



♣ Sunday, March 30, 2025 ♣

♣ Fourth Sunday in Lent ♣

♣ Combined Service – 10:30 am ♣

#### Welcome in Jesus' Name

May God richly bless you as you worship Him. If you are a guest with us, we want you to feel welcome; you honor us with your presence, and we are glad to have you here. Please fill out the Attendance Registration form in your bulletin. Prayer requests can also be made on the same insert.

#### **Holy Communion**

We celebrate the Lord's Supper as part of our worship service, on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month during the 8:30am service and the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday during the 10:30am service. We invite those who share our confession of faith, namely, that Jesus is truly present in, with & under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation to commune with us. Those who share a different confession or have not yet been instructed in the Lord's Supper are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing. We offer individual cups. The light-colored cups in the center are grape juice instead of wine. Pastor will be available prior to the worship service to answer any questions about Holy Communion.

#### **To Our Guests**

We often have guests in worship from all over the world. Please introduce yourself to Pastor or a Greeter before or after the worship service.

#### **Restrooms**

Restrooms and changing tables are located out the back of the sanctuary and down the hallway.

Out of respect for your fellow worshippers & those who have diligently prepared for this worship service, we ask that you **silence your cell phones** & keep conversation to a minimum prior to the service.

## Large Print Bulletin: If you desire a sight-saving bulletin, please ask an usher.

Flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God by Nohemi La Concepción in memory of Ivan A Concepción

#### **Prelude**

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

Please Stand

#### **Invocation**

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

#### **Prayer**

P Let us pray.

Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord.

C Amen.

Versicles 260

- **P** This is the day which the Lord has made;
- C let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- **P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- **C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- **P** Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
- I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- **P** Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
- **C** Teach me Your paths.
- **P** Sanctify us in Your truth.
- **C** Your Word is truth.
- **P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- **C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- P 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.



- P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
- I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.
- You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
- 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.
- Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.
- Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

#### Please Stand

#### **Prayer**

P Let us pray.

Almighty, everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy You sent Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant us a true confession that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may be ever watchful and live true and godly lives in Your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

#### Confession

- **P** What is Confession?
- Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.
- **P** What sins should we confess?
- Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.
- **P** Which are these?
- Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hottempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?
- **P** What is the Office of the Keys?
- The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.
- **P** Where is this written?
- This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20:22–23)
- **P** What do you believe according to these words?
- I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

Confession of Sins LSB 184

Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### **Song of Praise**

Lord I Lift Your Name on High

Lord, I lift Your name on high Lord, I love to sing Your praises I'm so glad You're in my life I'm so glad You came to save us

> You came from heaven to earth To show the way From the earth to the cross My debt to pay From the cross to the grave From the grave to the sky Lord, I lift Your name on high

(Repeat all)

Absolution 213

- P God is gracious, and for those who truly repent, He is merciful and forgives our sins. Therefore, go forth in the hope and trust that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

#### **Prayer**

P Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Please be seated

**Old Testament**Isaiah 12:1-6

This is a continuation of God's promise of salvation from Isaiah chapter 11. Here the people rejoice over God's promise. Yet, even in the midst of rejoicing, it is also acknowledging that God does not approve of sin, and will still punish us for wrongdoing. Still, hear the promise for all who repent. The Old Testament is from Isaiah chapter 12:

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>"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."

<sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>"Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. <sup>6</sup>Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Ambassadors go on behalf of or to represent. As ambassadors for Christ, we represent Him, and are called to live our lives in accordance to the Word of God. It starts with us first being reconciled to Christ, meaning we need to truly repent of our sins. Let us be true ambassadors, set examples for others in love and mercy, and live as new creations in Christ. The Epistle is from second Corinthians chapter 5:

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave 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 to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore 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 This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Relating to both sons is rather easy. At times we feel we deserve more than what we do, and at other times we feel too good to associate with sinful people. However, our Father pleads with us first to see our sin and seek forgiveness, and then in turn seek to help and support others. What can we learn about sin? Our Gospel reading is from Luke chapter 15:

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

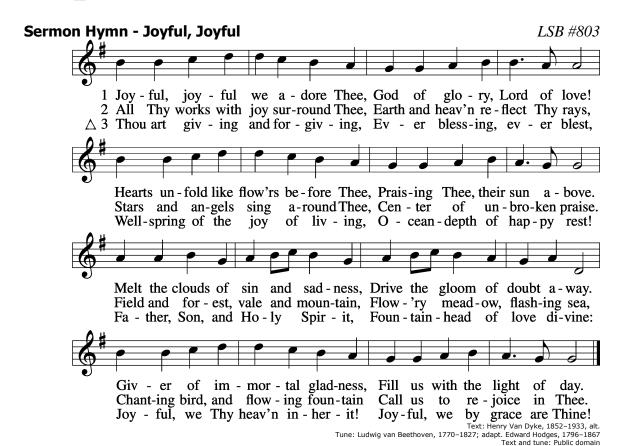
<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: . . .

"There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in 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 into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>And 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! <sup>18</sup>I will arise 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 as one of your hired servants." <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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.' <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

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

- Let us pray...God, Your Word cuts to our hearts. We are reminded that despite our best thoughts we often and readily fall short of your glory. Yet, as we heard, You are a forgiving God, even to the point of pleading with our sinfulness in a pursuit to reconcile us unto Yourself. God we are not deserving of such grace or mercy. However, You continue to give us what we do not deserve. Therefore, we praise Your glorious name, and thank You for all that You continue to do for us. Most importantly we give You thanks for sending Jesus to be obedient to Your will and offer Himself as the final sacrifice to win the victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil. Keep us in true faith in accordance with Your Word, so that one day in Christ we will truly be a new creation. In Jesus name, we pray.
- C Amen.



