

The Fourth Sunday in Lent |  
March 30, 2025

**Your  
anger  
turned away,  
that YOU  
might  
comfort me**

**Isaiah 12:1**

## HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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### **About the Cover**

*Our sin merits the anger and wrath of God. But His strict warning of judgment against sin is meant to lead us to repentance. God wants to show grace and mercy to sinners so that we may believe and receive forgiveness. Christ willingly received the wrath of God for all sin in our place when He died on the cross. He did this so that, like the prodigal son, we may know our heavenly Father's eternal embrace of comfort  
(see Luke 15:11-32).*

*Since **Holy Communion** presupposes a "common unity" of faith and doctrine among those who participate together in this Sacrament, we ask that those who desire to commune with us be confirmed members of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation. Those not able to come to the chancel may speak to the pastor or an elder to commune in their pew. If you have not previously communed here, please speak to the Pastor or an elder. If you are not communing but would like to come to the chancel for a blessing, please kneel or stand with your arms crossed over your chest.*

✠ The Fourth Sunday in Lent ✠  
March 30, 2025

**Hymn of Invocation:** *“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”*

*LSB 803*

1 Joyful, joyful we adore Thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow’rs before Thee,  
Praising Thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
Drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day.

2 All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heav’n reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,  
Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flow’ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

△ 3 Thou art giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living,  
Ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Fountainhead of love divine:  
Joyful, we Thy heav’n inherit!  
Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

*Stand*

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

**Invocation**

*LSB 203*

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

**C** Amen.

## Exhortation

*LSB 203*

**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.

## Confession of Sins

*LSB 203*

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

## Absolution

*LSB 203*

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Introit

*Psalm 51:2–6; antiphon: v. 1*



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

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

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

**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.**

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

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

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

## Kyrie

*LSB 204*

**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and  
with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For those who labor, those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

## **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

*LSB 205*

**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*

*(The Lord God has become my salvation.)*

<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.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Hebrews 12:2*



[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,\*  
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,\*  
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

## Epistle

*2 Corinthians 5:16–21*

*(If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.)*

<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.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Verse

*Luke 15:22a, 24a*



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



*(My son was dead and now he is alive again.)*

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

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<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.’”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.



## Nicene Creed

*LSB 206*

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin

**Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

**Hymn of the Day:** *“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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.

**Sermon:** *"The Father Who Can't Stop Giving"*

*Lk 15:1-3; 11-32*

*Stand*

**Prayer of the Church**  
**Preface**

*LSB 207*  
*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** With high delight and a grateful heart, we rejoice at all that our Savior has accomplished to reconcile us to You, holy Father, almighty Lord, everlasting God, and we pray You to keep us in this grace and favor all the days of our lives. Living in the shadow of the cross and joyfully proclaiming all Your mercy to those who do not yet know You, we celebrate Your goodness together with the saints of old, the angels and archangels, and all

who dwell in Your presence, evermore praising You and singing:

## Sanctus

*LSB 208*

**☩ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your  
name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

*LSB 209*

**☐** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for from the rebellion of Adam to the fulfillment of Your promise in the gift of Your own Son to be our Savior and Redeemer, You have shown forth Your forbearance and Your mercy. We give You thanks that You have so graciously shown to us a Father's heart, restoring us as Your children through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and restoring to our hearts the holy joy of Your presence. Living as Your own children by Baptism and faith, and acknowledging Your undeserved kindness to us sinners, we gather here in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and at His bidding, to receive the fruits of His redeeming work in this Holy Supper.

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

## Lord's Prayer

*LSB 209*

**☩ 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

LSB 209

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## Pax Domini

LSB 209

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

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 210

**C** 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*Sit*

## Distribution

LSB 210

## Distribution 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.

**Distribution Hymn:** *“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”*      *LSB 636*

- 1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,  
Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,  
Come into the daylight's splendor,  
There with joy your praises render.  
Bless the One whose grace unbounded  
This amazing banquet founded;  
He, though heav'nly, high, and holy,  
Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.
- 2 Hasten as a bride to meet Him,  
And with loving rev'ence greet Him.  
For with words of life immortal

He is knocking at your portal.  
Open wide the gates before Him,  
Saying, as you there adore Him:  
Grant, Lord, that I now receive You,  
That I nevermore will leave You.

3 He who craves a precious treasure  
Neither cost nor pain will measure;  
But the priceless gifts of heaven  
God to us has freely given.  
Though the wealth of earth were proffered,  
None could buy the gifts here offered:  
Christ's true body, for you riven,  
And His blood, for you once given.

4 Now in faith I humbly ponder  
Over this surpassing wonder  
That the bread of life is boundless  
Though the souls it feeds are countless:  
With the choicest wine of heaven  
Christ's own blood to us is given.  
Oh, most glorious consolation,  
Pledge and seal of my salvation!

5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,  
Truest friend, and dearest treasure,  
Peace beyond all understanding,  
Joy into all life expanding:  
Humbly now, I bow before You;  
Love incarnate, I adore You;  
Worthily let me receive You  
And, so favored, never leave You.

6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,  
Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,  
Jesus, joy of my desiring,  
Fount of life, my soul inspiring:  
At Your feet I cry, my maker,  
Let me be a fit partaker



Of this blessed food from heaven,  
For our good, Your glory, given.

7 Lord, by love and mercy driven,  
You once left Your throne in heaven  
On the cross for me to languish  
And to die in bitter anguish,  
To forego all joy and gladness  
And to shed Your blood in sadness.  
By this blood redeemed and living,  
Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,  
Let me gladly here obey You.  
By Your love I am invited,  
Be Your love with love requited;  
By this Supper let me measure,  
Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.  
Through the gift of grace You give me  
As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

*Stand*

**Nunc Dimittis**

*LSB 211*

**☐ 1 O Lord, now let Your servant  
Depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory  
Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles  
Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people,  
Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father,  
All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit,  
Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning,  
Is now, shall ever be,**

**God's triune name resounding  
Through all eternity.**

**Post-Communion Collect**

*LSB 212*

**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**

*LSB 212*

**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.**

**Hymn to Depart: "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.

#### **Acknowledgments**

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**THANK YOU TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH THE SERVICE**

**Preacher:** Rev. Gary Wright

**Organist:** Amanda Hahn

**Elders: 10:45 A.M.:** Scott Paller ~ Jeff Welvaert

**Acolyte:** Hans Kretschmar

**Videographers:** Rick Serre, Max Serre, Alex Serre

**THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES...GOD WILLING**

**SUNDAY, MAR 30**

9:30 A.M.

Bible Class ~ SS

10:45 A.M.

Divine Service

**TUESDAY**

5:30 P.M.

Confirmation Class

**WEDNESDAY**

9:00 A.M.

Bible Class

10:15 A.M.

Fitness Class

10:40 A.M.

Fellowship Hour

5:00 P.M.

Dinner~Evangelism

5:30 P.M.

Choir Practice

6:30 P.M.

Lenten Service

**SUNDAY, APR 6**

9:30 A.M.

Bible Class ~ SS

10:45 A.M.

Divine Service