

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 27th, 2022



Forgiving Father

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661



MID-WEEK LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

begins Wednesday, MARCH 9th and continues every Wednesday from 7-8 pm until Easter.

Led by Pastor Todd in the church sanctuary
Materials will be provided ahead of time.

**"LIFT HIGH THE CROSS -- Jesus' Focus For Our Freedom:
A Lenten Journey Through Matthew's Gospel account of the Passion."**

Pastor Todd's mid-week (March 23rd) message. https://youtu.be/p8_erwVw-Dg

Women's Bible Study: Have you ever thought about the central role the table plays in the lives of Christians? The Bible is full of references about food, drink, eating, and fellowship. Jesus knew the power of the table and used it to teach and embody truth about himself. When we sit down for a meal with others, we get to know them better while we nourish our bodies and souls. In this seven-session series, complete with simple yet delicious recipes, Bianca Juárez Olthoff leads us through Jesus' interactions around the table, inspiring us to invite people into our homes, open the Word of God, and break bread together. We hope you will consider joining us in person, here at the church on **Friday evenings at 7:00 p.m. (April 8, April 22)** or watch this study entitled **"Table Talks"** yourself at rightnowmedia.org.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION: Nine youth will publicly confess their Baptismal faith during our Palm Sunday, April 10, 9:00 am. Holy Communion service. A time of refreshments & friendly gathering will happen downstairs in between the services to meet & support our young people. **11 a.m.** remains Traditional Palm Sunday Service with communion.

Easter Pancake Breakfast: Please join us Sunday, April 17 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

A sign-up sheet is in the narthex to those who wish to attend. Please make the extra effort to sign up in the Narthex or call the Church with your intentions or email secretary@christlutheransc.ca
Thank you!

LWML-Canada, Ontario District, Niagara Zone District Convention at Grace Lutheran Church (accommodation at Niagara College) on June 9 to 11th, 2022. More details will follow. If at all possible, please plan to attend. It is a wonderful time to get to know and renew friendships with our sisters in Christ from around the province! It is a time to focus on **"Joy, Patience, Prayer"** which is the theme of the Convention. (Romans 12:12) *Our Seminary Student Eduardo Farias and his wife Daniella will be our wonderful entertainment for Friday evening!*



THE MARY MARTHA is collecting items for Medical Missions that they will take to the Ingathering at the LWML District Convention this coming June, we invite everyone to help by adding items to the container sitting on the Narthex Table. Below is a list of supplies which Medical Missions use on an ongoing basis. Please ensure that you check expire dates to ensure that the dates are well into the future:

- Antibiotic Ointment (Polysporin, etc.)
- Vicks VapoRub
- Tylenol, Advil, Acetaminophen for Adults and Children
- Disposable Gloves
- Vitamins for Adults and Children
- Zinc Oxide/Diaper Rash Cream
- Antihistamines – Benadryl
- Q-Tips
- Voltarin (Arthritic Ointment)
- Band Aids/Adhesive Tape
- ACE Elastic Bandage

Monetary Gifts made out to "LWML Ontario Distric Medical Missions". Everything appreciated with Thanks

LUTHERAN CHURCH - CANADA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING:

Lutheran Young people from across Canada will be gathering together this **July 15-19, 2022 in Winnipeg, Manitoba**. The theme for the gathering is "**IN NOT OF**" from Philippians 3:20 "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ." Information packages are available from Louise. Save the date, check out the website at <http://www.lccnyg.ca>, start following the Facebook and Instagram pages and check out this fun announcement from Pastor Glenn Worcester
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68gXVYofMY>

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or - (--)</u>
Current:	233,400.00	4,488.46	1,935.00	46,594.95	(7,266.59)
LCC Missions	20,000.00	384.62	90.00	3,180.50	(1,434.88)
Property Improvement:			120.00	1,512.50	

EXTRA HANDS & BODIES NEEDED: we continually need extra people assisting in our services. With offering both 9 am and 11 am services, we are finding ourselves short staffed of volunteers. Particularly for the late service, we need your help in the following areas:

- 1) Greeting of Worshippers at entrance and Covid Protocol Preparation of our PowerPoint worship services [editing the Google Doc Slides, can be done at home]
- 2) Operation of the PowerPoint during church services [training with written instruction will be provided]
- 3) Taking a turn preparing the Altar for Communion and seasonal colour cloth changes [Altar Guild]
- 4) Ushering people to pew seats and directing people to line up for communion
- 5) Lighting and extinguishing of altar candles

Recording services using newly installed equipment [training with written instructions will be provided]
We pray that you consider helping. We need participation from all ages. Should you wish more information about what is involved, please speak to Judy Slingerland, Tom Kuhl or Pastor Todd.

