



If you are worshipping with us for the first time, welcome!

Our worship service follows a basic order: We gather and center ourselves with song, praise, and prayer. We hear God's Word, from scripture and through preaching and hymns. We celebrate Christ's holy meal, where we are assured of God's love for us, and we are sent by God's spirit back out into the world, fed and forgiven.

Our worship throughout Lent is pared down with more space for silence, reflection, and prayer. We add the pleas from the Kyrie (Lord, have mercy) and the image of the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Introduction to the Day

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

The 4th Sunday in Lent

Today's worship service uses the red hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, found in the pews.

Prelude

Barb Regent

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Chimes

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Please remain seated.

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

Amen

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for confession and self-examination.

Holy One,

**we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.
Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you.
Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again
of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you,
and all who call out to God shall be saved.

In Jesus, God comes to you again and again
and gathers you under wings of love.

In † Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.

God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in
love. **Amen**

You are invited to stand.

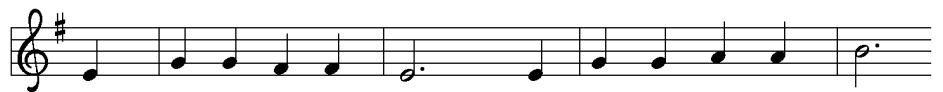
**Gathering Hymn ELW #334,
Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery, Verses 1, 2, 3, and
Lent 4**

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it. And bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Luke 15:1-10

A reading from the gospel of Luke.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

The first lesson appointed for today, Joshua 5:9-12, is not read in worship. Instead, we hear the first two of Jesus' "lost" parables from Luke 15, setting the scene for the "Lost Father, Lost Son, and Lost Brother" in today's gospel reading.

Psalm 32 contains many images related to Israel's liberation through Passover. The great waters did not overwhelm us (v. 6). We are guided by God (v. 8). At today's feast, we rejoice in God's mercy (v. 11). Walter Brueggemann writes this psalm concludes that "for the living of a full life, there is nothing like being forgiven."

³So he told them this parable: ⁴Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 32 (sung)



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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¹Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the Lord im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile! R**

³While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my
guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then
you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you
in | time of trouble;**

**when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach
them.**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

⁸**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you
should go;**

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

Young people are called forward for an age-specific reflection.

As we "bury the Alleluia," our Lenten acclamation uses the theme of God's character as described in the Hebrew Bible—"Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

I will guide you | with my eye.

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you."

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;**

but mercy embraces those who trust | in the Lord.

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

A reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Time

You are invited to stand.

Gospel Acclamation



Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this [last] parable: ^{11b}“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout 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 to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up 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 like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then 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 slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ELW #606, *Our Father, We Have Wandered*

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



Prayers of Intercession

In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness and bears the wounds of the world. Therefore, let us be bold as we pray, trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

After each petition is read, name your specific prayers for the petition aloud or in the silence of your hearts.

We pray for the church:

Add your prayers for its leaders, mission, and unity.

Turn our hearts toward our neighbors in love and toward the world in mercy. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

We pray for the earth:

Name your prayers for creation.

Bring new life from decay and repair what has been damaged from misuse or neglect.

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

We lift up in prayer:

For all in crisis as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues; For those wrestling with Long Covid, for Covid researchers, for all those preparing now for the rise of future variants; For our Jewish siblings, recently having celebrated Purim.

Dick Voegeli; Kathy Imp; Dick Kaquatosh; John Imp; Jan Rinderle; Pat (cousin of Donna Babilus); Lindsay Pelaez (niece of Tim and Katie Schmidt); Betty Wing; Joani Bettin; Joyce Weinert; ^{SEP}Darlene Witkowiak; Bob Bauer; ^{SEP}Keith (Sandy Eigner's brother-in-law); Bill (friend of the Lazaris family); Jeremy (nephew of Tom Nowakowski); Karen (Sandy Ringwall's sister); Susan (daughter of Darlene Witkowiak); Caroline (daughter of Jill Lindberg); Scott and Debbie (family of Margaret Duris); Jerry Pritcher (friend of Crystal Januchowski); Shelby (friend of Crystal); and the Daniels family, specifically Taylor.

We pray for the nations:

Name your prayers for countries and conflicts and peoples.

Heal all lands afflicted by sins of greed, pride, and violence, that your ways of peacemaking and unity may prevail throughout the world. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who are in need, especially those we love.

Name your prayers for healing and wholeness

Send your compassion to those who are weighed down by sickness, grief, or guilt, that they might receive new life and the encouragement of your steadfast love.

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

We pray for this assembly:

Name your prayers for Adoration and the faith of our partners and community.

Guide us through this time of Lent, that all we do would spring from your mercy, revealing the treasure of your presence.

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

With thanksgiving we remember all who have died in your mercy.

Name those saints who have recently died and those important to our faith and lives.

Strengthen us to face our mortality with humility, and to trust in your promise of resurrection.

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

O loving God, you know the needs of all the world.

By your Spirit, grant that we—having turned to you in prayer—now might turn to one another in peace.

Help us tend and keep what you have made, and love our neighbor with the love of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*All are welcome at
Christ's table, and at
Adoration!*

*Jesus himself welcomes all
to the Lord's Supper.*



Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Preparation Prayer

Let us pray. **God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide:
Together with rivers and seas, wells and springs, we bless and magnify you. You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock.
We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

Words of Institution

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.
Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.
Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.
Amen

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

The Lamb of God, or Agnus Dei, comes from references in John 1:29 and the book of Revelation. In scripture, Jesus is often described as a young lamb not out of affection, but for the sacrificial and atoning nature of Christ’s death. Christ’s “Lamb Power” also stands in opposition to the “Lion” of the Roman Empire, who will crucify him.

Children are welcome to come forward, either to receive a blessing or to receive Holy Communion.

Here at Adoration, we practice “Open Communion,” which means we welcome anyone to receive bread and wine, Christ’s body and blood, the grace-filled gift of God. Jesus loves everyone and welcomes everyone to his table of grace and peace.

We come forward to receive the elements today. Bring your offering and place it in the basket near the baptismal font. Please receive the elements and take them back to your pew before eating and drinking.

Refuse may be placed in the baskets as you depart worship.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Invitation to Communion

Lamb of God

Please wait to come forward for Holy Communion until we have completed singing the “Lamb of God.”



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Communion

Communion Music *(Background Music Only)*

ELW #500, Now We Remain

Post-Communion Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:

May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Today's Lay Leaders

Lector: Wendy Haas

*Ushers: Tom & Jeanette
Nowakowski*

Altar Guild: Deanna Posig

*Flowers: John & Kathy Imp
– In Honor of John's 70th
Birthday*

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***Join us for Midweek
Lenten worship each
Wednesday at 6:15
p.m. as we hear the
story of God through
Daniel Erlander's
Manna and Mercy!***

Benediction

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn ELW #779, *Amazing Grace***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude***Adoration Lutheran Church***

A Congregation of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

3840 West Edgerton Avenue - Greenfield, WI 53221

Phone: 414.281.0414 www.adorationlc.com

adorationlutheran@gmail.com

The Rev. Matthew Schlake-Kruse, Pastor

Cell: (920) 484-8050 pastormattadoration@gmail.com

Barbara Regent, Worship Coordinator

Crystal A. Januchowski, Office Manager

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

*If you have a need that falls outside of these days/hours,
please send an email or call the main number.*

Adoration is a Reconciling in Christ congregation, open and affirming to people of “*all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions*” or “*LGBTQIA+*.” We strive that this can be a safe church space, especially for those who have been harmed by religion.