

March 27, 2022 – 10: 15 AM

PRELUDE:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

GATHERING SONG: “Take, O Take Me As I Am” GTG698

TIME OF CENTERING:

(We share a communal time of silence as we center our hearts and minds for worship. Worship Leader will end the silence with an Amen.)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Happy are those whose sin is forgiven, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

All: Therefore, let all who are faithful offer prayer to the God of deliverance.

One: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go, as you trust in the Lord.

All: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous; shout for joy. All you upright in heart.

One: Let us worship God!

HYMN Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days No. 81

INVITATION TO CONFESSION, PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

One: If anyone sins, we have someone who pleads with the Father on our behalf—Jesus Christ, the righteous one. And Christ himself is the means by which our sins are forgiven, and not our sins only, but also the sins of everyone. Let us confess our sins before God and one another. (I John 2:1,2).

All: O God, our Rock and Redeemer, hear our confession. We worship idols of our own making; when temptation overtakes us, we submit to its charm. We find it easier to grumble at hardships than to praise you for mercies we receive day by day. We test you in every way. Yet you promise that you will not test us beyond our endurance. Forgive us when we take advantage of your loving nature, and restore us to communion with you.

One: Brothers and sisters, remember that “God is faithful, and ... will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing ... will provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.” Christ is the foundation of our salvation; therein lies assurance that we are forgiven of sin.

SONG RESPONSE “Gloria Patri” No. 579

PASSING THE PEACE:

One: Peace be with you

All: And also with you

(There will be no individual expressions of Passing the Peace .)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. AMEN

HYMN OF PREPARATION Lamb of God Most Holy No. 82

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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

"So he told them this parable:

"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 traveled 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.'"

SERMON: "The Parable of the Compassionate Father"

Ed Williams

CLOSING HYMN: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

No, 464

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE: