# **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Missouri Synod



# The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025
Divine Service, Setting Three – LSB 184
8:00 & 10:30\*am, 5:00 pm
\*livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube

# **AS WE GATHER**

Traditionally, the Fourth Sunday in Lent has been known as Laetare Sunday, from the Latin Introit *Laetare Jerusalem*: "Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her" (Isaiah 66:10). Though still in the penitential season of Lent, this Sunday is a relaxation from normal Lenten discipline. Flowers may appear, and ministers may wear rose-colored vestments as a lighter shade of violet.

Today's service is inspired by the Old Testament Reading of Isaiah, the First Song of Isaiah: "Sing praises to the LORD, for He has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth" (Isaiah 12:5). Today we take that admonition literally as not only the liturgy is sung but also the Readings are expanded with hymn stanzas. "Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel" (Isaiah 12:6). In the joy of the faithful father in Jesus' parable of the prodigal son, the forgiveness of our sin and reconciliation with God as His baptized sons and daughters, well, it just makes you want to sing! So we shall!

# +++GATHERING+++

Thank you to Kyle Johnson for joining us

on cello at

8:00 a.m.

service today.

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** – 8:00 am – *Allemande* from *Cello Suite No. 1* (J. S. Bach) 10:30 am – *God Loved the World So That He Gave* (arr. Healey Willan)



INVOCATION

ightharpoonup In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. lacktree Amen.

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- 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,
- and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ♣ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

# +++ WORD +++

# INTROIT - Psalm 51:2-6; antiphon: v. 1

Leader: 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!

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



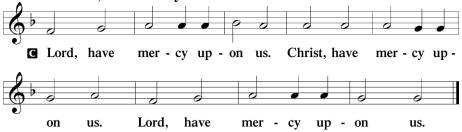
Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight,\* so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your | judgment.

Leader: 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.







#### SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And with thy spirit.
- **P** Let us pray... one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

## FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 12:1-6 – "The LORD GOD is my strength and my song."

<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.

5"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.
- Thanks be to God.

**GRADUAL** – Sung by congregation. – Hebrews 12:2



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

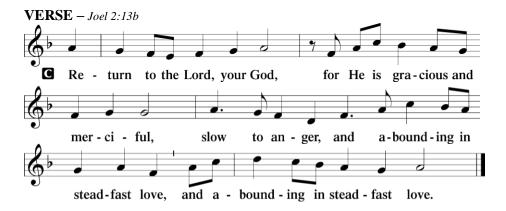
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- | ing the shame,\* and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

## **EPISTLE** – **2 Corinthians 5:16-21** – 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.



## **HOLY GOSPEL** – **Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32** – The Parable of the Prodigal Son

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

Glo-ry be to Thee, 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.'"



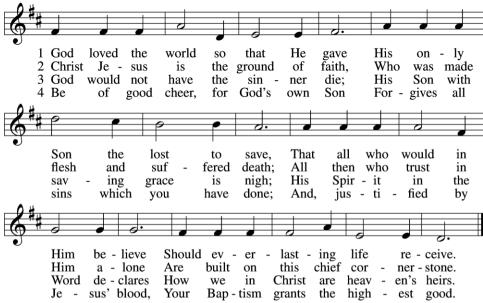
#### **NICENE CREED**

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.

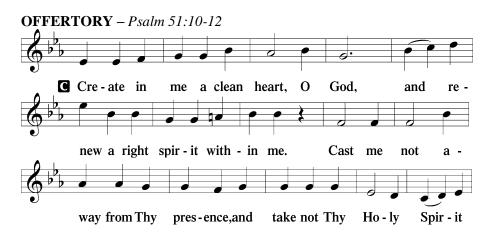




5 If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer: Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith. △ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One! To You, O blessèd Trinity, Be praise now and eternally! Text and tune: Public domain

# SERMON – Nothing But The Best – Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**OFFERING** – *I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table* (arr. Charles Ore)





tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

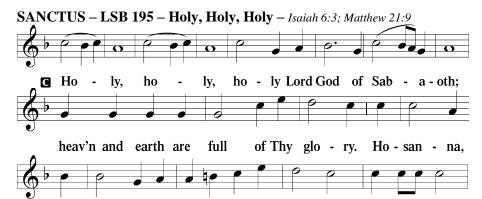
#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- **A** Let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- **A** ...one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

