



**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
MARCH 27, 2022**

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!

**Hymn**            Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

ELW 807

- 1    Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,  
     tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
     streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
     call for songs of loudest praise.  
     While the hope of endless glory  
     fills my heart with joy and love,  
     teach me ever to adore thee;  
     may I still thy goodness prove.
  
- 3    Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
     daily I'm constrained to be;  
     let that grace now like a fetter  
     bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
     Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
     prone to leave the God I love.  
     Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;  
     seal it for thy courts above.

**The Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

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.**

**Let us pray:**

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**

*By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.*

<sup>9</sup>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.

<sup>10</sup>While 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. <sup>11</sup>On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup>The 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21**

*One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ’s resurrection. This is Paul’s strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.*

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: LUKE 15:1-3, 11b-32**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father’s love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father’s home.*

<sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>11b</sup>“There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>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! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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.’ <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** The Rev. Scott V. Brubaker, Pastor

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Each petition ends “Lord, in your mercy,” and the response is “**Hear our prayer.**”

### **Lord’s Prayer**

Let us pray together

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
**Save us from the time of trial**  
and deliver us from evil.  
**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours**  
now and forever. Amen.

### **Benediction and Blessing**

You are children of God,  
anointed with the oil of gladness  
and strengthened for the journey.  
Almighty God,  
motherly, majestic, and mighty,  
✠ bless you this day and always.  
**Amen**

**Hymn**                      My Life Flows On in Endless Song                      ELW 763

1 My life flows on in endless song;  
above earth's lamentation,  
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn  
that hails a new creation.

#### *Refrain*

No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his!  
How can I keep from singing? *Refrain*

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**                      Come, Ye Disconsolate                      arr. Jerry van der Pol

**Altar Flowers** given in memory of Harry (Ducky) Lorah by his family.

**Sanctuary Candle** given in memory of loved ones by the congregation.

**NOTE** – Please contact Joyce Stoner if you want to sponsor the Sanctuary Candle or Altar Flowers – 717 336-7077. Many Sundays available.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MOST CURRENT INFORMATION** – Be sure and check our website regularly for updates and schedules of ongoing activities of the church. [www.swamplutheran.org](http://www.swamplutheran.org). Church office is open from 8:30AM-12PM daily.

**ACTION FUND** – Donations are sought for Swamp’s Action Fund to help the needy in our community. Write “Action Fund” in the comment line of your check payable to Swamp Lutheran Church.



Michael A. Crowther  
Margaret Elser  
Clyde Showalter  
Mary Ann Weitzel  
Ella Shirk  
Leona Showalter

Alverta Showalter  
Clarice Haws  
Betty Hornberger  
Charles Moyer  
Josie Reitz

Katie Houck  
Shirley Achey – (neighbor of Sue Kreitz)  
Ed Miller  
Susan Levan  
Nancy Kulp  
Mary Kring (aunt of Linda Ream)  
Clair Sweigart  
Janice Moyer Kelly  
Josie Reitz  
Erika Eberly(friend of Jennifer Taylor)  
Charles Hoppman  
David Metzger (friend of Sue Kreitz)  
Cindy Hornberger Stahl

Sharon Fremont – (friend of Sue Kreitz)  
Janice Ballenger (friend of Connie Taylor)  
Sue Schultz  
Hunter Leisey  
Jean Wolf  
Randy Gockley  
John Frantz  
Joan Long  
Margaret Elser  
Dottie Smith



Bill Sweigart (neighbor of Sue Kreitz)

When someone is put on the prayer list, we will keep them on for four weeks. After that time, they will be taken off unless you make another request to have them put back on.

**CIRCLE OF PRAYER** - Hunter Leisey, John Frantz, Nancy Kulp, Sue Schultz, Janice Kelly, David Metzger, Ed Miller, Margaret Elser, Charles Hoppman, Randy Gockley.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** – If you give via the online option, let us know by email ([secretary@swamplutheran.org](mailto:secretary@swamplutheran.org)) or by phone to the office so that you will no longer receive offering envelopes for 2022.

**FOOD BANK** current needs are ketchup, mustard, snacks and canned tuna. Our ministry to the community continues in strength. Thank you for your faithfulness.



