



THE 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 27, 2022

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040
Pastor John Moeller

www.stpauloaklawn.org
Director of Music Ruth Sievers

As We Gather

No parable more fully describes the profound character of God's mercy than the prodigal son and the waiting father. We are the rebels who begin to think we deserve our heavenly Father's kindness and who demand from Him what is not our right to claim. But instead of disowning us, He meets us with joy, welcomes us with His forgiveness, restores our tattered righteousness with the robe of Christ's holiness, and sets His Table before us. This is what happens every Sunday as the Lord reclaims us from our sins by His holy Absolution, renews our heavy hearts, reminds us of His baptismal promise, and feeds our soul with the body and blood of His Son. This is the source of our holy joy, and this is the peace that passes all understanding.

Prelude

"Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

C. S. Lang

Opening Hymn

"Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

#611

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| <p>1 Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me, Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die. As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.</p> <p>2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'ns above, Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity! Love that found me—wondrous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.</p> | <p>3 Only Jesus can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart, Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.</p> <p>4 Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me; All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own. He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.</p> |
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Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt.

Text: Public domain

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 51:1–2

P Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

C and cleanse me from my sin!

P Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;

C according to Your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

We pause to remember and confess our sins before our merciful God...

P Merciful Father,

C we beg You, O Lord, to have mercy on us sinners. Though we deserve nothing of Your kindness, we ask Your forgiveness according to Your rich mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Restore us as Your own sons and daughters, and create in us new and contrite hearts. Grant us Your Holy Spirit, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

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. To the impenitent and unbelieving I must also declare that as long as you continue in your impenitence, God will not forgive your sins and will visit your iniquity upon you until you turn from your sinful ways, come to repentance, and trust in the merits of Jesus Christ alone.

C Amen.

P May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

Psalm

Psalm 32; antiphon: v. 11

P Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous. Shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

C **Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.**

P Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

C **For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.**

P For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

C **I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;**

P I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found;

C **You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

P I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

C **Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.**

P Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous. Shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous. Shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Text: ESV®

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Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray together,

C **Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good gifts and have given us Your own Son to be our Savior and Redeemer. Deliver us from our sin, and restore to us the joy of our salvation, that having received such mercy, we need never again surrender to despair; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.**

Announcement of the Day

The readings for today, the Fourth Sunday in Lent, give us reason for joy. From the prophet Isaiah, you'll hear his song of joy, that God would become our Savior. In the Epistle, Paul reminds us that in Christ we are a new creation! The Gospel is Jesus' parable of the prodigal son, or maybe a better name would be, the parable of the waiting father. There we see the mercy of God who welcomes His wandering children back, forgives all their sins, and restores them as His own.

Old Testament Reading ✠ The Lord Is My Strength and My Song ✠ *Isaiah 12:1-6*

¹You 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. ²"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." ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And 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. ⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Anthem of Praise Solo "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

Epistle ✠ The Ministry of Reconciliation ✠ *2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

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

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel ✠ The Parable of the Prodigal Son ✠ *Luke 15:1-3; 12-32*

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." ³So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And 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.

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

¹⁷“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! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’”

²⁰And 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. ²¹And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And 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.’ ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but 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. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It 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.

✠ Confession of Faith ✠

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.

Sermon Hymn

“Today Your Mercy Calls Us”

#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.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offering—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Those worshipping at home may continue to mail or drop off offerings at the church office, and on-line giving is available to everyone on our website at www.stpauloaklawn.org. For information about regular electronic giving, please contact the church office.*

Offertory Meditation

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface

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.

Proper Preface

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord’s Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven...

Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

✠ DISTRIBUTION of the SACRAMENT ✠

“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”

#609

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| <p>1 Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder Who in sin’s delusions live And from God and heaven wander! Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.</p> <p>2 We deserve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich grace revealing, Pardon, peace, and life proclaim; Here our ills have perfect healing. Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.</p> | <p>3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shepherd e’er forsaketh; Weary souls that lost their way Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh In His arms that they may live: Jesus sinners doth receive.</p> <p>4 I, a sinner, come to Thee With a penitent confession. Savior, mercy show to me; Grant for all my sins remission. Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.</p> |
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*Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.;
Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756
Text: Public domain*

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

#791

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| <p>1 All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice. Him serve with mirth, His praise forthtell; Come ye before Him and rejoice.</p> <p>2 Know that the Lord is God indeed; Without our aid He did us make. We are His folk, He doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.</p> <p>3 O enter then His gates with praise; Approach with joy His courts unto.</p> | <p>Praise, laud, and bless His name always, For it is seemly so to do.</p> <p>4 For why? The Lord our God is good: His mercy is forever sure. His truth at all times firmly stood And shall from age to age endure.</p> <p>△5 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, The God whom heav’n and earth adore, From us and from the angel host Be praise and glory evermore.</p> |
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*Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1593, alt.
Text: Public domain*

Communion Blessing

P The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

Closing Prayer

P Let us pray. God of love, through Your Son You have restored us to You as Your own sons and daughters, forgiven all our sins, and delivered us to everlasting life. By the guidance of Your Word and Spirit, keep us in this holy faith and fear, that we may learn submission to You, and our hearts may rest in Your peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, one Lord, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

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.

Dismissal

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

#924

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|---|---|
| 1 Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing, Fill our hearts with joy and peace; Let us each, Your love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace. O refresh us; O refresh us, Trav'ling through this wilderness. | Ever faithful, ever faithful To Your truth may we be found. |
| 2 Thanks we give and adoration For Your Gospel's joyful sound. May the fruits of Your salvation In our hearts and lives abound. | 3 Savior, when Your love shall call us From our struggling pilgrim way, Let not fear of death appall us, Glad Your summons to obey. May we ever, may we ever Reign with You in endless day. <i>Text (sts. 1–2): attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.; (st. 3): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.</i> <i>Text: Public domain</i> |

Postlude

“Prelude in B Flat”

J. S. Bach



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS

Vocalist: Julia Volk

Lector: Marilyn Bitner

Altar Care: Cathy Kumke

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Luther South Classmates and anyone who is interested in owning a piece of Luther South History!!

