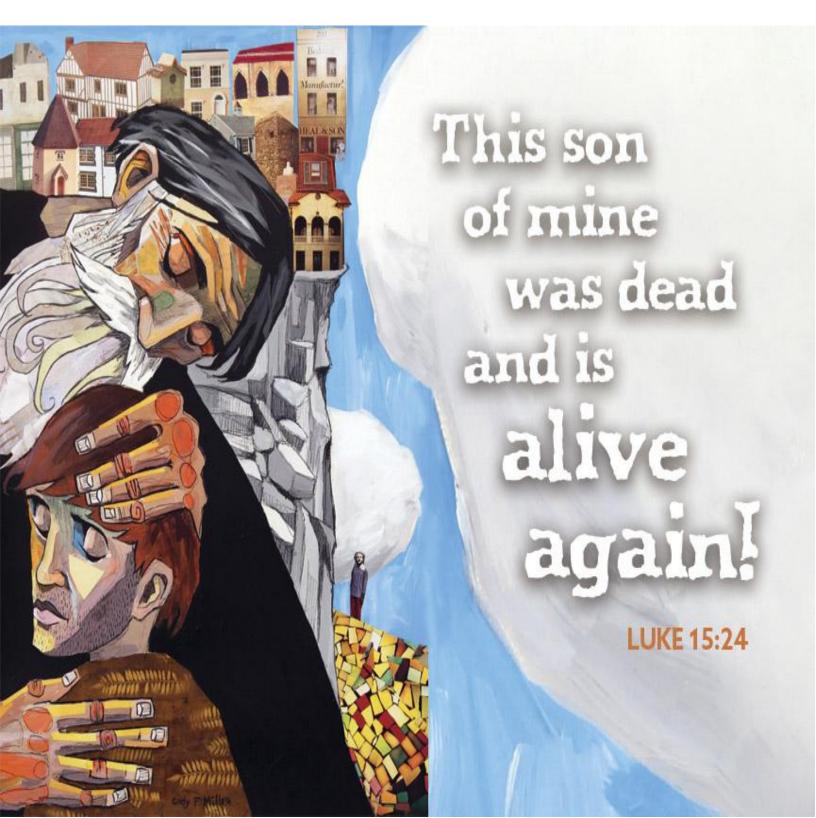


Two Rivers Parish



## **GUEST** INFORMATION

Welcome to Two Rivers Parish, a partnership of Christ Community Lutheran and St. Michael Lutheran! It is a joy to worship with you on this day.

We believe God invites you to the table. Holy Communion is for all the baptized, regardless of age. If walking is difficult for you, we will bring the Lord's Supper to your seat. If you are not communing, we still invite you to come up for a blessing.

We believe worship should be accessible for all. Standing and kneeling happen throughout the worship service, which can be difficult for some. Rest assured that you are still worshipping fully with the community when you sit through these parts.

We believe children belong in worship. Children's worship kits and instructions are available in the hallway so kids can take part in worship. If a child becomes restless, it's okay, because that's what kids do. If you feel you need to take your child out of the service for a cooldown, we encourage them to return to worship as soon as they are ready.

We believe God calls us to pray as a community. Prayer requests may be made during the week by calling or emailing the church office. On Sundays, please write your prayer requests in the Prayer Request Book near the worship space entrance.

We believe God calls us to be welcoming to all. Being in a new place can be nervewracking to say the least. If you are unsure where something is or how something goes, please ask. We want you to feel welcome. Restroom facilities are located just down the hallway.

# **Bulletin Notes**

The worship service is printed fully in this bulletin, so there is no need to flip back and forth to a hymnal. The pastor will also give instructions during the service.

