

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

28171 West Highway 64 PO Box 851

Canton, Texas 75103

www.holycrosscanton.com

Pastor Mark Huston

903-603-5071

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

Divine Service, Setting Two

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!

736 Consider How the Birds Above



1 Con - sid - er how the birds a - bove	Feed day by
2 The lil - ies grow, they do not toil;	How fair is
3 Set not your heart on food or drink,	Nor be weighed
4 Be on your guard a - gainst all greed,	For life is



day with care - free ease—	Does God not keep them
their fra - gil - i - ty—	If God clothes these, which
down by world - ly care;	A - bout such things the
more than what we own.	Our Fa - ther knows our



in His love?	Are we not worth much more than these?
quick - ly spoil,	Will He not clothe both you and me?
god - less think,	Yet nev - er thank the Lord in prayer.
ev - 'ry need	Be - fore our needs to us are known.

5 Be not afraid to suffer loss
Of all the things for which you pray,
For He who faced for you the cross
Will give you strength to live each day.

6 Seek first God’s reign, His boundless grace,
His holy name in all you do:
Christ first and last in ev’ry place;
All else will then be given you.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955
Tune: Daniel Zager, 1951
Text: © 1998 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219
Tune: © 2004 Daniel Zager. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

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

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

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.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 51:2–6; antiphon: v. 1

P Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;*
according to your abundant mercy blot out my trans- | gressions.

C **Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
and cleanse me | from my sin!**

P For I know my trans- | gressions,*
and my sin is ever be- | fore me.

C **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight,*
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your | judgment.**

P Behold, I was brought forth in in- | iquity,*
and in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.

C **Behold, you delight in truth in the inward | being,*
and you teach me wisdom in the | secret heart.**

C **Glorify be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

P Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;*
according to your abundant mercy blot out my trans- | gressions.

Kyrie

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

LSB 168

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 and 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 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.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 12:1-6

R The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 12.

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.”

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

700 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
 2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let - us
 4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy
 ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in
 all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -
 spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.
 turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
 great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in



bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
 and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
 as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee
 heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88
 Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87
 Text and tune: Public domain

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

R The Epistle is from 2 Corinthians, chapter 5.

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.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

604 I Bind unto Myself Today

1 I bind un - to my - self to - day The
 2 I bind this day to me for - ev - er, By
 3 I bind un - to my - self to - day The
 4 A - gainst the de - mon snares of sin, The
 5 I bind un - to my - self the name, The

strong name of the Trin - i - ty By
 pow'r of faith, Christ's in - car - na - tion, His
 pow'r of God to hold and lead, His
 vice that gives temp - ta - tion force, The
 strong name of the Trin - i - ty By

in - vo - ca - tion of the same, The
 Bap - tism in the Jor - dan Riv - er, His
 eye to watch, His might to stay, His
 nat - ural lusts that war with - in, The
 in - vo - ca - tion of the same, The

Repeat after st. 1 only.

Three in One and One in Three.
 cross of death for my sal - va - tion,
 ear to hear - ken to my need,
 hos - tile foes that mar my course;
 Three in One and One in Three,

(2) His burst - ing from the spic - ed tomb, His
 (3) The wis - dom of my God to teach, His
 (4) Or few or man - y, far or nigh, In
 (5) Of whom all na - ture has cre - a - tion, E -

rid - ing up the heav'n - ly way, His
 hand to guide, His shield to ward, The
 ev - 'ry place and in all hours, A -
 ter - nal Fa - ther, Spir - it, Word. Praise

com - ing at the day of doom,
 Word of God to give me speech,
 gainst their fierce hos - til - i - ty,
 to the Lord of my sal - va - tion;

I bind un - to my - self to - day.
 His heav'n - ly host to be my guard.
 I bind to me those ho - ly pow'rs.
 Sal - va - tion is of Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. Patrick, c. 372-466; tr. Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-95
 Tune: Irish
 Text and tune: Public domain

Holy Gospel

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

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

P 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.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

571 God Loved the World So That He Gave



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en’s heirs.
Je - sus’ blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93
Text and tune: Public domain

△ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

Sermon

Stand

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

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For contrition over our sin and joy in confession and absolution, that God would give us a proper knowledge of the evil we have done and deal with us according to His steadfast love, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For pastors, that God would give them every good gift as His ambassadors to proclaim His Word; and that our hearts also may delight in His truth and wisdom, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the baptized who have left the faith and departed the household of God, that God would lead them to repentance; and for their parents, grandparents and others who mourn their departure, that God would preserve these in faithful patience to wait and pray, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our nation and all in authority, that God would make them prudent and wise so that we might live in peace and freely make known His message of reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** For stewardship over God’s gift of creation, even while the world is passing away due to sin, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the preservation of God’s creation until the old world passes away and He ushers in the new creation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those in need of mercy, healing and help, [*including _____,*] that the Lord would deliver them according to His will and remind them of the day when sorrow and sickness will be no more, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who partake of Holy Communion today, that they may come prepared in penitence and receive the body and blood of the Holy One, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- 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.**

Sit

Offering

612 As Rebels, Lord, Who Foolishly Have Wandered sts. 1–2

Stand

Offertory

LSB 176

C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to
 me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
 call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
 va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
 courts of the Lord’s house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Closing Collect

P 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 take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

LSB 183

P 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.

803 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
△ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.
Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap-py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash-ing sea,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine!

Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1852-1933, alt.
Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796-1867
Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Adult Sunday School at **9am** on Sunday mornings is studying Deuteronomy.

The **Flowers** that beautify our altar this morning are given to God's glory.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets Wednesdays at **10am** studying Ezra.

Church Council next meeting is **Apr 13** at **8am**.

The next **Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** is Sat. **Apr 12** at **9am**.

Lenten Services are on **Apr 2 & 9** with dinner at **6:30pm** & service at **7pm**

March has a **Fifth Sunday!** Join us **today** for the potluck luncheon after service.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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