The web site is up and running!!



www.lhssmemories.org

The Luther South Artifact Committee was fortunate enough to secure just over 1,000 bricks from Luther High School. Most of these bricks are from the Science wing.

We feel that alumni may wish to purchase a brick for a reminder of where they spent their formative years of their lives. The Luther South Artifact Committee was also fortunate enough to secure the Cross, the two cornerstones and the Luther South letters from the school. The funds we raise from selling these bricks will go toward a permanent memorial of the cross, the letters and cornerstones at Bethania Cemetery. **The cost of a brick is \$10 plus shipping.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Anne Dietrich at:

anndietrich3@yahoo.com or 708-509-8293.

Thank You!

Keith Vanselow-708-602-9156 kvanselow@sbcglobal.net

Please pray for these members of our St. Paul family:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Mark Murray | Stan Wirschoreck |
| Warren Miller | Sue Lilja |
| Betty Kruckow | Cathy Gleason |
| Dawn McNicholas | Janet Varnagis |
| Janice Przybycien | Kevin Hickey |
| Mary Ann Colander | Art Hornburg |
| Melva Smith | Laverne Abraham |
| Carol Small | Mike Degidio |
| Norma Silinski | Beverly Sellers |
| Lenore Curran | Betty Beegle |
| Delphine Cherry | Ron Klingensmith |
| Louis Frank | Deb Skopec |
| Herta Iversen | Loretta Frank |
| Jane & Freddie Giacobbe | Marge Rochlitz |
| Ron Hickey | Julie & Larry Gurga |
| Ingrid Lesko | Katherine Hice |
| Gloria Meyer | Jan Briede |
| Delores Stegemann | Connie Braun |
| Kurt Seehofer | The Polezoes Family |
| Lincoln & Parker Alex | Patricia Murdoch |
| Gloria Crook | Lois Kaminske |
| Patrick Buckley | |

Special prayers for

Simeon Hoppe

Matt Favero

Pastor Mark Willig

Mary Ann Rasidi

Missionaries David and Joyce Erber

Announcements & Notes:

- **March 31 is the last day to direct your Thrivent Choice dollars!** Call 800-847-4836 or go to <http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice>
- **Adult Choir** - Rehearsals for Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday will be Wed., Apr. 6th at 8pm following the Lenten service and again on Wed., Apr. 13th at 7pm. All are welcome, so please come!
- **Easter flower orders** are due Monday, Apr. 4th – order forms are in the narthex and wings.
- **Join us for our midweek Lenten service and supper** on Wed. Mar. 30th. The Ladies Guild will serve beef vegetable soup, salad, bread, and desserts.
- **Portals of Prayer** for the next quarter are in the narthex and wings.
- **Scholarships** are available from St. Paul for those studying for the pastoral or teaching ministry. Apply now. Application forms are available in the church office. Deadline is April. 15th.

Please pray for these friends and family of our members:

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| Andrew Mrochen | Vern Howe |
| Eugene Marcinkowski | Roberta & Carlos Owens |
| Denise DeLaurentis | Dorothy Kroll |
| Eric Kessling | Barb & Emily Feehan |
| Bob Hessert | Georgiana Easton |
| Jackie Plichta | Patricia Paulsen |
| Ken Kruckow | Janet Trierweiler |
| Alan Hecke | Kim Lamberth |
| Matt Favero | Sandra Wilson |
| Michelle Mitchell | Al Silinski |
| Pam Palhegyi | Carol Milazzo |
| Rich Huscher | The Lamberth Family |
| Jerry Gross | Brenda Gurgel |
| Gloria Folsom | Autumn Kessling |
| Shirley Fairchild | Simeon Hoppe |
| Ron Lunt | Christopher Kosary |
| Sandy Plath | Iris McCoy |
| Shirley Demyres | Raquel Rameriz |
| Nick & Bridget DeAngelo | Henry Bonder |
| Kim & Shawn Skelton, Sr. | Kyle Hughes |
| Elaine Hoffstetter | Fred Raddatz |
| Allyson Seehofer | Selma Carmichael |
| Bernadette & Rich Trusk | Dana Kahn |
| Donald Hakanson | Guillermo Ramirez |
| Paul Noffke | Sue Sortino |
| Pam Brown | Lisa Sanders |
| Shawn Harland | Ann Herold |
| Barb Potter | Wayne Volk |
| Charley Heitz | Sharon Bryant |
| Doris Potts | Brad Benfield |
| Doreen Holford | Janice Hernandez |
| Judy Collins | Phyllis Hicks |
| Maryann Krieg (Wilke) | Katherine Zeleny |
| Jimmy Kennedy, Jr. | Knox Christensen |
| Cathy Becker | Ken Matz |
| Jean & Al Zirbel | Heather & Josh Turro |
| Donna Patri | Skip Sorensen |
| Joe Thomas | Patrick Pasqua Sr. |
| Joe Kelley | Debbie Guarascio |
| Justin & Ashley Fasel | Frank Coglina |
| Nora Maculitis | Gene Wawrzynikowski |
| Beckham Klintworth | Sophia Salus |
| Kimberly Rooney | Brian Anderson |
| Robert Gonzalez | Theresa Kostecki |
| Pam Kirk | Vicki Warren |
| Jenny Bond | Pastor Mark Willig |
| Mary Ann Rasidi | |

Please let the church office know when your need for our congregational prayers is over (708) 423-1040.