# Abbreviations

- P: Pastor
- A: Assisting Minister
- L: Lector
- C: Congregational Response

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# 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT



The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away... the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

# ╋ <u>GATHERING</u>

#### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

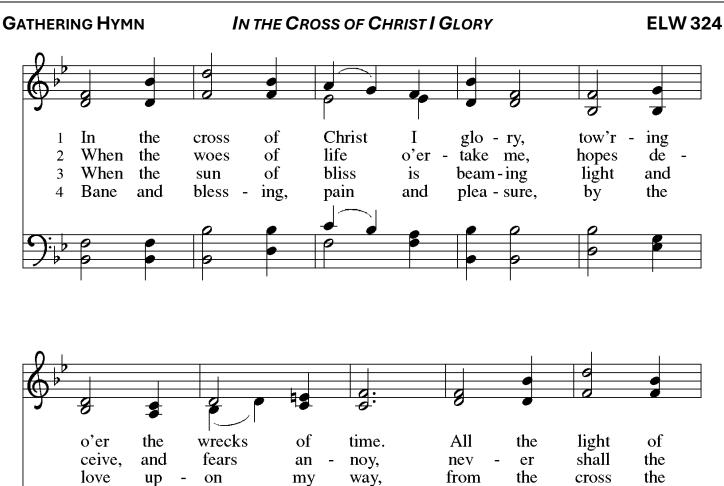


#### PRELUDE

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Please stand as you are able. All may make the sign of the cross, marked upon us at baptism.

- P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.
- P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may attend to your Word, confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C: Amen.
- P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- P: Almighty God, merciful Father:
- C: I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve your punishment. But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy. For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being. Forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.
- P: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and, for his sake, God forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit, we are cleansed and given power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Holy Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.





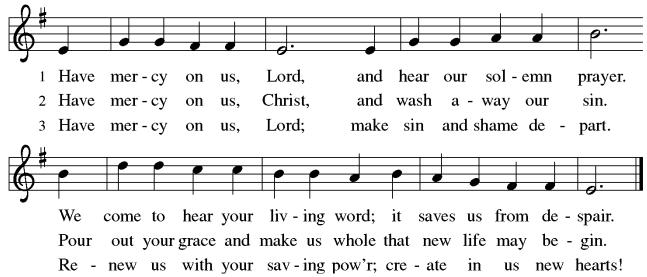


Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872 Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

#### GREETING

- P: The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: And also with you.

#### **K**YRIE



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

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.

C: Amen.





#### FIRST READING- JOSHUA 5:9-12

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

#### A: A reading from Joshua.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. <sup>10</sup> While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup> On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup> The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

- A: The Word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 32

- <sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!
- <sup>2</sup> Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- <sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.
- <sup>4</sup> For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- <sup>5</sup> Then 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.
- <sup>6</sup> Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

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

<sup>8</sup> "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

<sup>9</sup> Do 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."

- <sup>10</sup> Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
- <sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.



## SECOND READING- II CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

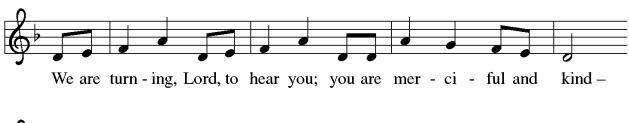
One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth. A: A reading from II Corinthians.

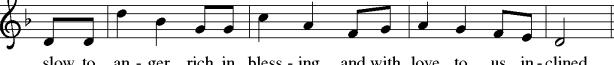
<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given 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 the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat 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.

- A: The Word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God!

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Please stand as you are able.





slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.



#### GOSPEL- LUKE 15:1-3, 11B-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home. P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

# C: Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes 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> The 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. <sup>13</sup> A 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. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout 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 to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But 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!<sup>18</sup> I will get up 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 like one of your hired hands."' <sup>20</sup> So 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.<sup>21</sup> Then 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 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. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.<sup>25</sup> "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.<sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.<sup>27</sup> He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.'<sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.<sup>29</sup> But 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. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But 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."

- P: The Gospel of the Lord.
- C: Praise to you O Christ.

#### SERMON

Please be seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

**Bishop Ginny Aebischer** 

**HYMN OF THE DAY** 

#### SOFTLY AND TENDERLY JESUS IS CALLING

Please stand as you are able.