Sermon

God embraces our sin, do we embrace repentance?

#### Offering

Please Stand

**Offertory** Be Glorified

In my life Lord, be glorified, be glorified! In my life Lord, be glorified today.

In Your church Lord, be glorified, be glorified! In Your church Lord, be glorified today.

**Kyrie** 285

- **P** O Lord,
- C have mercy.
- P O Christ.
- **C** have mercy.
- P O Lord,
- **C** have mercy.

#### **Lord's Prayer**

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.

#### **Apostles' Creed**

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

Versicles 286

- P Hear my prayer, O Lord;
- **C** let my cry come to You.
- In the day of my trouble I call upon You,
- **C** for You answer me.
- P Hide Your face from my sins,
- **C** and blot out all my iniquities.
- P Create in me a clean heart, O God,
- **C** and renew a right spirit within me.
- P Cast me not away from Your presence,
- and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
- **P** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
- and uphold me with a willing spirit.

- **P** Because Your steadfast love is better than life,
- **C** my lips will praise You.
- **P** For You have been my help,
- and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.
- **P** Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;
- **C** unite my heart to fear Your name.
- **P** I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
- and I will glorify Your name forever.
- **P** May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.
- May those who love Your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"
- P Save Your people and bless Your heritage!
- **G** Be their shepherd and carry them forever.
- **P** Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
- **C** listen to my plea for grace.

#### **Prayer of the Church**

- Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love. Give us a proper knowledge of the evil we have done in Your sight. Move us to confess our offenses against You, and justify us with Your holy absolution. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- Holy God, You delight in truth in the inward being and teach us wisdom in the secret heart. Give to our pastors every good gift as Your ambassadors, that we may grow in faith and hope. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- Father of mercy, remember Your baptized children who have left Your household and departed from the faith. Call them to repentance according to Your gracious will. Remember parents, grandparents and all who mourn their departure. Sustain them in faithful patience to wait and pray. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

- Almighty God, in Christ You reconciled the world to Yourself. Watch over our nation and all whom You have placed in authority. Give them wisdom and prudence, that Your people might live in peace and freely make known the message of reconciliation. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- Everlasting Father, although this world is passing away due to sin, we pray that You would preserve Your creation for our provision until You usher in Your new creation. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Heavenly Father, hear our prayers for all who cry out to You for mercy, healing and help. Deliver them according to Your will and, as You have made them a new creation in Christ, keep them mindful of the day when sorrow and sickness will be no more. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- P O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

- **P** Let us pray together:
- I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

#### **Responsive Reading**

Psalm 136

- P Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. Give thanks to the God of gods, give thanks to the Lord of lords, for His love endures forever;
- to him who alone does great wonders, to him who by understanding made the heavens, to him who spread out the earth above the waters,
- to him who made the great lights, the sun to rule over the day, the moon and stars to rule over the night,
- to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, and brought Israel out from among them, with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,
- to him who divided the Red Sea in two, and made Israel pass through the midst of it, but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea,
- to him who led his people through the wilderness, to him who struck down great kings, and killed mighty kings,
- **P** and gave their land as a heritage, a heritage to Israel his servant,
- It is he who remembered us in our low estate, and rescued us from our foes,
- he who gives food to all flesh, give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.

#### **Blessing**

- 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.

Closing Song How Great is our God

The splendor of the King, Clothed in majesty; Let all the earth rejoice, All the earth rejoice.

He wraps Himself in light, And darkness tried to hide, And trembles at His voice, And trembles at His voice.

(Chorus)

How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God! And all will see how great, How great is our God!

And age to age He stands, And time is in His hands; Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.

The Godhead, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son, The Lion and the Lamb, The Lion and the Lamb.

(Chorus)

#### The Dismissal

- P Go in peace and serve the Lord
- **©** Building bright futures, Anchored in Christ.

#### Postlude by Mark and Phil

#### Acknowledgments

Responsive Prayer 2 from Lutheran Service Book

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### LCMSFoundation

We can face competing priorities when we think about planning our estates someday. Part of that tension flows from immediate needs versus long-term needs in our lives. You can list the members of your family today, but what happens to inheritance if family situations change? What happens if one of your children gets married or a grandchild is born, and they are not listed in your will or trust? Your attorney can place language in your legal documents to address these matters. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can highlight the concerns you have with your attorney to ensure they are addressed. For assistance Contact Tony Hunt 260-222-1291 or tony.hunt@lfnd.org



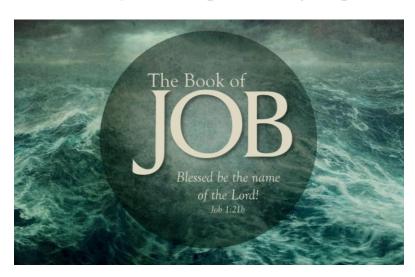


# Wednesdays during Lent

Join us for a Soup Supper at 6:00 pm

then stay for our evening Lent service at 7:00 pm

Join us on our Lenten Journey Exploring the Book of Job Wednesdays at 7:00 pm - through-April 9



#### Opportunities at Shepherd of the Coast

**\$\psi 8:30** am − A traditional worship service in the classic Lutheran liturgical style.

₱9:30 am – Sunday School / 9:30 am – Adult Bible Study

\$10:30 am – Praise Service – A contemporary worship service that is geared to families with young children.

#### **Church Staff**

**Pastor: Chad Czischke** 

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