

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025



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



ZION
Ministries Under the Cross

959 SE 6th Avenue • Deerfield Beach, FL 33441
(954) 421-3146 • www.zion-lutheran.org

Welcome to Zion!

***“Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love...”***

(Joel 2:13)

Welcome – whether this is your home congregation or your first visit, we’re glad you’re here!

We welcome all people in the name of Christ to experience God’s goodness and grace in Word, water, and meal. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you to belong at Zion.

Get Connected at Zion

The best ways to stay connected are to visit our website, follow us on social media (@zionchurchdfb on Facebook and Instagram), and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

Children in Worship

Children are God’s gift to our church! They are not the future of our church; they are the right now. The way we welcome children here directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another.

We welcome children and their families to sit near the Playground at the front of the sanctuary. There are coloring activities, puzzles, books, and a toolbox to engage in our worship together.

Giving

We appreciate your stewardship of treasure, talent, and time at Zion. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates or give online via our website or this QR code.



Livestreaming

Zion livestreams all our services on Facebook and YouTube. Any person present gives consent to being filmed or photographed.



Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, and extends God's radical welcome to all people, because we're all created in God's image.

We Gather

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love. *[Silence for self-reflection.]* Compassionate One, **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW Hymn #807

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

KYRIE

ELW Hymn #157

Kyrie eleison is Greek for "Lord, have mercy."

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together...**God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

We Hear & Respond to God's Word

FIRST READING

Joshua 5:9-12

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

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor Assembly

Come let us re - turn to the Lord, come, let us re - turn to the Lord;

All

Come, let us re - turn to the Lord, let us re-turn to the Lord.

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Before the reading: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading: The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ALL

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Amazing Grace" (My Chains Are Gone)

APOSTLES' CREED

Together with all Christians of every time, place, and space, let us confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the

communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you.**

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Feast at the Lord's Table

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of heav-en-ly hosts.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of heav-en-ly hosts.

Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the high -

16

- est. Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na!

19

Bless-ed is he who comes! Bless-ed is he who comes!

23

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, 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. We give you thanks for the priceless grace you have bestowed upon us through Jesus Christ, who died upon the tree of Calvary and rose again to make us living branches, drawing our life from him and bearing fruit in all the world. Send your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth and power, to renew our faith as we receive our crucified and risen Lord who comes to us in his body and blood.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal-low-ed be your

name, hal-low-ed be your name. Your king-dom come, your
will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven, on earth as it is in hea-ven.
Give us to-day our dai - ly bread and for - give us all our
sins as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us, as we for-give those who sin a -
gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al and de - li - ver us from
e - vil, de - liv - er us from - e - vil. For yours is the
king-dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry, for - e - ver and e - ver, for
e - ver and e - ver. A - men, a - men. A - men.

SHARING THE MEAL

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

*During the season of Lent, our meal is shared in silence.
You are encouraged to use this time for prayer and contemplation.*

We Are Sent into the World

BLESSING FOR STRENGTH

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
comfort, strengthen, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together... **Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

Beloved in the Lord, God has shown you what is good. What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW Hymn #325, Verse 1

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins. Go in peace.
Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God!**

License & Copyright Information

Bulletin cover art by John Stuart (www.stushieart.com). **Portions of the liturgy** are from *Sundays and Seasons.com*. © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS014917. **Hymns & songs** reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731250 & CCLI License #1376892. **Scriptures** taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches in the USA.



Today's Readings

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

Prayer of the Day

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Joshua 5:9-12

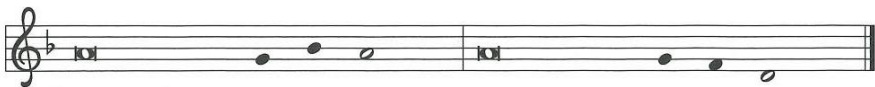
The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the

passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Psalm

Psalm 32; tone 9



Happy are they
whose transgressions ¹ are forgiven,
and whose sin is ¹ put away!
²Happy are they
to whom the LORD im- ¹ puts no guilt,
and in whose spirit
there ¹ is no guile!

³While I held my tongue,
my bones with- ¹ ered away,
because of my groaning
¹ all day long.

⁴For your hand was heavy upon me
¹ day and night;
my moisture was dried up
as in the ¹ heat of summer.

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not con- ¹ ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess
my transgressions to the LORD."
Then you forgave me
the guilt ¹ of my sin.

⁶Therefore all the faithful will make
their prayers to you in ¹ time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow,
they ¹ shall not reach them.

⁷You are my hiding-place;
you preserve ¹ me from trouble;
you surround me
with shouts ¹ of deliverance.

⁸"I will instruct you and teach you
in the way that ¹ you should go;
I will guide you ¹ with my eye.

⁹Do not be like horse or mule,
which have no ¹ understanding;
who must be fitted
with bit and bridle,
or else they will ¹ not stay near you."

¹⁰Great are the tribulations
¹ of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those
who trust ¹ in the LORD.

¹¹Be glad, you righteous,
and rejoice ¹ in the LORD;
shout for joy,
all who are ¹ true of heart.

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.¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;¹⁹ 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.²⁰ 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.²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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

³So he told them this parable:

^{11b}"There was a man who had two sons.¹² 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.¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need.¹⁵ 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.¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.¹⁷ 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!¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you;¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.²¹ 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.'²² 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.²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate;²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.'²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.²⁹ 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.³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.³² 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.'"

TODAY'S READINGS March 30, 2025

Volume 56, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philipians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8.

TODAY'S READINGS (ISSN 1069-0166, USPS 009628) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Today's Readings, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1553. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day and psalm from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Psalm tone accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year C* (Augsburg Fortress, 2006). Please visit our website at augsburgfortress.org. Lectionary year C.

ITEM013770 Tracks 1 and 2