**ELW 608** 

# LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

- P: Lent has long been a time for instruction of those preparing for baptism at the Easter Vigil. At the same time, the whole Church anticipates Easter through acts of repentance and spiritual renewal. It is therefore appropriate that we review the basics of our faith during Lent, so we might all be renewed by our baptismal covenants and made ready for the celebration of Easter.
- P: What is Baptism?
- C: Baptism is not water only, but it is water used together with God's Word and by his command.
- P: What benefits does God give in Baptism?
- C: In Baptism God forgives sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives everlasting salvation to all who believe what he has promised.
- P: How can simple water do such great things?
- C: It is not water that does these things, but God's Word with the water and our trust in this Word. Water by itself is only water, but with the Word of God it is a life-giving water which by grace gives the new birth through the Holy Spirit.
- P: What does Baptism mean for daily living?
- C: It means that our sinful self, with all its evil deeds and desires, should be drowned through daily repentance; and that day after day a new self should arise to live with God in righteousness and purity forever. This is most certainly true.

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Please kneel or stand as you are able for the prayers.

- A: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the wellbeing of creation, and a world in need.
- A: God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and restoration, your church may bear witness to your love. Lord, in your mercy,
- C: receive our prayer.
- A: God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. Be with all suffering through natural disasters and prosper the work of relief agencies like Lutheran Disaster Response. Lord, in your mercy,

#### C: receive our prayer.

A: God of prodigal grace, remind the nations that we were created to be fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. Let your love and mercy be our rule for life. Lord, in your mercy,

#### C: receive our prayer.

A: God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion due to illness or emotional suffering. We remember especially all on our prayer list and those we name now, aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. Lord, in your mercy,

#### C: receive our prayer.

A: God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. Lord, in your mercy,

#### C: receive our prayer.

A: God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. Help us live our lives with our faces firmly set towards the day when all of your children will be gathered in your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

#### C: receive our prayer.

P: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, Merciful God, for the sake of him who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### C: Amen.

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

Please stand as you are able.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

## C: And also with you.

The people greet others with a sign of Christ's peace. Please be seated.

# $+ \underline{\mathsf{MEAL}} +$

## OFFERING

Worshipers may place offerings into the plate near the door or give using the QR code on the back page.

#### **CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART OFFERING HYMN ELW 186** Please stand as you are able. Cre-ate clean heart, O God, and re-new a right in me a spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the joy of with your free Spir - it. your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

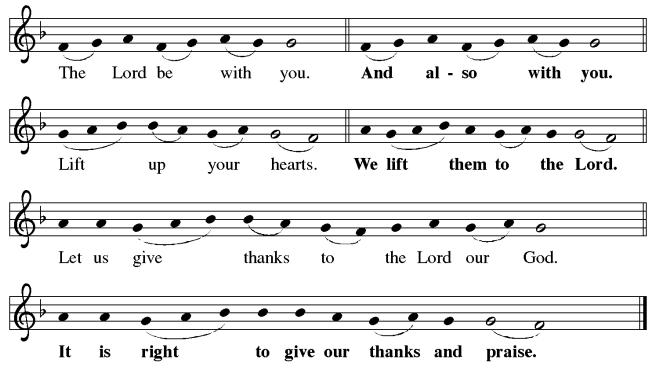
A: Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Lent | 10

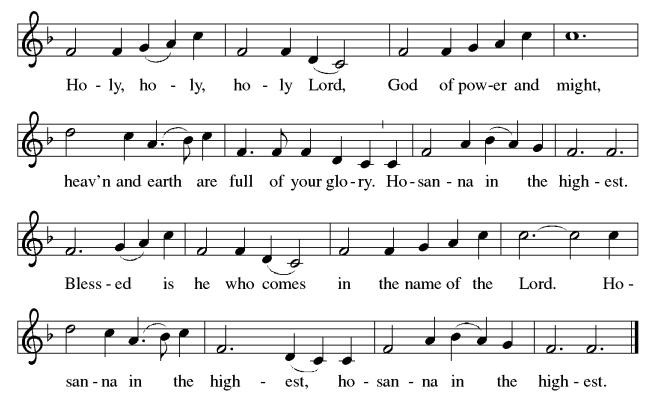
#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**



#### PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...*The presiding minister continues with the appointed preface for the day...* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

#### **SANCTUS**



## **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting, and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

- P: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
- C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.
- C: Come, Holy Spirit.
- P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
- C: Come, Holy Spirit.
- P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

- P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
- 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.

