

Our Savior Lutheran Church
Mankato, Minnesota

The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2025

At Our Savior Lutheran Church we live to make Christ known.

Monthly Memory Verse:

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Psalm 51:1

Confession and Absolution

Opening Hymn: “Today Your Mercy Calls Us”

LSB 915

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Today Your mercy calls us To wash away our sin. However great our trespass, Whatever we have been, However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away, Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today. | 3 Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits; His blessed angels gather Around the heav'nly gates. No question will be asked us How often we have come; Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father's home. |
| 2 Today Your gate is open, And all who enter in Shall find a Father's welcome And pardon for their sin. The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv'n, A future grace be promised, A glorious crown in heav'n. | 4 O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door, What should we do without You When heart and eye run o'er? When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair, We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer. |

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816-78, alt. Text: Public domain

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

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Absolution

LSB 203

Service of the Word

Kyrie

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

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.**

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.

Psalm

Psalm 32

¹Blessèd is the one whose transgression is for- | given,*
whose sin is | covered.

²Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no in- | iquity,*
and in whose spirit there is | no deceit.

³For when I kept silent, my bones wast- | ed away*
through my groaning | all day long.

⁴For day and night your hand was heavy up- | on me;*
my strength was dried up as by the heat of | summer.

⁵I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my in- | iquity;*

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”
and you forgave the iniquity | of my sin.

⁶Therefore 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.

⁷You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from | trouble;*
you surround me with shouts of de- | liverance.

⁸I will instruct you and teach you in the way | you should go;*
I will counsel you with my eye up- | on you.

⁹Be not like a horse or a mule, without under- | standing,*
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,
or it will not stay | near you.

¹⁰Many are the sorrows of the | wicked,*
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts | in the LORD.

¹¹Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O | righteous,*
and shout for joy, all you up- | right in heart!

Gloria Patri

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C 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.

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.

Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

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.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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.

Hymn of the Day: “God Loved the World So That He Gave”

LSB 571

- 1 God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.
 - 2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.
 - 3 God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven’s heirs.
 - 4 Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son
Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus’ blood,
Your Baptism grants the highest 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.
- △ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
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Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Litany

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

- L** O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
- L** O Christ,
C **hear us.**
- L** God the Father in heaven,
C **have mercy.**
- L** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C **have mercy.**
- L** God the Holy Spirit,
C **have mercy.**
- L** Be gracious to us.
C **Spare us, good Lord.**
- L** Be gracious to us.
C **Help us, good Lord.**
- L** From all sin, from all error, from all evil;
From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;
From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from
rebellion;
From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from
everlasting death:
- C** **Good Lord, deliver us.**
- L** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;
By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by
Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;
By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit,
the Comforter:
- C** **Help us, good Lord.**
- L** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and
in the day of judgment:
- C** **Help us, good Lord.**
- L** We poor sinners implore You
C **to hear us, O Lord.**
- L** To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers
of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word
and to sustain them in holy living;
To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all
who have erred and are deceived;
To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and
to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:
- C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

L To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

L To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;

To direct and defend our *president* and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;

To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;

To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;

To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

L To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

L Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C **we implore You to hear us.**

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **grant us Your peace.**

L O Christ,

C **hear us.**

L O Lord,

C **have mercy.**

L O Christ,

C **have mercy.**

L O Lord,

C **have mercy. Amen.**

L O Lord, enter not into judgment with Your servant.

C **For in Your sight shall no man living be justified.**

L Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations. Build up our families to be fortresses of light amidst a world of darkness, bless especially the households of:[____]. Look with favor upon Your servants [____]. Assure them of Your mercy, deliver them from the temptations of the evil one, and give them patience and comfort in their illness. If it please You, restore them to health, or give them grace to accept this tribulation with courage and hope; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 208

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.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.

Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho- san - na to the Lord;

Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many.

As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.**

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Distribution Hymns:

“All Mankind Fell in Adam’s Fall”

LSB 562

- 1 All mankind fell in Adam’s fall;
One common sin infects us all.
From one to all the curse descends,
And over all God’s wrath impends.
- 2 Through all our pow’rs corruption creeps
And us in dreadful bondage keeps;
In guilt we draw our infant breath
And reap its fruits of woe and death.
- 3 From hearts depraved, to evil prone,
Flow thoughts and deeds of sin alone;
God’s image lost, the darkened soul
Seeks not nor finds its heav’nly goal.
- 4 But Christ, the second Adam, came
To bear our sin and woe and shame,
To be our life, our light, our way,
Our only hope, our only stay.