GREETERS: - What a wonderful way to get to know everyone in the congregation and at the same time enjoy a little fellowship! Greet members at the door, encourage hand sanitizing and provide them with a copy of the Bulletin and Worship Folder. It's as easy as that! A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board and everyone is encouraged to sign up.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Here is the information to contact the Federal Members of Parliament in our area:

We, Christ Lutheran Church, St. Catharines are sponsoring the following refugees from Iraq:

Kareem Abadi Al Humaidi, and his wife Hamida, and sons Ameer (3), Asser (2)

Kareem is originally from Nasiriyah, Greece.

The family is presently living in Athens, Greece

We plan as a congregation to help them settle in St. Catharines,

We have raised the required support to look after them for one year.

They were issued an application number and a UCI number.

Dean Allison, Conservative Member of Parliament

Address: 4994 King St, Beamsville, ON L0R 1B0

Phone: (905) 563-7900

Email: dean.allison@parl.gc.ca

Chris Bittle- Liberal Member of Parliament, St. Catharines

Address: 61 Geneva St #1, St. Catharines, ON L2R 4M6

Phone: (905) 934-6767

email: Chris.Bittle@parl.gc.ca

Vance Badawey, Liberal Member of Parliament

Address: 136 East Main Street, Suite 103, Welland, Ontario L3B 3W6

Telephone: 905-788-2204

Email: Vance.Badawey@parl.gc.ca

Leslyn Lewis, Conservative Member of Parliament, Haldimand-Norfolk

Main office: 210-185 Robinson St., Simcoe, Ontario, N3Y 5L6

Telephone: 1-866-496-3400

Email: leslyn.lewis@parl.gc.ca

Pastor John Makey

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
SIMPLE COMMUNION

March 27, 2022 + 9 AM Worship

FIRST SONG:

“Amazing Grace”

**Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.**

**’Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear, and Grace, my fears relieved
How precious did that Grace appear, the hour I first believed.**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come
’Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far; And Grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord hath promised good to me, His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.**

John Newton, 1779, public domain

INVOCATION, CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joyful are those whose sins are forgiven,
whose wrongs are pardoned.

Joyful is the one whom the LORD does not accuse of doing wrong
and who is free from all deceit.

Ps. 32:1-2

Friends in Christ: let us confess our sins to God our Father, and ask Him to forgive us through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *[Brief prayerful silence]*

Lord God, our heavenly Father, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from You and have chased after our own sinful desires. We fail in love, neglect firm faithfulness and ignore Your truth. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In Your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again back to You, and uphold us by Your Spirit, so that we may love and serve You in newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God has promised forgiveness of sins to all who repent and turn to Him in faith. In the place of Christ and by His Holy Command, I therefore forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SPOKEN MERCY:

O Lord, Jesus Christ

Son of David, Son of the Living God,

Have mercy on us

And bless us with your peace. Amen.

We pray: Compassionate Father, You welcome the wayward and You embrace us all with Your mercy. By our Baptism clothe us with garments of grace, and feed us at the Table of Your Son, that we may show Your mercy and love; we pray this through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE READINGS:

The Old Testament: *Isaiah 12:1-6*

You will say on that day: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR ANTHEM:

"First Song of Isaiah

**Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in Him and not be afraid.
For The Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, And He will be my Saviour.**

**Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in Him and not be afraid.
For The Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, And He will be my Saviour.**

**Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing From the springs of salvation
And on that day you will say, Give thanks to The Lord And call upon His Name**

**Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in Him and not be afraid.
For The Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, And He will be my Saviour.**

**Make His deeds known among the peoples;¹
See that they remember that his Name is exalted
Sing the praises of The Lord, for He has done great things
And this is known in all the world.**

**Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in Him and not be afraid.
For The Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, And He will be my Saviour.**

**Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, Ring out your joy,
For the great One in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.
Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in Him and not be afraid.
For The Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
And He will be my Saviour. (repeat)**

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The Epistle: *2 Corinthians 5: 16-21*

[St. Paul writes:] From 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. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SPOKEN LENTEN GOSPEL VERSE:

Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful; slow, to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

The Holy Gospel: *St. Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 15th chapter: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he told them this parable: Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The 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. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But 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! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So 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. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But 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. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But 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. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But 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.'" This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE 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 the 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 worshipped 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.

