

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 30, 2025

*“Lost, But Found!”*

## THE WELCOME

### THE OPENING HYMN #915 *“Today Your Mercy Calls Us”*



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.  
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in  
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;  
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,  
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.  
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.  
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,  
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,  
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;  
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.  
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.  
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.  
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

*(please stand)*

## THE INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

## THE OPENING SENTENCES Psalm 32:1-2

P: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C: **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

P: That we may receive the blessing of Christ's forgiveness, let us draw near to God,  
confessing the brokenness of our sin and receiving the fullness of our Father's mercy.

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)*

## THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: O almighty God,

**C: Merciful Father, we confess that we have sinned against You and against one another by our thoughts, words, and deeds, by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. By Your grace revealed to us in Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, 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.**

*(The candle on the Lenten Cross is extinguished.)*

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.

**C: Amen.**

*(please be seated)*

## THE PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 32 (ESV)

P: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**C: Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

P: For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away

**C: through my groaning all day long.**

P: For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;

**C: my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

P: I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;

**C: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P: Therefore let everyone who is godly

**C: offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found;**

P: surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

**C: You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

P: I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;

I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

**C: Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.**

P: Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

**C: Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## THE KYRIE *(page 186 in the hymnal)*

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning, and though we have in no way deserved Your goodness, You still abundantly provide for all our wants of body and soul. Give us, we pray, 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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 12:1-6 (ESV)

You 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. 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." With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And 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. Sing praises to the LORD, for He has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. For great in Your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## THE EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 5:16–21 (ESV)

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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*(please stand)*

## **THE VERSE** *(sung) (page 157 in the hymnal)*

**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.**

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (ESV)

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

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." So He told them this parable: And He said, "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: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

*(please be seated)*

## **THE MEMORY VERSE** *The Fifth Commandment & Meaning* (Luther's Small Catechism)

**You shall not murder. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.**

# THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## THE HYMN OF THE DAY #609 "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this  
2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich  
3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd  
4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live  
grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;  
e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way  
tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for  
Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these  
Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that  
Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

- 5 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.
- 6 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.
- 7 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.

# THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

## THE HYMN #428 "Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow"



1 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,  
2 Here the King of all the a - ges,  
3 O mys - te - rious con - de - scend - ing!  
4 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,



Where the blood of Christ was shed,  
Throned in light ere worlds could be,  
O a - ban - don - ment sub - lime!  
Where the blood of Christ was shed,



Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,  
Robed in mor - tal flesh is dy - ing,  
Ver - y God Him - self is bear - ing  
Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,



Per - fect God on thee has bled!  
Cru - ci - fied by sin for me.  
All the suf - fer - ings of time!  
Per - fect God on thee has bled!

*(please stand)*

## THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*(Each petition concludes with the response: P: "Let us pray to the Lord," C: "Lord have mercy.")*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER *(printed inside the back cover of the hymnal)*

### THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

*(please be seated)*

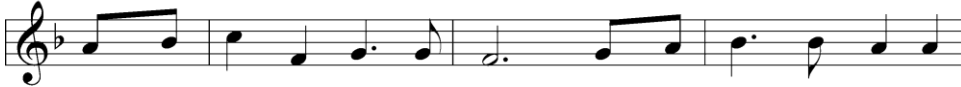
## THE CLOSING HYMN #548 "Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious"



1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, vic - to - rious! Thanks to Thee, O  
2 Thou hast died for my trans - gres - sion, All my sins on  
3 For the joy Thine ad - vent gave me, For Thy ho - ly,



Lord of Life! Death hath now no pow - er o'er us,  
Thee were laid; Thou hast won for me sal - va - tion,  
pre - cious Word; For Thy Bap - tism, which doth save me,



Thou hast con - quered in the strife. Thanks be - cause Thou didst a -  
On the cross my debt was paid. From the grave I shall a -  
For Thy blest Com - mu - nion board; For Thy death, the bit - ter



rise And hast o - pened par - a - dise! None can ful - ly  
rise And shall meet Thee in the skies. Death it - self is  
scorn, For Thy res - ur - rec - tion morn, Lord, I thank Thee



sing the glo - ry Of the res - ur - rec - tion sto - ry.  
tran - si - to - ry; I shall lift my head in glo - ry.  
and ex - tol Thee, And in heav'n I shall be - hold Thee.

## THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