# ++ + SACRAMENT +++

#### **PREFACE**

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And with thy spirit.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **C** We lift them up unto the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
- **C** It is meet and right so to do.
- **P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary...evermore praising you and singing:



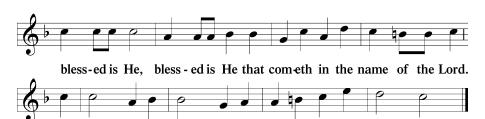
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,

## For Guests and Visitors Desiring the Sacrament

As a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, we confess, in accord with the Scriptures, that in this sacred meal Jesus Himself is *truly* present to forgive our sin and strengthen our faith.

Participation in this meal indicates that you believe, have been baptized, and have been taught according to our Lord's command and are in doctrinal agreement with this confession.

- If you are visiting from outside the Lutheran Church or are new to the faith, we welcome you to come to the altar with arms crossed to receive a blessing.
- If you desire to receive instruction for the Lord's Supper, please speak with one of our pastors.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

## LORD'S PRAYER

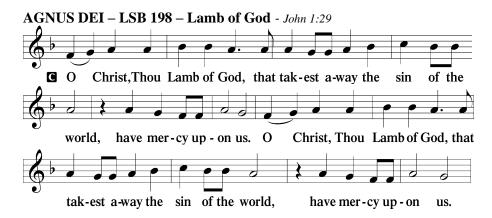
Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

#### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

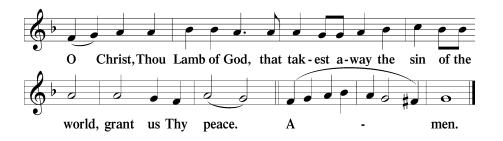
#### **PAX DOMINI – The Peace of the Lord –** *John 20:19*

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

C Amen.



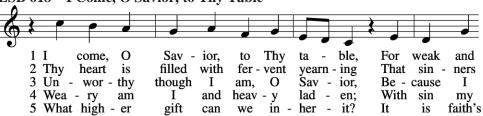




#### **DISTRIBUTION**

**Anthem (8:00 a.m.)** – *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (arr. Roland E. Martin) Text at LSB 686.

## LSB 618 – I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table









Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high-est good! Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001557 Tune: Public domain

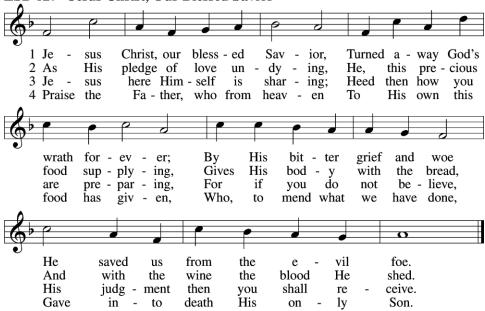
#### **Distribution Notes:**

If you need **gluten-free wafers**, please let one of the pastors know.

**Non-alcoholic** grape juice, containing *a trace amount of wine*, is available in the center of the tray.





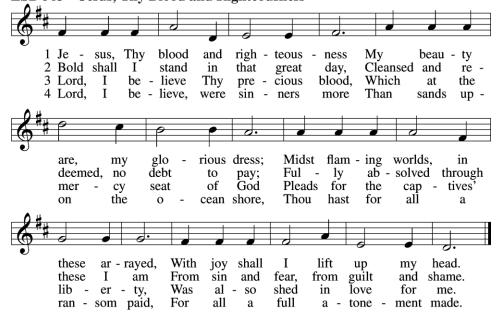


- 5 Firmly hold with faith unshaken That this food is to be taken By the sick who are distressed, By hearts that long for peace and rest.
- 6 Agony and bitter labor Were the cost of God's high favor; Do not come if you suppose You need not Him who died and rose.
- 7 Christ says: "Come, all you that labor, And receive My grace and favor: Those who feel no pain or ill Need no physician's help or skill.

- 8 "For what purpose was My dying If not for your justifying? And what use this precious food If you yourself were pure and good?"
- 9 If your heart this truth professes And your mouth your sin confesses, You will be your Savior's guest, Be at His banquet truly blest.
- 10 Let this food your faith so nourish That its fruit of love may flourish And your neighbor learn from you How much God's wondrous love can do.