GOSPEL SONG:

"Our Father, We Have Wandered"

"O Sacred Head" melody



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
 3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
 be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
 com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
 In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
 grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
 in glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, b. 1929
 Music: Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612; arr. J.S. Bach, 1685-1750
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HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN
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THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

God is our creator and our redeemer, our loving heavenly Father who patiently waits for his straying children to return home, sending his Son and Spirit to bring them back. So now we pray for the people of God and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, thank you for making us of the earth and of your breath - for forming us in your own image and likeness as your much-loved children. Grow our love for you and our trust in you so that we may be what you made us to be.

*Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Father, you hold the crucified arms of Jesus out to the world in welcoming embrace. Draw all who have lost connection with you away from the far country of unbelief and sin, and bring them home to your forgiveness and peace.

*Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Father, you provide a feast of saving word and life-giving sacrament to your church. Draw your people away from fields of ingratitude and self-righteousness, and bring us home to rejoice with every saved sinner, and to be reconciled to one another with words of apology and forgiveness.

*Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Father, you provide pastors and evangelists as ambassadors of Christ. Draw us to regard them from not from a human point of view, but to receive them as we would receive you. Strengthen our Synod and regional servants so that they and all pastors teach your church in truth and compassionately.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Father, you provide the earth as our inheritance, and the people of the earth as our brothers and sisters. Draw all people away from waste and abuse, and from jealousy and hatred. Keep the earth from upheaval and make it flourish. And restrain all wickedness and promote all goodness among its people.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Father, draw those who suffer away from the wilderness of trial and bring them home to your comfort and peace. Ease the burdens of *(insert names)* and others we know personally to be in want and whom we now name silently in our hearts... *(brief silence)*

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Holy and loving God, graciously hear our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE HOLY MEAL

HOLY HOLY HOLY

"Hosanna, Hosanna" Carl Tuttle © 1985 Mercy Pub.

1. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high -
2. Glo - ry, glo - ry, Glo - ry to the King of
est; Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high -
kings; Glo - ry, glo - ry, Glo - ry to the King of
est. Lord, we lift up Your name,
With hearts full of praise; Be ex - alt - ed, O
Lord my God, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life. At Your Word, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy, You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your Only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many. As we eat His Body and drink His Blood, give unto us, like Abraham our father, the faith to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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. 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 INSTITUTION:

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: "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, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you**

LAMB OF GOD

"The Lamb"

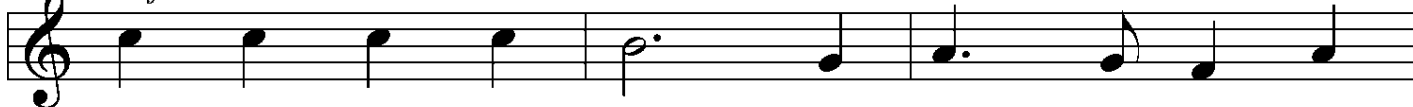


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

THE HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONGS: *"Let Us Break Bread Together"*

1. Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees;
when I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

2. Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees;

when I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

3. Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees;
when I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

African American Spiritual, Public domain

"When I Survey"

1. When I survey the wond'rous Cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest Gain I count but Loss,
And pour Contempt on all my Pride.

2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the Death of Christ my God:
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his Blood.

3. See from his Head, his Hands, his Feet,
Sorrow and Love flow mingled down!
Did ever such Love and Sorrow meet?
Or Thorns compose so rich a Crown?

5. Were the whole Realm of Nature mine,
That were a Present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my Soul, my Life, my All.

Isaac Watts, 1707, public domain: Hamburg Tune

<https://www.godtube.com/popular-hymns/when-i-survey-the-wondrous-cross/>

SONG OF SIMEON:

"In Peace, Lord"

Tune: "Our Father, By Whose Name"

**In peace, Lord, at Your Word, now let Your servant go;
For I have seen and heard, what all the earth must know.
Salvation for the world is here! And Israel's Light shines bright and clear
Upon the nations far and near.**

**Eternal praise and fame be to our God alone!
We proudly bear His name, proclaim what He has done!
For our redemption, full and free, To Father, Son and Spirit be,
All praise and thanks etern-ally.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

We pray: O Father, as You fed Your children with the True Manna, the Living Bread from Heaven, give unto us, we humbly pray You, that the Body and Blood of Your Son may be our support throughout our earthly pilgrimage, until we reach that land where there is neither hunger nor thirst, Your magnificent Heavenly Banquet; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour, + and give you peace.

Amen.

LAST SONG:

“How Great Thou Art”

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Refrain:

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

Refrain:

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, My God, how great thou art!

Refrain:

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

Stuart Hine & Carl Boberg, 1889 & 1920

http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/h/o/w/g/how_great_Thou_art.htm

LCMS HYMNAL SUPPLEMENT '98 COMMUNION

March 27, 2022 + 11 AM Service

OPENING HYMN:

"Just As I Am"

Just as I am - without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
-O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am - Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
-O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am - though toss'd about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
-O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am - Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
-O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

*Original Lyrics from Charlotte Elliot, 1835
<https://www.godtube.com/popular-hymns/just-as-i-am/>*

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,
O Lord, who could stand?
But with You there is forgiveness,
therefore, You are feared.

[Brief silence for prayerful reflection]

O Almighty God, merciful Father,

I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities, with which I have ever offended You, and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. 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.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you; and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Lord, have mer - cy on us; Christ, have mer - cy
on us; Lord, have mer - cy on us.

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The Lord be with you:

And also with you.

We pray-- Compassionate Father, You welcome the wayward and You embrace us all with Your mercy. By our Baptism clothe us with garments of grace, and feed us at the Table of Your Son, that we may show Your mercy and love; we pray this through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE WORD

The Old Testament: *Isaiah 12:1-6*

You will say on that day: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR ANTHEM:

"First Song of Isaiah

Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in Him and not be afraid.

For The Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, And He will be my Saviour.

Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in Him and not be afraid.

For The Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, And He will be my Saviour.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing From the springs of salvation

And on that day you will say, Give thanks to The Lord And call upon His Name

Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in Him and not be afraid.

For The Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, And He will be my Saviour.

Make His deeds known among the peoples;'

See that they remember that his Name is exalted

Sing the praises of The Lord, for He has done great things

And this is known in all the world.

Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in Him and not be afraid.

For The Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, And He will be my Saviour.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, Ring out your joy,

For the great One in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in Him and not be afraid.

For The Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,

And He will be my Saviour. (repeat)

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The Epistle: *2 Corinthians 5: 16-21*

[St. Paul writes:] From 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. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

LENTEN GOSPEL VERSE:



O sing ho-san- na, sing ho-san- na, sing out ho-san--na.



Christ came to serve and not to be served and



Lay down His own life, as pay—ment for all!



O sing ho-san- na, sing ho-san- na, sing out ho-san--na.

The Holy Gospel: *St. Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 15th chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he told them this parable: Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The 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. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But 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! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So 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. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But 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. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But 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. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But 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.'" This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

THE 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 the 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 worshipped 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Our Father, We Have Wandered" "O Sacred Head" melody



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, b. 1929
Music: Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; arr. J.S. Bach, 1685–1750
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HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN
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THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

God is our creator and our redeemer, our loving heavenly Father who patiently waits for his straying children to return home, sending his Son and Spirit to bring them back. So now we pray for the people of God and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, thank you for making us of the earth and of your breath - for forming us in your own image and likeness as your much-loved children. Grow our love for you and our trust in you so that we may be what you made us to be. *Lord in your mercy:* **hear our prayer.**

Father, you hold the crucified arms of Jesus out to the world in welcoming embrace. Draw all who have lost connection with you away from the far country of unbelief and sin, and bring them home to your forgiveness and peace.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Father, you provide a feast of saving word and life-giving sacrament to your church. Draw your people away from fields of ingratitude and self-righteousness, and bring us home to rejoice with every saved sinner, and to be reconciled to one another with words of apology and forgiveness.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Father, you provide pastors and evangelists as ambassadors of Christ. Draw us to regard them from not from a human point of view, but to receive them as we would receive you. Strengthen our Synod and regional servants so that they and all pastors teach your church in truth and compassionately.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Father, you provide the earth as our inheritance, and the people of the earth as our brothers and sisters. Draw all people away from waste and abuse, and from jealousy and hatred. Keep the earth from upheaval and make it flourish. And restrain all wickedness and promote all goodness among its people.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Father, draw those who suffer away from the wilderness of trial and bring them home to your comfort and peace. Ease the burdens of *(insert names)* and others we know personally to be in want and whom we now name silently in our hearts... *(brief silence)*

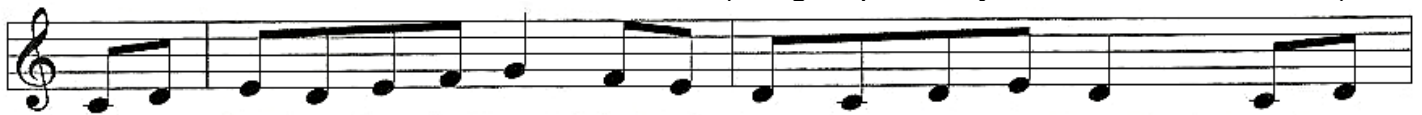
Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Holy and loving God, graciously hear our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Sung responsively: Tune: Thine The Amen)



May the Lo-rd be with you: **May the Lord re-main with you;** Lift your



hearts to God in praise: **To the Lord our hearts we raise!** Let us

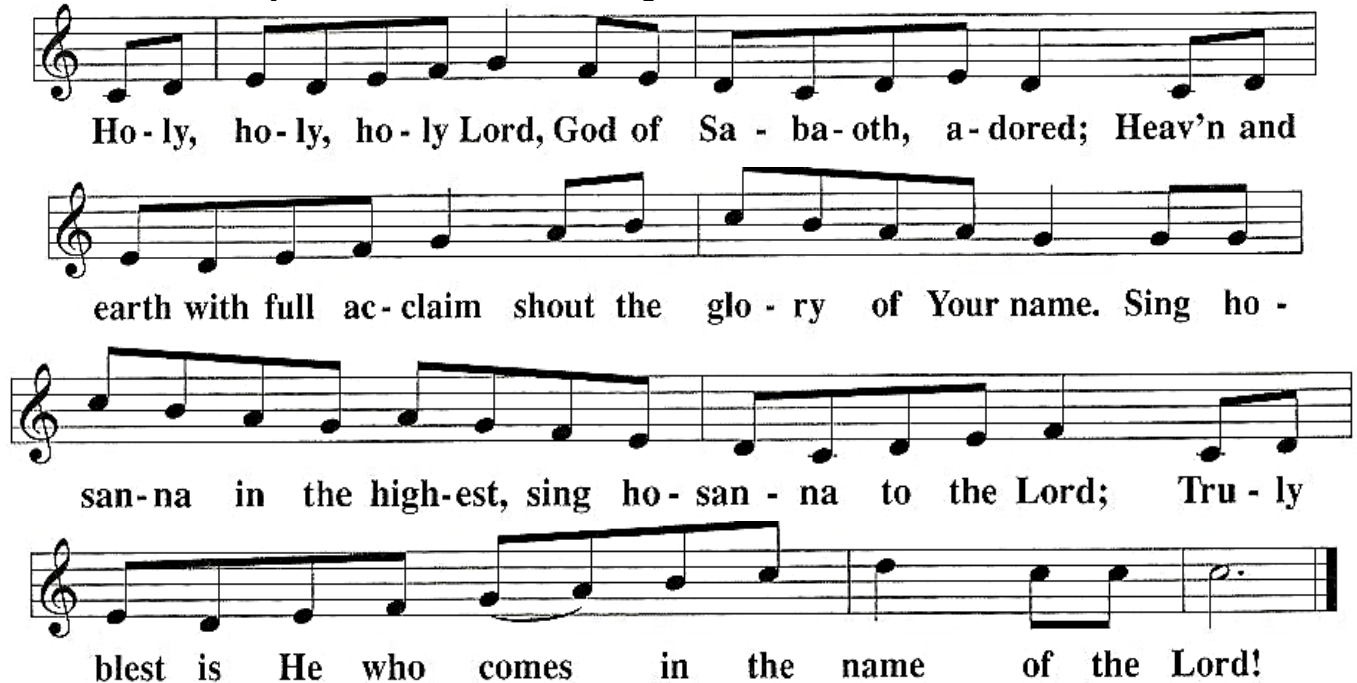


of-fer praise and tha-nks, to the Lord our God and King! **Praise and**



thank-ful -ness un - to the Lord our God we do bring!

It is truly good and right, that we praise and thank our God, through Jesus Christ our Lord: having fashioned everything; born of Mary, crucified, burst out from the borrowed grave, since He lives, and loves His Church, we join Heav'n's' endless song:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of Sa - ba - oth, a - dored; Heav'n and
 earth with full ac - claim shout the glo - ry of Your name. Sing ho -
 san - na in the high - est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord; Tru - ly
 blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.....

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

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." The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMNS: *“Draw Near And Take The Body”*

1. Draw near and take the body of the Lord
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured.
Offered was He for greatest and for least,
Himself the Victim and Himself the Priest.
2. He whom His saints in this world rules and shields
To all believers life eternal yields,
With heavenly bread makes them that hunger whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.
3. Come forward then, with faithful hearts sincere
Receive the gifts our Lord is giving here.
And may our hearts, with grateful thanks endow,
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

J. Neale, 1861, trans. 7th Century, English, public domain

“Jesus Your Blood And Righteousness”

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus, your blood and righteousness
my beauty are, my glorious dress!
mid flaming worlds, in these arrayed
with joy shall I lift up my head. 2. Bold shall I stand in that great day,
and none condemn me, try who may:
fully absolved through Christ I am
from sin and fear, from guilt and
shame. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. This stainless robe its beauty wears
when all else fades with passing
years;
no age can change its glorious hue
the robe of Christ is ever new. 4. When from the dust of death I rise
to claim my home beyond the skies,
then this shall be my only plea
that Jesus died and lives for me! |
|---|--|

Jubilate Hymns version of ‘Christi Blut und Gerechtigkeit’, Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf (1700 – 1760) paraphrased by John Wesley (1703 – 1791) © Jubilate Hymns Ltd LM

SONG OF SIMEON

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

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. **Amen**

BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord upon you with favour, + and give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: *"Lord Of All Hopefulness"*

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
 Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares can destroy,
 Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
 Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
 Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
 Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
 Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
 Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
 Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
 Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

**4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

Traditional Irish Tune Lyrics by Jan Struther, 1931

REV. TODD HOEFFS

Lent 4

Scripture: Luke 15:11-21

"Embracing the lost, welcoming the searching...."

March 27, 2022

All tax collectors and sinners were coming near to hear Jesus. ² The Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: the lost son, the welcoming father...

Guilty by association. That's Jesus predicament. Certain bad reputations emerge if you hang out with the wrong kind of person. And Jesus always did. Tax collectors were hated as agents of Rome robbing Israel of money. And sinners, well, that's a general catch-all phrase for anyone NOT a Pharisee. Tax collectors and sinners hear this parable and feel their bad life position.

The pharisees and scribes hear this parable and feel their misplaced anger and jealousy.

Together they could hear it and enjoy being restored to God and one another. All of that is beautiful and true. And yet, that alone isn't the main point of Luke's Gospel account. The parable we know as the "Prodigal Son" isn't a warning against lose living. And it's not really a story about the uselessness of envy. This isn't even a parable about a bitter, jealous older brother. They are all part of this, but not the emphasis. But above all else, Jesus' story is all about the patient, waiting, loving father.

A father neither of the sons truly know or understand. Because they act like they don't know him.

The younger son acts like his father is stingy and ungenerous. Demanding his dad give him the share of his inheritance. Which wasn't ever done until the person died. It's as arrogant as it is short sided. He's asking for a third of everything. As that's all this young son imagines his dad has for him: 1/3 The same goes for the older brother. He has stayed home working to keep his third.

Despite this older brother's faithfulness and years of tireless dutiful labour--He'd have settled for a young goat and a party with a few friends. Clearly neither brother's understand their father or his generosity; For he himself says later: "...all that is mine is yours."

They don't see the father's generous spirit. They see less and ask for less. Presuming the father wouldn't give any more. This inheritance is easily wasted by the younger son travelling far from home. And he wastes it in literally "unsafe living". We can imagine what that entailed.

In despair, he decides he'll go home, but for the wrong reason. He still doesn't understand his father.

Besides presuming stinginess, he also thinks his dad is gullible & naive. His ego takes over and dreams up a return home scheme. Make up a sincere confession. Practices it all the way home.

