

## WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Fourth Sunday in Lent



### WELCOME FAMILIES!

We are glad that you are worshipping with your children and want you to feel welcome.

There is a “**Pray Ground**” for quiet play in the front right of the sanctuary. We ask that families stay with their little ones and try to keep noise to a minimum.

If you or your little one needs “a break” or “louder play”, there is an “**Active Worship**” room on the West side of the sanctuary. You can see and hear the service from this room.

### GATHERING



The Holy Spirit gathers us together during this time of worship

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*Inviting All to Live the Gospel through Faith, Love, and Compassion*

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### Welcome to Family of Christ

You are welcome to participate in worship this morning  
the way you feel comfortable.

**All Are Welcome, No Exceptions!**

**Everybody Is Somebody Here**

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### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP

We have come to a place, Lord God,  
**And we don't want to go back.**

We have come to know you,  
**We have been renewed.**

Help us to stay on this path with you.

**Guide us towards your goodness in all things and at all times.**

### OPENING HYMN

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

ELW #802

### CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

P: For the well-being of all God's children, we confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: God of our wandering,

**C: God of our wilderness, we confess we have strayed from you. We put our hope in earthly powers. We expect to find happiness around each next corner and at each new milestone. When we are inevitably disappointed, we grumble at you. Forgive us, Lord. Remind us of the long story of salvation, of our place in it, and that you are its author. Attune us to your presence in each moment. And turn us from a narrow focus on ourselves, to a gracious focus on our fellow travelers. In the name of Jesus.**

**Amen.**

### HYMN OF REPENTANCE

“Blessed and Holy”

see insert

All young and young at heart are invited forward during the Children's time.

**THE WORD**  
God speaks to us through scripture reading, preaching, and song.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: God of the Future

**C: some of us here today long for the past. Some of us have great hopes for the future. All of us come with yearning in our hearts. