



**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
FOURTH WEEK IN LENT**

Made in God's Image

March 30, 2022
7:00 p.m.

**Please stand as you are able
The Service begins in silence.*

***GATHERING HYMN**

“Dearest Jesus, at Your Word”

ELW # 520

***INVOCATION**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble**

³and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷**Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction;**

¹⁸they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

¹⁹**Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress;**

²⁰he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

²¹**Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.**

²²And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

***CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

While we still were sinners, Christ died for us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God promises to heal us and forgive us. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

[Silence for reflection and self-examination.]

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.
For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ, and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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. Amen.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“Return to the Lord...”

pg. 142 ELW

***THE HOLY GOSPEL according to St. Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, ‘This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.’

³So he told them this parable:

¹¹Then Jesus said, ‘There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The 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. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all

he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But 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! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' " ²⁰So 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. ²¹Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." ²²But 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. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

²⁵Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But 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. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" ³¹Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But 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." '

This is the Word of the Lord, we say: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Elizabeth

*HYMN

"Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"

ELW # 334
(vs. 1-3 & "Lent 4")

*THE FUNERAL ACCLAMATION

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you. **We glorify you.**

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you. **We praise you.**

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you. **We worship you.**

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever. **Amen.**

*THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: **And also with you** (Sharing of the Peace).

OFFERING

[Please remember to send your much appreciated and needed weekly tithes and offerings.]

[Offering plates will be passed to church members in each pew.]

[Children are invited to come forward to place their offering in "Christ's Well".]

*OFFERING PRAYER

Faithful God,

You walk beside us in desert places. Accompany us on our Lenten journey, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*OUR 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.

*BLESSING

You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, ✚ bless you this day and always. **Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN

"Savior, Again to Your Dear Name"

ELW # 534

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

Thanks be to God.

Thank you to the Confirmation students who assisted with our Worship Service today.

Lenten Soup Suppers and Lenten Worship Schedule

The Lenten Soup Suppers for 2022 will continue **Wednesday, April 6th from 5:30pm – 6:30pm**. Join us for a warm delicious meal and enjoy some fellowship before the Wednesday Lenten Service @ 7:00pm. **Cost:** \$5/adults, \$3/students, cap of \$20/family. **All proceeds from the Lenten Soup Suppers help support Christian Education & Youth activities.**



FORTY
Days
OF LENT

Wednesday night Lenten Services will continue through April 6th at 7:00 p.m. During Holy Week, Fourth Graders will celebrate their First Communion on Palm Sunday, April 10th. On April 14th, there will be Maundy Thursday Services with Holy Communion at 1:30 and 7:00 p.m., a Good Friday Tenebrae Service on April 15th at 7:00 p.m., and on April 17th, two Easter Sunday Worship Services with Holy Communion at 6:30 and 9:00 a.m., and an Easter Breakfast between Worship Services.