If his dad believes the apology and amends, he'll be a worker on the team. Helps him with the guilt.

But it only inflates his bad ego. Proves he wants control yet again over his father's good will.

What was given to him now he wants to earn. Which mean he didn't deserve it in the 1st place.

If the younger son just returns, saying or doing nothing, it would be better! Then he'd be trusting the father might go easy on him. He assumed the father is mad or bad. Makes you wonder if they were truly a family? All the father desires is rescue. He runs out to meet him! He goes out to him, risking his own honourable reputation. A man who gave 1/3 of his money away wastefully now runs to bring back the culprit! No excuses, no bargain, no transaction –The loving father stops his lost son's confession right in the middle. He let him say the one true thing: I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. It's true. He's an unworthy sinner.

An unworthy sinner isn't a hired servant. An unworthy sinner can only be made worthy again for forgiving the sin. You can't work it off. Any more than you could go and get your money back you wasted. It's done. He lost who has been found. A restored son. A hired servant isn't given the best robe, which belongs to the father. A hired servant isn't given the family ring and the privileges of the family name. He is fully restored BECAUSE HE ISN'T WORTHY—But because the father is filled with love and generosity. This is the new normal. The old is gone. This is the new way, the way of mercy and acceptance. This speaks clearly to the Church today. People come to church for all sorts of reasons.

Sometimes people have been wounded, and they have no idea how to be healed. Sometimes people just feel desperate and hungry. Sometimes folks mistakenly think that this is the first step in working their way to heaven, Even if they wouldn't say it that way. Some want community, a good feeling, a better standing in their life. For all of them and for you, whose motives are always stained with sin, the Church -- gathers us all around Scripture and baptism and forgiveness and Communion. We have a time to confess any and all sins And hear that all of it is forgiven. The Pharisees, scribes and religious leaders didn't understand the Father either. They wasted God's gifts, They stirred with anger over any idea of God's generosity. Though the people of God had been chosen people they acted like hired servants. Expecting less from God when they had the entire Kingdom. We don't properly understand our Father either. We might come up with all sorts of selfish things to say. We might think that He'll hear us because we're so good at saying "sorry." We might think that He'll let us work our way back home. Because we like our egos better than humbly losing face and letting God be God. But He won't let us do that. His reply is as generous and welcoming: We have the best robe and a ring on our hand, and shoes on our feet. God has killed the fattened calf for us that we may celebrate our new life. For we, as sons and daughters, have been born lost and by grace and love are found! We who have been dead are alive again. Whether you wasted it all Or like the older brother, clutched to your gift so tightly it squeezed the life out of it. He stayed, worked, tried to earn his place by being dutiful, eyeing that 1/3 everyday. Regardless, all God has is yours! That doesn't mean the Father is a pushover. That nothing matters to him. It's just he knows we have nothing to give. Tax collectors and sinners, rulers and pharisees, wayward sons and daughters, you and me; We are His people and he wants us as family in faith. But this comes at a high cost. We've wandered far from home, far from the perfect paradise we once knew, Jesus comes and gets us. He leaves behind everything that belongs to Him in His Father's house, And finds you, lost and poor in a distant land--cemented into your own way at all costs isolated and depressed--Jesus joins you in the loneliness and need. He walks your walk, suffers your pain, absorbs your sicknesses. The Path home stands before us, for Christ has that said He is the Way. (Jn 14.6) A costly duty, On the cross. The place He makes the greatest exchange. Jesus buys you back – rescues you from eternal death, endless sin and devilish threats. Not with 1/3 of a worldly inheritance, But with His priceless cleansing Blood And a Holy Body that took all the abuse and neglect on our behalf. The robe of Jesus' righteousness is draped on us in Baptism. The ring is our family identity as God's sons and daughters. There is no room for jealousy or comparisons. We are secure, loved and known. No working it out, The greatest way of living is believing, Which the Holy Spirit in us makes happen. We're all in Associated with the entire community of believers living on earth and in Heaven. Sinners and waywards and doubters and all people in every place and time. All that the Father has is yours: A full welcome. All that's left is to have a party. A Holy Communion meal with a place for everyone. Because our gracious Lord receives sinners and eats with them. Only now, we are not guilty but forgiven by association! Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Prodigals Son Activity Page