  Text (sts. 3, 6, 8, 10): © 1980 and 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001557 Text (sts. 1–2, 4–5, 7, 9) and tune: Public domain

## LSB 563 – Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness



5 When from the dust of death I rise To claim my mansion in the skies, This then shall be my only plea: Jesus hath lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee, Whose boundless mercy hath for me, For me, and all Thy hands have made, An everlasting ransom paid.

Text and tune: Public domain

# POST-COMMUNION SONG - LSB 767 - Jesus, Remember Me

Sung as the distribution comes to a close and repeated as needed.



Text and tune: © 1981 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, France, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001557

#### **THANKSGIVING**

- **P** O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.
- and His mercy endureth forever.
- **P** Let us pray... one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

#### BENEDICTION

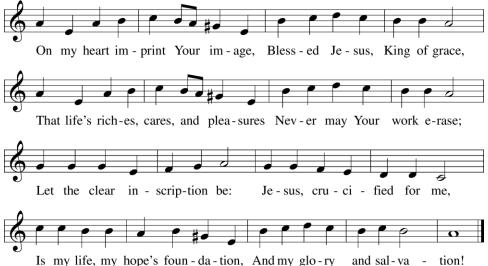
- The Lord bless you and keep you.

  The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

  The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.
- C Amen.

Text and tune: Public domain

# HYMN TO DEPART - LSB 422 - On My Heart Imprint Your Image



Liturgy and Hymns reprinted from Lutheran Service Builder and used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001557.

Scripture – from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

#### SILENT PRAYER / ANNOUNCEMENTS

**POST-SERVICE MUSIC** – 8:00 am – *Courante* from *Cello Suite No. 1* (J. S. Bach) 10:30 am – *On My Heart Imprint Your Image* (arr. Kenneth T. Kosche)

+++

## TUESDAY, April 1

9:00am **Playgroup** 

9:30am Chinese Bible Study (Grand Hall)

1:00pm Fellowship Ministry Team

5:15pm First Steps in Music





WEDNESDAY, April 2
Midweek Lenten worship (see schedule on back page)
7:45pm Senior Choir (sanctuary)

THURSDAY, April 3 6:30pm Elders



FRIDAY, April 4 (7pm) Set-up SATURDAY, April 5 (10am) Meal Packing Event Sign up for both at <u>HoosiersAgainstHunger.org</u>.



Men (age 18+) – Join our 2025 Spring/Summer Softball Team! All levels of experience are welcome. Sign up on the clipboard in the church office.

Contact Mark Riggins (<u>markriggins@hotmail.com</u>) or check your Friday@Faith email for more information.



# Spirit Camp registration is FULL!

If you would like to be put on the waitlist, email <a href="mailto:SpiritCamp@FaithBtown.org">SpiritCamp@FaithBtown.org</a>.

To sign up as a **Servanteen or adult volunteer** visit FaithBtown.org or http://tinyurl.com/SpiritCamp2025



The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on **Sunday, April 13**. Donations of **individually-wrapped candy** may be left in the marked bin in the narthex. Thank you!





SATURDAY, April 26 (5:00pm) Confirmation Examination and Fellowship SUNDAY, April 27 (10:30am) Rite of Confirmation

+++

**Do you receive our weekly announcements?**Subscribe to **FaithBtown News** for weekly announcements and updates.







Wednesdays – March 12, 19, 26; April 2, 9

Midweek Lenten Fellowship & Worship:

Noon Worship 🕂 12:30pm Meal

5:45pm **Meal** 

→ 7pm **Worship** 

☐ Personal confession/absolution in the pastors' studies ☐ 30 mins before & immediately after each service

+++

# **Holy Week**

# Palm/Passion Sunday – April 13

8 & 10:30 am Procession with Palms

**Divine Service** with Holy Communion

11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt

5 pm **Divine Service** with Holy Communion

## Maundy Thursday - April 17

Noon & 7 pm **Worship** with Holy Communion

# Good Friday - April 18

Noon Stations of the Cross

8 pm **Tenebrae** (Service of Darkness)

444

# The Resurrection of our Lord

Easter Vigil - April 19

8 pm at Faith

# Easter Sunday – April 20

8 & 10:30 am **Festival Worship** (Holy Comm. & special music)

9:15 am Easter Breakfast

5 pm Worship with Holy Communion