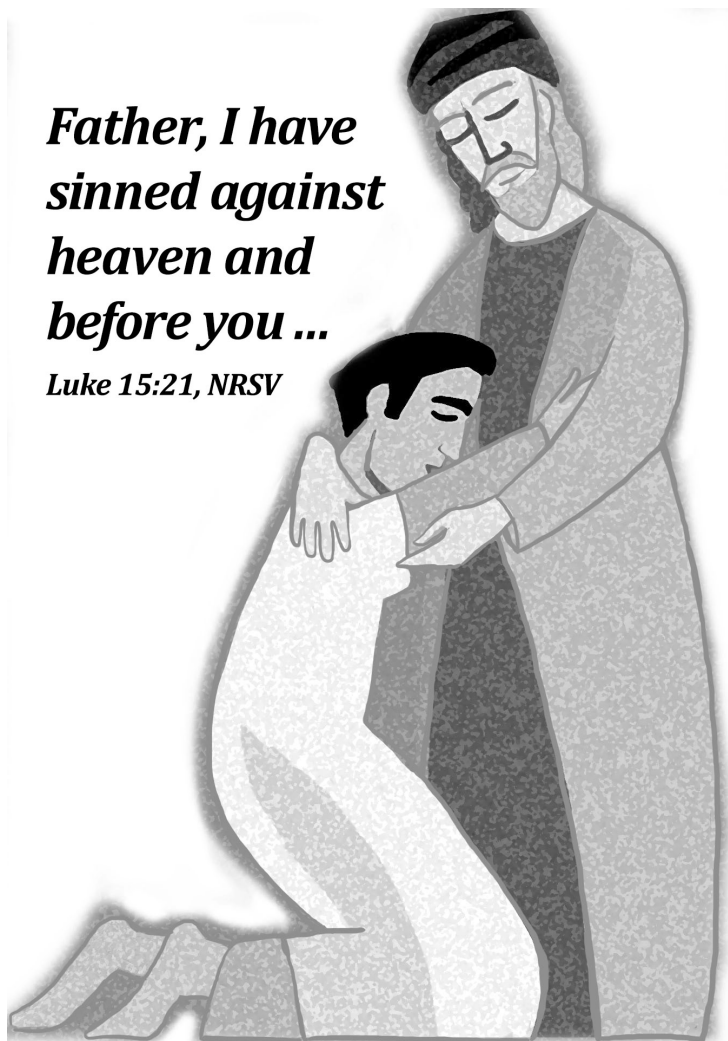


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

***Father, I have
sinned against
heaven and
before you ...***

Luke 15:21, NRSV



THE FATHER WELCOMES US
WITH UNDESERVED LOVE

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 31, 2019

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child is restless, you can use the Family Room to calm your child. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the Worship Center. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers or greeters can help you find the restrooms, family room or answer your other questions.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

The greatest comfort for a repentant heart is the full and free forgiveness offered by the all-gracious Father in heaven. God continuously welcomes us back into his family as his beloved children, not slaves to sin. The Father and all of heaven rejoices over the repentance of one sinner—let's rejoice over the same thing today!

The liturgical color¹ throughout the season of Lent is purple, which communicates somberness and quietness. This is fitting given Lent's somber focus on Jesus' sufferings and death.

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Hymns and liturgy marked CW can be found in the red hymnals in the pew racks, *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*. Service of the Word. Words and Music. © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-719903

¹ The liturgical color is found on the pastor's stole and the piece of cloth hanging from the pulpit.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Service of the Word draws the believer's attention to the proclamation of the Gospel in the Word of God.

WELCOME

In singing hymns and songs of praise we join our voices with believers who have sung these hymns throughout the centuries and give glory to the God who has saved us by his one and only Son, Jesus.

OPENING HYMN

Jesus Sinners Does Receive | CW 304 (1-5)

Please stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister (M): The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Congregation (C): **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you the strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

Jesus Sinners Does Receive | CW 304 (6-7)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 12:1-6

Sing of the Lord's wonderful grace!

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 32 | CW p.78

SECOND LESSON

1 Timothy 1:12-17

God's grace is for the worst of sinners - that includes me.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,

C: that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Please stand.

Similar to the way we honor those in a parade by standing, we honor our Lord by standing during the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The forgiving Father amazes us with his grace.

After the Gospel, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The children are invited to come forward for an object lesson.

HYMN

Chief of Sinners Though I Be | CW 385

SERMON - THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Confession of faith is our response to God's saving Word. This Trinitarian creed confesses the saving faith in Jesus that the Apostles taught.

Please stand.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

Everyone: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Be seated.

THANK OFFERING

St. Paul's members offer their first and their best to their Savior in order to support the sharing of the Gospel through our church and our worldwide church body, the WELS. Our guests do not need to feel obligated to participate. We ask that everyone, guests and members, sign the Friendship Register which will be passed out during the offering.

If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



MUSICAL OFFERING

What Grace Is This

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

C: We confess that without your love we are lost.

M: Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

C: Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

M: We pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

C: By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

M: We pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy burden.

C: Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

M: We pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

C: Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Special Prayers and intercession may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Be seated.

HYMN

Drawn to the Cross | CW 387

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Let us pray together.

C: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" (Numbers 6:27).