- 5 As by one man all mankind fell
 And, born in sin, was doomed to hell,
 So by one Man, who took our place,
 We all were justified by grace.
- 6 We thank You, Christ; new life is ours,
 New light, new hope, new strength, new pow'rs.
 This grace our ev'ry way attend
 Until we reach our journey's end.

Text: Lazarus Spengler, 1479–1534; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.
 Text: Public domain

“Jesus Comes Today with Healing”

LSB 620

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Jesus comes today with healing, Knocking at my door, appealing, Off'ring pardon, grace, and peace. He Himself makes preparation, And I hear His invitation: “Come and taste the blessed feast.”</p> <p>2 Christ Himself, the priest presiding, Yet in bread and wine abiding In this holy sacrament, Gives the bread of life, once broken, And the cup, the precious token Of His sacred covenant.</p> <p>3 Under bread and wine, though lowly, I receive the Savior holy, Blood and body, giv'n for me, Very Lamb of God from heaven, Who to bitter death was given, Hung upon the cursèd tree.</p> | <p>4 God descends with heav'nly power, Gives Himself to me this hour In this ordinary sign. On my tongue His pledge receiving, I accept His grace, believing That I taste His love divine.</p> <p>5 Let me praise God's boundless favor, Whose own feast of love I savor, Bidden by His gracious call. Wedding garments He provides me, With a robe of white He hides me, Fits me for the royal hall.</p> <p>6 Now have I found consolation, Comfort in my tribulation, Balm to heal the troubled soul. God, my shield from ev'ry terror, Cleanses me from sin and error, Makes my wounded spirit whole.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Heinrich Puchta, 1808–58; tr. David W. Rogner,
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“If Your Beloved Son, O God”

LSB 568

- 1 If Your beloved Son, O God,
 Had not to earth descended
 And in our mortal flesh and blood
 Had not sin's power ended,
 Then this poor, wretched soul of mine
 In hell eternally would pine
 Because of my transgression.

- 2 But now I find sweet peace and rest;
 Despair no more reigns o'er me.
 No more am I by sin oppressed,
 For Christ has borne sin for me.
 Upon the cross for me He died
 That, reconciled, I might abide
 With You, my God, forever.
- 3 I trust in Him with all my heart;
 Now all my sorrow ceases.
 His words abiding peace impart;
 His blood from guilt releases.
 Free grace through Him I now obtain;
 He washes me from ev'ry stain,
 And pure I stand before Him.
- 4 All righteousness by works is vain;
 The Law brings condemnation.
 True righteousness by faith I gain;
 Christ's work is my salvation.
 His death, that perfect sacrifice,
 Has paid the all-sufficient price;
 In Him my hope is anchored.
- △ 5 My guilt, O Father, You have laid
 On Christ, Your Son, my Savior.
 Lord Jesus, You my debt have paid
 And gained for me God's favor.
 O Holy Spirit, Fount of grace,
 The good in me to You I trace;
 In faith and hope preserve me.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (sts. 1-4): Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; (st. 5): Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1661, Braunschweig Text: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;

A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

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.

Closing Hymn: “In Adam We Have All Been One”

LSB 569

- 1 In Adam we have all been one,
One huge rebellious man;
We all have fled that evening voice
That sought us as we ran.
- 2 We fled Thee, and in losing Thee
We lost our brother too;
Each singly sought and claimed his own;
Each man his brother slew.
- 3 But Thy strong love, it sought us still
And sent Thine only Son
That we might hear His Shepherd’s voice
And, hearing Him, be one.
- 4 O Thou who, when we loved Thee not,
Didst love and save us all,
Thou great Good Shepherd of mankind,
O hear us when we call.
- 5 Send us Thy Spirit, teach us truth;
Thou Son, O set us free
From fancied wisdom, self-sought ways,
To make us one in Thee.
- △ 6 Then shall our song united rise
To Thine eternal throne,
Where with the Father evermore
And Spirit Thou art one.

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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