#### PRAYER FOR HUMBLE ACCESS

- P: This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those called to his supper.
- C: We do not presume to come to your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose promise is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat of the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and so to drink of his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.

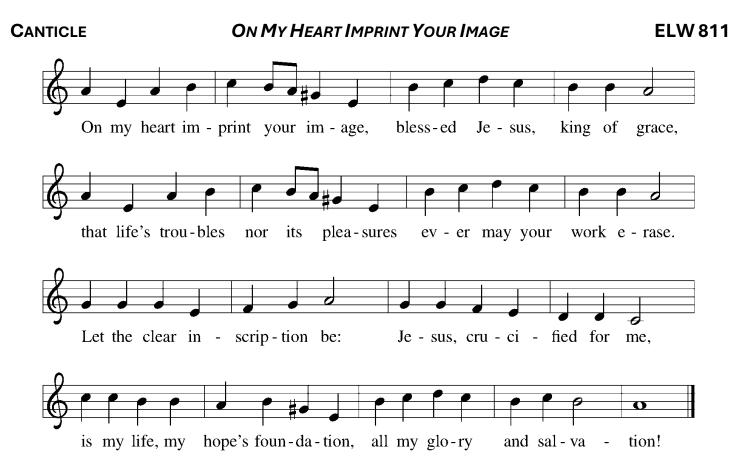
#### LAMB OF GOD



## TABLE BLESSING

Please stand.

- P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you unto life eternal.
- C: Amen.



## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

# <mark>≁ <u>SENDING</u> ≁</mark>



- P: Almighty God, Father, 🕂 Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C: Amen.



Text: Sarah F. Adams, 1805–1848 Tune: BETHANY, 6 4 6 4 66 6 4; Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

#### DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord in repentance.

# C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

## GETTING TO THE FAT CALF

Whatever you think of, however you feel about this story, don't fool yourself into believing that it is all about a party. Pie-in-the-sky piety skims the fat and squeezes the fruit out of the parable, reducing a teaching about what is wildly prodigal to a mere morality play.

Here's the bulk of the story: abandonment, longing, waste, famine, then hunger, humiliation, and dishonor, dying in pig dirt, shame unto pleading, resentment, sore bitterness . . . loss in every direction. Loss and falling—from comfort and certainty, respectability and character; from pleasure into pain, wellbeing into misery. Jesus told this agonizing, heartbreaking, undignified, lowdown, vanished-hope story for a reason. Jesus knew what life can be like. He recognized the deep ravines of loss and the gullies into which we fall. It doesn't look as if the story begins in those sad places, but it surely lands and sits there for a while, the kind of sedentary existence that is too much like an awful eternity.

A father, bereaved and insulted (Was he not the parent he hoped, thought, intended himself to be?), is left gazing into an empty distance. A child disappearing (Why such urgency to run from his birth home?) is left in disgrace. A child dutiful, hard at work, utterly dependable (How had he come to feel so cheated, denied of love?) is left mucking in thick refusal. And while it is so . . . And though it is true . . .

Suddenly, or maybe it's eventually, the story becomes larger. The story collides with gospel. The late preacher and theologian Frederick Buechner observed, "The gospel is bad news before it is good news." Jesus knew how we fail the world and how the world fails us. Jesus was a truth-teller, the whole truth: rags and robes, pigpen and dance floor, defiance and embrace, but no pie-in-the-sky piety. Instead, a festive roast in the oven! That's how grace behaves.