**Gently Used Sneakers Needed.** Cub Pack 95 is collecting sneakers as a fundraiser. Used sneakers (pairs only; athletic shoes only) may be deposited in the bins located in the Narthex and the social hall lobby. The sneakers will be purchased from the Cubs by an organization that resells or recycles them, saving landfill space and natural resources while helping the Scouts raise money to fund their activities. Time to clean out your closets! The Cubs are **not** able to accept any non-athletic footwear including but not limited to dress shoes, heels, rain boots, sandals, slip-ons, water socks, wedges, and work boots of any kind. Questions may be addressed to Cubmaster Travis Leed at 717-381-1608 or email at [pack95reinholds@gmail.com](mailto:pack95reinholds@gmail.com)



**LAP ROBES** – Thank you to those who are knitting and/or crocheting lap robes for the ongoing need of the VA Hospital. Please be aware that the church has received a donation of yarn that is available for your use. Please contact Brenda in the office.

**GIFT CARDS FOR EASTER** -Gift cards are available for purchase and the list of available gift cards is in the Narthex on the table. Deadline for ordering is April 3,2022 and the cards will be delivered in time for Easter. If there is a specific place that you are interested in and do not find on the list please speak to Missy Ragan to check availability. (717) 314-5668



**Next Sunday, April 3** will be ONE SERVICE ONLY at 8:30AM. This is for one Sunday only as we have guest musical groups joining us from Cocalico High School and Middle School. Breakfast will follow service with Sunday School at 10:15AM.

**UKRAINIAN RELIEF** -Lutheran Disaster Response is supporting Ukraine through the Lutheran World Federation. Donations are used for items such as bedding, hygiene items, food and pastoral care through a group of local Eastern Europe Lutheran churches. You may support this effort by writing a check to Swamp with the memo marked Ukraine. We have a Disaster offering plate in Narthex. The church will then send one check to Lutheran Disaster who in turn will donate 100% of the donation to assist those impacted by the war in Ukraine.

### Pick Six Lenten Offering

This year, Swamp Lutheran will begin a new giving opportunity for Lent: Pick Six. For the six weeks of Lent, we are encouraging you to give a special, weekly offering in addition to your regular giving. The benevolence giving options listed below are opportunities to give to ministries benefitting those in need—sharing God’s love outside the walls of Swamp. Envelopes with these options listed on them are available on the table in the narthex. Please grab a pack of six envelopes (one for each week of Lent). Call the office if you need them mailed to you.



**Swamp Action Fund:** Help those in dire need of support for rent, bill payment, etc.



**Community Meal:** Contributions to this ministry support the purchase of food and supplies for the monthly community meal Swamp supports in the community.



**Confirmation Camp:** Help subsidize the cost of Confirmation Camp held at Camp Kirchenwald in June.



**Lutheran Disaster Response**  
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 God's work. Our hands.

Help bring God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world.



**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS**  
**EPHRATA AREA SOCIAL SERVICES**  
 EPHRATA - COCKLE

Contributions help provide services to people in our community in the areas of food, clothing, fuel, transportation, and meals on wheels.



**Swamp Food Pantry:** Contributions support Swamp's ministry of food to those challenged by food insecurity.



**ELCA World Hunger**  
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 God's work. Our hands.

Contributions to this ministry support the work to eradicate hunger in the United States and throughout the world financially.



**Jan's Circle of Friends:** Contributions to this organization fund efforts to assist children coping with domestic violence and parental loss.



**The Lutheran Camping Corporation**  
 of Central Pennsylvania  
 Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

Help fund camperships for needy campers.



Support activities and special projects to enrich the lives of senior residents.

**COMMUNITY EGG HUNT** – Our church will host a community egg hunt on Saturday, April 16 starting at 10:00AM with a gathering in our social hall. Groups will be separated by age groups (Nursery-4<sup>th</sup> Grade). Prizes for all and snacks provided. Invite your friends and neighbors!



