

**The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2025**



For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. Luke 15:24

Sharing the Good News of Christ With All People

The Divine Service

The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2025

AS WE GATHER

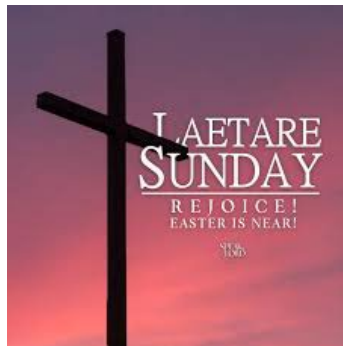
Traditionally, the Fourth Sunday in Lent has been known as Laetare Sunday, from the Latin Introit *Laetare Jerusalem*: "Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her" (Isaiah 66:10). Though still in the penitential season of Lent, this Sunday is a relaxation from normal Lenten discipline. Flowers may appear, and ministers may wear rose-colored vestments as a lighter shade of violet. Today's service is inspired by the Old Testament Reading of Isaiah, the First Song of Isaiah: "Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth" (Isaiah 12:5). Today we take that admonition literally as not only the liturgy is sung but also the Readings are expanded with hymn stanzas. "Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel" (Isaiah 12:6). In the joy of the faithful father in Jesus' parable of the prodigal son, the forgiveness of our sin and reconciliation with God as His baptized sons and daughters, well, it just makes you want to sing! So we shall!

Prelude

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.



Confession and Absolution

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. 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.**

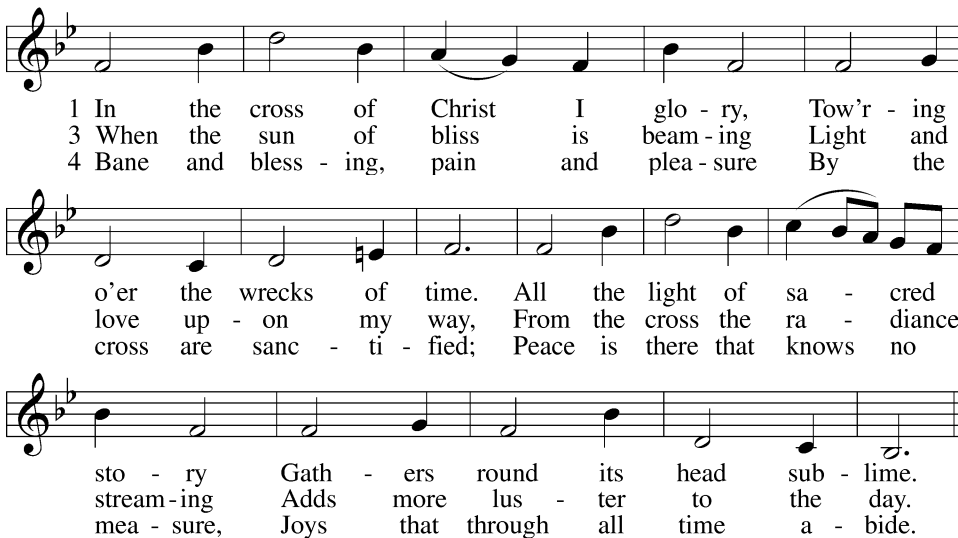
Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Processional Hymn "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

LSB 427 sts. 1, 3-4



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the
o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no
sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

Kyrie

LSB 168

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord. All the earth now worships You, the Father everlasting, Your adorable, true, and only Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. O Lord, save Your people and bless Your heritage. Day by day we magnify You. And we worship Your name forever and ever. O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as our trust is in You. O Lord, in You have we trusted; let us never be confounded; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 12: 1-6

¹You 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. ²"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." ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And 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. ⁵"Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. ⁶Shout, 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.**

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From 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. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For 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.**

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

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

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." ³So he told them this parable: . . . "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And 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. ¹³Not 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. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in 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 into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And 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! ¹⁸I will arise 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 as one of your hired servants.'" ²⁰And 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. ²¹And 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 servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And 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.'

²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but 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. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day

"Amazing Grace"

LSB 744 sts. 1-2, 5



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Sermon

"The Lost"

Pastor Scott Henze

Apostles' Creed

- C 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.**

Prayer of the Church

Petitions end, "Lord, in your mercy..." "Congregation responds, "Hear our Prayer".

Offering

"Be not afraid"

Choir, 11:00 a.m.

Offertory Prayer

- P** Let us pray: Blessed are You, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.**

A word about Holy Communion *We are about to receive the Lord's Supper. Before you receive, you might consider the following questions: Do you believe you are a sinner? Do you believe Jesus Christ died for you and shed his blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins? Do you believe that in the Lord's Supper he gives you his true body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins and strengthens your faith in him and your love for others? If you are a baptized Christian and share these Biblical truths, please come! Those who have not yet received instruction may come forward for a blessing, crossing their arms over their chest to indicate they are not receiving the elements.*

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

Sanctus

LSB 178

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.**

Words of Institution

The Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(The congregation and minister may greet each other with the peace of the Lord)

Agnus Dei

LSB 180



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.



1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by Thy
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con -
 4 Oh, that day when freed from sin - ning, I shall see Thy



sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
 help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure,
 strained to be; Let that grace now like a fet - ter
 love - ly face; Clothed then in the blood - washed lin - en,



Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less
 Safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a
 Bind my wan - d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I
 How I'll sing Thy won - drous grace! Come, my Lord, no long - er



glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me
 strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to
 feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my
 tar - ry; Take my ran - som'd soul a - way; Send Thine



ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.
 res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
 heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.
 an - gels soon to car - ry Me to realms of end - less day.

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

LSB 725



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He
Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Closing of the Table



Post Communion Canticle

“Nunc Dimittis”

LSB 199

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

- P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Announcements

Benediction

Recessional Hymn

“Christ, the Life of All the Living”

LSB 420 *sts. 1, 4*



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of
4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur-round Thee, Treat - ing Thee with



death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing
shame-ful scorn And with pierc - ing thorns they crowned Thee.



To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'rings,
All dis - grace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
might - est own me And with heav'n - ly glo - ry crown me.



Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

Dismissal

P Lord Jesus you lead us! Now we go as....

C **Disciples making disciples.**

P Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**



April 2, 2025 MIDWEEK LENT WORSHIP SERVICE at 6:30 p.m.

April 3, 2025 A NIGHT OF MUSIC AND POETRY at 6:30 p.m. Matt Doering and Tanner Olson will share an evening of music, poetry, and story. The St. Paul Youth are hosting this concert to raise money for their trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans and Spoke Folk Tours in Michigan and Minnesota.

April 5, 2025 SPRING CHURCH WORK DAY 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Come and help beautify your church home. Everyone is welcome!

April 11, 2025 OLDER WISER LUTHERANS. Older Wiser Lutherans will meet at 7:00 p.m. in rooms 201/202. Come and mingle in fellowship.

April 13, 2025 EASTER EGG HUNT Our annual EGG HUNT is one of our best community outreach events of the year. Please help this effort by donating pre-stuffed eggs. No chocolate nor coins please. Bring to the church office by Sunday, April 6th 2025

SPONSOR A LILY FOR THE ALTAR. Lilies are \$15 each and will adorn the altar this Easter. Please submit your envelope by April 13th. You may pick up your Lily following the Easter Service on April 20th. Please indicate whether the plant is in honor of or in memory of a loved one.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministers provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties. Call the church office at 954-384-9096 if you or someone you know would like to speak with a Stephen Minister.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Rev. Scott Henze, Pastor

Mr. Jeremy Becker, DCE, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Mrs. Kathy Henze, Preschool Director

580 Indian Trace, Weston, Florida 33326

Church Office (954) 384-9096 † office@stpaulweston.org

www.stpaulweston.org

Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Sunday School for children and youth: 9:45 AM

Adult Bible Study: 10:00 AM



Website and online giving

**St. Paul**
LUTHERAN CHURCH
& PRE-SCHOOL