

²⁹“He answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I've been serving you, and I never disobeyed your command, but you never gave me even a young goat so that I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours arrived after wasting your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’

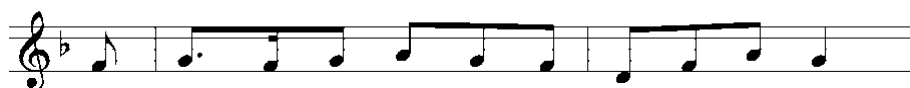
³¹“The father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. ³²But it was fitting to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.’”

579 His Mercy Is More

CW 579



1 What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done?
2 What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam,
3 What rich - es of kind - ness he lav - ished on us;



Om - ni - scient, all - know - ing, he counts not their sum;
what Fa - ther so ten - der is call - ing us home!
his blood was the pay - ment, his life was the cost.



thrown in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore,
 He wel - comes the weak - est, the vil - est, the poor;
 We stood 'neath a debt we could nev - er af - ford;



our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.
 our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.
 our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.



Praise the Lord! His mer - cy is more!



Strong - er than dark - ness, new ev - 'ry morn; our



sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more!

The refrain for stanza 3 is sung three times (twice, with no break between, then a final time).

Text: Matt Boswell, b. 1979; Matt Papa, b. 1983

Tune: Matt Boswell, b. 1979; Matt Papa, b. 1983

Text and tune: © 2016 Getty Music Songs, Messenger Hymns, and Love Your Enemies Publishing, admin. MusicServices.org.

Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719723

Sermon

Luke 15:11-32

The Forgiving Father

- 1) He forgives the selfish
- 2) He forgives the self-righteous.

576 Amazing Grace

CW 576



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— that
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1–3): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790
Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman
Text and tune: Public domain

Apostles' Creed

CW 268

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father

Almighty.

**From there he will come to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer

CW 268

Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;
in your faithfulness and righteousness, come to my relief.

Spare us, Lord, from the lies of the devil and the attacks of our conscience. Comfort and save us in your patient compassion.

Have mercy on us, Jesus.

Guide us, Lord, to the wisdom of your Word and the power of your promises. Take away our confusion and doubt.

Have mercy on us, Jesus.

Hear us, Lord, when we come to you in prayer. Make us confident to take you at your word and to follow you in faith.

Have mercy on us, Jesus.

Empower us, Lord, to walk in your ways and live in your truth. Fill us with your love, that we may love you and one another.

Have mercy on us, Jesus.

Prayer of the Day

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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

CW 269

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

CW 269

The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.

Amen.

523 How Deep the Father's Love for Us

CW 523



1 How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how vast be - yond all
2 Be - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on his
3 I will not boast in an - y - thing: no gifts, no pow'r, no



mea - sure, that he should give his on - ly Son to
shoul - ders. A - shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call
wis - dom. But I will boast in Je - sus Christ: his



make a wretch his trea - sure. How great the pain of sear - ing loss.
out a - mong the scof - fers. It was my sin that held him there
death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why should I gain from his re - ward?



The Fa - ther turns his face a - way as wounds which mar the
un - til it was ac - com - plished; his dy - ing breath has
I can - not give an an - swer. But this I know with



Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.
brought me life. I know that it is fin - ished.
all my heart: his wounds have paid my ran - som.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Text and tune: © 1995 Thankyou Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com. PERMISSION NOT OBTAINED

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

- Su (30) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hour
5:00 pm Circuit Gathering (Toronto)
- Tu (1) 5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- We (2) 11:30 am Communicating Christ (Adult)
7:00 pm Midweek Lenten Service
- Th (3) 10:30 am Longfield Manor
6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
- Fr (4) 3:00 pm Women's Bible Study (Romans 9-16)
4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
- Sa (5) 11:00 pm Communicating Christ (Youth)
- Su (6) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship with Communion
11:30 am First Fellowship
3:00 pm **Worship in Poltimore**
- Tu (8) 5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- We (9) 11:30 am Communicating Christ (Adult)
7:00 pm Midweek Lenten Service
- Th (10) 6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
- Fr (11) 3:00 pm Women's Bible Study (Romans 9-16)
4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
6:00 pm Friday Fellowship
- Sa (12) 11:00 pm Communicating Christ (Youth)
- Su (13) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hour

Announcements

Church Cleaners

April 6 – Matthew // April 13 – Andrew

Midweek Lenten Worship: Reflections on Repentance

Using David's great penitential Psalm 51 as our guide, this year's Midweek series of Lenten reflections explores the depths of our sinful depravity, the brokenness of our relationship with God, our dire need for rescue, and the good news of forgiveness, cleansing, and rejoicing in our restored relationship with God and the promise of eternal life through Jesus our Saviour. Please join us every Wednesday evening until Palm Sunday at 7 p.m. as the WELS Ottawa pastors take turns leading us worship as the reflection on repentance.

Acknowledgments

Service of Word and Prayer from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.



Divine Word

Evangelical Lutheran Church

**1081 Greenbank Rd.,
Ottawa, ON., K2B 5A8
613-825-1629**

www.divinewordottawa.ca