



## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

### Opening Hymn #279

### *Today Thy Mercy Calls Us*

1. Today Thy 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,  
Thy precious blood can cleanse us  
And make us white today.

2. Today Thy 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 given,  
A future grace be promised,  
A glorious crown in heaven.

3. Today our Father calls us,  
His Holy Spirit waits;  
His blessed angels gather  
Around the heavenly gates.  
No question will be asked us  
How often we have come;  
Although we oft have wandered,  
It is our Father's home.

4. O all-embracing Mercy,  
O ever-open Door,  
What should we do without Thee  
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.

### **Invocation**

P We worship today in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C ♪ **Amen.**

### **Confession & Absolution**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C ♪ **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord

C ♪ **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sins.**

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

P & C **O most merciful God, who has given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace**

**we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the sons of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

**C ♪Amen.**

### **The Kyrie**

**C ♪Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

### **The Salutation**

P The Lord be with you

**C ♪And with thy spirit.**

### **The Collect for the Day**

P Let us pray..... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C ♪Amen**

### **The First Lesson – Isaiah 12:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>You 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. <sup>2</sup>“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.” <sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup>And 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. <sup>5</sup>“Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. <sup>6</sup>Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

## Psalm of the Day – Psalm 32

<sup>1</sup>Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
**whose sin is covered.**

<sup>2</sup>Blessèd is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,  
**and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

<sup>3</sup>For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
**through my groaning all day long.**

<sup>4</sup>For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
**my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup>I acknowledged my sin to you,  
**and I did not cover my iniquity;**

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"  
**and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

<sup>6</sup>Therefore 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.**

<sup>7</sup>You are a hiding place for me;  
**you preserve me from trouble;**  
**you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

<sup>8</sup>I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
**I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

<sup>9</sup>Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
**which must be curbed with bit and bridle,**  
**or it will not stay near you.**

<sup>10</sup>Many are the sorrows of the wicked,  
**but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in**  
**the Lord.**

<sup>11</sup>Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous,  
**and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

## **The Second Lesson – 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

<sup>16</sup>From 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. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## **Verse of the Day – Luke 15:22a, 24a**

The father said to his servants, “This my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.”

## **The Gospel – Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” <sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: . . .

“There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>And 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. <sup>13</sup>Not 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. <sup>14</sup>And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>“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! <sup>18</sup>I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ <sup>20</sup>And 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. <sup>21</sup>And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>But 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. <sup>23</sup>And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup>“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup>And 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.’ <sup>28</sup>But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup>but 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. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup>And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

## **Confession of Faith** ***Apostle’s Creed***

**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 Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; 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 #524**

#### ***In Thee, Lord, have I Put My Trust***

1. In Thee, Lord, have I put my trust;  
Leave me not helpless in the dust,  
Let me not be confounded.  
Let in Thy Word My faith, O Lord,  
Be always firmly grounded.
2. Bow down Thy gracious ear to me  
And hear my cries and prayers to Thee,  
Haste Thee for my protection;  
For woes and fear Surround me here.  
Help me in mine affliction.
3. My God and Shield, now let Thy power  
Be unto me a mighty tower  
Whence bravely I defend me  
Against the foes That round me close.  
O Lord, assistance lend me.
4. Thou art my Strength, my Shield, my Rock,  
My Fortress that withstands each shock,



My Help, my Life, my Treasure.  
Whate'er the rod, Thou art my God;  
Naught can resist Thy pleasure.  
5. The world for me has falsely set  
Full many a secret snare and net  
To tempt me and to harm me.  
Lord, make them fail, Do Thou prevail,  
Let their disguise not charm me.

6. With Thee, Lord, have I cast my lot;  
O faithful God, forsake me not,  
To Thee my soul commending.  
Lord, be my Stay, Lead Thou the way  
Now and when life is ending.

7. All honor, praise, and majesty  
To Father, Son, and Spirit be,  
Our God forever glorious,  
In whose rich grace We'll run our race  
Till we depart victorious.

### **Sermon Text – 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

#### **Sermon**

#### ***Jesus Christ Has Reconciled Us to the Father***

#### **Offertory**

♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit.

#### **Offering of Thankful Hearts**

#### **Prayer of the Church**

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.



P: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love. Give us a proper knowledge of the evil we have done in Your sight. Move us to confess our offenses against You, and justify us with Your holy absolution.

**1. In silent pain the eternal Son  
Hangs derelict and still;  
In darkened day His work is done,  
Fulfilled, His Father's will. ...**

P: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers for all who cry out to You for mercy, healing and help [*including* \_\_\_\_\_]. Deliver them according to Your will and, as You have made them a new creation in Christ, keep them mindful of the day when sorrow and sickness will be no more.

**Uplifted for the world to see  
He hangs in strangest victory,  
For in His body on the tree  
He carries all our ill.**

P: Everlasting Father, although this world is passing away due to sin, we pray that You would preserve Your creation for our provision until You usher in Your new creation.

**2. He died that we might die to sin  
And live for righteousness;  
The earth is stained to make us clean  
And bring us into peace. ...**

P: Father of mercy, remember Your baptized children who have left Your household and departed from the faith. Call them to repentance according to Your gracious will. Remember parents, grandparents and all who mourn their departure. Sustain them in faithful patience to wait and pray.

**For peace He came and met its cost;  
He gave Himself to save the lost;  
He loves us to the uttermost  
And paid for our release.**

P: Holy God, You delight in truth in the inward being and teach us wisdom in the secret heart. Give to our pastors every good gift as Your ambassadors, that we may grow in faith and hope.

**3. For strife He came to bring a sword,  
The truth to end all lies;  
To rule in us, our patient Lord,  
Until all evil dies: ...**

P: Almighty God, in Christ You reconciled the world to Yourself. Watch over our nation and all whom You have placed in authority. Give them wisdom and prudence, that Your people might live in peace and freely make known the message of reconciliation.

**For in His hand He holds the stars,  
His voice shall speak to end our wars,  
And those who love Him see His scars  
And look into his eyes.**

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 the sake of **\*please stand\*** Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

### **The 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.**

### **The Benediction**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you,  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.  
C ♪ **Amen, Amen, Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn #324**

#### ***Jesus Sinners Doth Receive***

1. Jesus sinners doth receive;  
Oh, may all this saying ponder  
Who in sin's delusions live  
And from God and heaven wander!  
Here is hope for all who grieve--  
Jesus sinners doth receive.
2. We deserve but grief and shame,  
Yet His words, rich grace revealing,  
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim.  
Here their ills have perfect healing  
Who with humble hearts believe--  
Jesus sinners doth receive.
3. Sheep that from the fold did stray  
No true shepherd e'er forsaketh:  
Weary souls that lost their way  
Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh  
In His arms that they may live--

Jesus sinners doth receive.

4. Come, ye sinners, one and all,  
Come, accept His invitation;  
Come, obey His gracious call,  
Come and take His free salvation!  
Firmly in these words believe:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

5. I, a sinner, come to Thee  
With a penitent confession;  
Savior, mercy show to me  
Grant for all my sins remission.  
Let these words my soul relieve:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

6. Oh, how blest it is to know;  
Were as scarlet my transgression,  
It shall be as white as snow  
By Thy blood and bitter Passion:  
For these words I now believe:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

7. Now my conscience is at peace,  
From the Law I stand acquitted;  
Christ hath purchased my release  
And my every sin remitted.  
Naught remains my soul to grieve,--  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

8. Jesus sinners doth receive.  
Also I have been forgiven;  
And when I this earth must leave,  
I shall find an open heaven.  
Dying, still to Him I cleave--  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

**Silent Prayer**

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