CLOSING HYMN

Amazing Grace – How Sweet the Sound | CW 379

TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. In what ways do you relate with both sons in Jesus' parable? Try to think of at least two ways you relate to each son.
2. People will usually try to set up barriers when you invite them to church. Some examples of those "barriers" are "I'm such a bad person, I'll start on fire once I step foot in a church." or "All God does is take—he doesn't give me anything I don't already have." How does Jesus' parable knock down those and other barriers?
3. Remember the whole point Jesus told this parable—he was responding to the Pharisees who looked down on him for welcoming "sinners." What do you think are the fears we, as a church, have to inviting people "who aren't like us" to events and worship?
4. Notice how the two sons put themselves in the place of a slave. How does the father assure them that they are not slaves, but sons? Search for other Bible passages that speak about the difference between slavery and sonship in the eyes of God.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY

Continuing in the Light of Love (1 John 2)
Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.



OPEN FORUM NEXT SUNDAY

April 7 | 9:15 a.m.

At our last open forums, we discussed the ideas of calling Mr. Pahl to serve as a part-time staff minister, requesting a teacher assignment from MLC, and requesting a seminary grad to serve as associate pastor. Although feedback seemed to be in favor of the suggested changes, more input is needed to determine how to best accomplish the wishes of the congregation and carry out effective gospel ministry. Please plan to attend the open forum next Sunday, April 7 between the services. Also please continue to pray for our congregation, our called workers, and the people of Wisconsin Rapids throughout this time of discussion and change!



CELEBRATE TOGETHER

April 21

You are invited to join us for worship and fellowship on Easter Sunday. Our worship schedule is a little different than our usually Sundays; the services will be held at 7:00 & 9:30 a.m. Our annual breakfast will be served between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. in the gymnasium. If we have your email address, you should have received an invitation to the breakfast through Sign Up Genius. Please RSVP. We strongly encourage families to extend this invitation to all of their out-of-town visitors as well. You can also sign up in the Welcome Center or look for a link to the sign-up on our website. Invite a neighbor or friend to join us in celebrating our risen Lord!

SPREAD THE NEWS

April 13 at 10:00 a.m.

We will be hanging invitations to our Easter celebration on doors throughout the west-side of Wisconsin Rapids on Saturday, April 13. You don't have to talk to anyone (expect to be polite and say "hi" if they are outside). Please meet at church by 10:00 a.m. so we can organize who is going where.

ST. PAUL'S GOT TALENT

April 12 | 6:30 p.m.

St. Paul's School students will entertain you with music, dancing, and other God-given talents. Bring a friend to enjoy the show!

MISSION RALLY ON SATURDAY

April 6 | 9:00-2:30

You can learn about the Vicar in Missions Program and the Central Africa Medical Mission at the Spring Mission Rally. Registration is only \$3 and lunch is provided. The rally is at Trinity Lutheran Church, just south of Marshfield. Everyone is welcome to come! If you have a mission mite box, please turn it in by April 1, so we can take your offerings to the mission rally in Marshfield.

PHOTO SESSION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Pictures for our new church directory will be taken June 5-8 & 12-15. We need volunteers at the church to greet people and direct them where to go. You can sign up at the Ministry Table in the Welcome Center.

HANDBELL FESTIVAL IN MEDFORD

April 7 | 2:00 p.m.

The annual handbell festival will be held at Medford Area Elementary School. Our own Joyful Ringers will be a part of this two-day event. You are invited to the free public concert on Sunday, April 7 at 2:00 p.m. The concert will involve ten handbell choirs and over 140 ringers. It will be worth the trip to Medford.

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last week's attendance: 204 Year-to-date average attendance: 233

From July 1, 2018 to March 22, 2019

Actual gifts to ministry: \$ 732,075

Actual cost of ministry: \$ 763,843 Mortgage Balance \$ 1,532,790

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr. 6 Mission Rally in Marshfield
- Apr. 7 Open Forum at 9:15AM
- Apr. 7 Handbell Festival Concert in Medford
- Apr. 12 St. Paul's Got Talent
- Apr. 13 Distributing Easter Invitations



CALENDAR

March 31- April 7

SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School (grades K-5)
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Adult Co-ed Volleyball in the gym
MONDAY	8:15 AM	Board of Elders in the Resource Center
	4:00 PM	Children's Outreach Ministry Task Force
	7:00 PM	Board of Properties in the Resource Center
TUESDAY	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Stephen Ministers Peer Group in the Resource Center
WEDNESDAY	3:35 PM	Midweek Lenten Service
	4:30 PM	Lenten Supper in the cafeteria (Helpers K-O)
	6:30 PM	Midweek Lenten Service
	7:30 PM	Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
	7:30 PM	Choir Practice in the balcony
THURSDAY	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	5:30 PM	Handbell Practice in the balcony
	6:30 PM	A People Close to God in the Bible Study Room
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Open Forum
	9:15 AM	Sunday School (grades K-5)
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Adult Co-ed Volleyball in the gym
	2:00 PM	Lutheran Pioneers in the cafeteria



April 14 - Palm Sunday Worship at 8:00 & 10:30AM
April 18 - Maundy Thursday Worship at 3:35 & 6:30PM
April 19 - Good Friday Worship at 12:10 & 6:30PM
April 21 - Easter Sunday Worship at 7:00 & 9:30AM
Easter Breakfast - 8:00-9:00AM



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