

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 27, 2022



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. *Luke 15:21-24*

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+

Opening HYMN - LSB 570 "Just as I Am, without One Plea"

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution *Psalm 51:1-2*

Pastor: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

People: **and cleanse me from my sin!**

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;

People: **according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

Silence for meditation and reflection.

Pastor: Merciful Father,

People: **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.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

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

People: **Amen.**

+WORD+

Psalm *Psalm 32 (responsively by ½ verse)*

Kyrie **LSB #944 Kyrie - II**

Salutation

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Announcement of the Day

Pastor: 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 *Isaiah 12:1–6 (Surely God is my Savior.)*

Epistle *2 Corinthians 5:16–21 (If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.)*

Hymn - LSB 433 “Glory Be to Jesus”

Holy Gospel *Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32 (My son was dead and now he is alive again.)*

Creed Apostles’ Creed

Hymn of the Day - LSB 571 “God Loved the World So That He Gave”

Sermon: “Desires of the Heart”

Text: The Gospel Reading

Offering *(The Offerings previously collected are brought forward)*

Hymn - LSB 780 “O Lord, Hear My Prayer (sung prior to the Prayer of the Church)

Prayer of the Church

Lord’s Prayer LSB 958 “Our Father Who Art in Heaven - IIa

Benediction *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn -LSB 427 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”