#### IN OUR PRAYERS

David Abbott; David Bowers; Paul & Marion Conover; Mary Garrick; Snookie Ham; Margaret Harrell; Michael Lesiak; Al Martin; Judy May; Merle Melling; Debbie Morgenweck; Barbara Moyer; Carol Pratt; Karen Roberts; Lillian Tanner; Bob Winters

Thelma Adams; Sheree Alberrs; Clare Barstow; Keith Barstow; Sheila Burns; Keven Bresch; Mike Brown; Sidney Brown; Sheila Bush; Cathie Butler; Claudia Carbonell; Maya Clark and Family; Ron Cribb; Sonya Darden; Mikey Duke; Dolorous Dukes; Bucke Easterling; Brian Fell; Jim Freeman; Laura Freeman; Ranson Freeman; Ethan Fredric; Reggie Fryer; Cheyenne Gibson; Kyle Hampton; Margie Hampton; Jamie Harris; Stephen Harris; Trey Jeffcoat; Isabella Jones; Robert Fain Jr.; Amanda Keifer; Sandra Linville; Mary Lood; Tom Mannisto; Byron McClellan, Bryson McClellan; Don Mathews; Colton Mims; Stacey Morgenweck; Donna & John Newman; Ginny Peck; Kenny Peacock; Loreatha Reed; Shirley Reed; Henry Reinsburrow; Carol Ann Ruth; Eunice Roberts; Kyle Roberts; Margaret Roberts; Machelle Scott; Pam Shelton; Bob Shiers; Catherin Smith; Robin Smith; Darlene & Brian Smoly; Gary Stone; Matt Tabler; Kenneth Weber; Priscilla West; Mekia White; Family of Jack Wilson; Elizabeth Wisnieski; Bob Young; Pam Young; Vinnie Young; Jessica Zelten.

News in the Pews

Creating a Community Lutheran Creating a Community for Christ Creating a Community for Christ Two Rivers Parish

SUNDAY	Monday	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	Friday	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
4 <sup>™</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT	JOHN DONNE,	9:00 AM	12:00 рм	9:00 AM	<b>BENEDICT THE</b>	
9:00 AM	POET		Community Lenten	Pastor's Office	AFRICAN,	
Worship (CCL)	9:00 AM	Hours (CCL)	Service (MCUMC)	Hours (SMLC)	CONFESSOR	
<b>11:30 ам</b> Worship (SMLC)	Pastor's Office	6:30 рм	5:00 РМ	8:00 PM	8:00 рм	
	Hours (CCL)	Prayer Circle	Lenten Vespers	AA/Al-Ateen	NA Group	
	8:00 PM	(Zoom)	(CCL)	(SMLC)	(CCL)	
1:00 PM	AA/Al-Ateen		6:00 рм			
Council Meeting (SMLC)	(SMLC)		NA Group (CCL)			
			7:00 рм			
			Lenten Vespers (SMLC)			

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

Marion Conover 03/31; Esther Johnson 04/01

#### CAUSE OF THE MONTH- CCL

The CCL Cause for March and April will be CCL. Let's give back to the church and give to the General Fund of the church.

#### CAUSE OF THE MONTH- SMLC

The SMLC Cause for March and April will be Reading Partners. Reading Partners is a literacy nonprofit working to combat systemic concerns with marginalized students in our local schools. They partner with volunteers to tutor students so they can unlock their full potential. Reading Partners is currently working in 11 schools in two school districts. Besides tutoring, each student receives a weekly book to build their home libraries. Reading Partners believes reading skills are critical to education and that all students have the right to learn. Contributions will help support their mission.

#### PRAYER CIRCLE & BIBLE STUDY

We will continue to gather for Prayer Circle during Lent via Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM. Please join us and bring any prayer concerns you have for yourself or others.



ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN OFFERING LINK

**CHRIST COMMUNITY OFFERING LINK** 