*This Week in the Parish (March 28 – April 3)*

Monday	6:00PM 7:30PM	PACK 95 Den Meeting Handbell Rehearsal
Wednesday	7:00PM	Lenten Series
Thursday	7:00PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday	8:30AM After Service 10:15AM	One Worship Service Today Only Breakfast and Fellowship Sunday School

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, April 8-9	6:00PM-9:00AM	SLY Flashlight Egg Hunt Lock-in (overnight)
Thursday, April 14	6:00AM 7:30PM	Maundy Thursday Breakfast Maundy Thursday Service
Friday, April 15	6:00AM 8:00PM	Good Friday Breakfast Good Friday Service
Saturday, April 16	10:00AM	Community Egg Hunt
Sunday, April 17	6:00AM 7:00AM 8:30AM	Sunrise Service Easter Breakfast Worship

## DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<i>Monday, March 28</i>	Psalm 53; Leviticus 23:26-41; Revelation 19:1-8
<i>Tuesday, March 29</i>	Psalm 53; Leviticus 25:1-19; Revelation 19:9-10
<i>Wednesday, March 30</i>	Psalm 53; 2 Kings 4:1-7; Luke 9:10-17
<i>Thursday, March 31</i>	Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:1-7; Philippians 2:19-24
<i>Friday, April 1</i>	Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:8-15; Philippians 2:25—3:1
<i>Saturday, April 2</i>	Psalm 126; Exodus 12:21-27; John 11:45-57

## UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

*Sunday, Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 3*  
Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

## WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERIES 2022 – RETURNING TO JOY 7PM

MARCH 30	EVERLASTING JOY SHALL BE UPON THEIR HEARTS	ISAIAH 51:4-11
	The Rev. Sandy Gideon at Mellingers Lutheran Church 80 Gockley Rd., Stevens	
APRIL 6	GOD HAS THE LAST WORD	REVELATION 21:1-7
	The Rev. Scott Brubaker at St. John Center Lutheran Church 599 Reading Rd., East Earl	
MAY 26	(ASCENSION) RETURNING WITH JOY	LUKE 24:44-53
	The Rev. Peter Schwabe-Fry at Swamp Lutheran Church 275 Swamp Church Rd, Reinholds	



## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**March 27, 2022**

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

### **As We Forgive Others**

Jesus' parables are not simple fables with fixed meanings, but unsettling plot-twisting narratives that raise more questions than they answer. If we set aside the most familiar interpretations of today's gospel and enter into the story through another door (or another character's point of view), we may find surprising new insights.

What if the story of the prodigal son is not only about the steadfast love and forgiveness of God the Father? What if it is also a story about the complexity of family life, grudges held for years, words left unspoken, and scores unsettled? That is, what if this is a story about us?

Like most parables, the story ends unfinished, and we're left to ponder what happens next as it continues to unfold off the page. Does the older brother accept his father's invitation and come back to the party? Does anyone ever thank him for his years of loyalty? Is the younger brother really changed by his experience, or is his father enabling him? Do the mother and sisters show up? Will the family fall back into the same old dynamics, or will there be accountability and repair?

The good news in this story is that God loves all of these characters: the selfish son, the foolish father, the resentful brother, the absent mother. And God's love frees them to change.

Forgiveness is complicated. While we draw strength from the power of being wholly and unconditionally forgiven by God, human relationships are messy. It is rare that one party is entirely wrong and another entirely gracious. We pray as Jesus taught us: "Forgive us, as we forgive others."

At its most basic, repentance means changing our way of perceiving. This is also the first movement of forgiveness: imagining ourselves in another's place, seeing the situation through their eyes. Held in the power of God's love, we are free to let our perception shift and to break out of the ruts of family systems to find new ways of being.

## HOLY WEEK BREAKFAST MENU 2022

### MAUNDAY THURSDAY

- Waffles/Ice Cream with toppings
- Sausage mushroom bake casserole

### GOOD FRIDAY

- Ham
- Home Fries w/wo onions
- Sausage
- Toast
- Creamed dry beef
- Fruit salad

### EASTER SUNDAY

- Scrambled eggs
- Dutch Fry with sausage
- French toast
- Bacon
- Sausage
- Toast
- Cobblers

**Swamp Evangelical Church**

275 Swamp Church Road, Reinholds, PA 17569  
717-336-2849

[www.swamplutheran.org](http://www.swamplutheran.org)  
[secretary@swamplutheran.org](mailto:secretary@swamplutheran.org)

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 12:00 noon

The Rev. Scott V. Brubaker, Pastor  
Cell: 717-598-4663 Email: [pastor@swamplutheran.org](mailto:pastor@swamplutheran.org)

Brenda Johnston, Church Secretary – 717-336-2849  
Sue Kreitz, Organist/Choir Director – 717-336-3272  
Doug Kulp, Bell Choir Director – 717-336-7798  
John Frantz, Sexton – 717-606-8994  
Lori Gockley, Council President – 717-733-1095

SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:00AM and 9:00AM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM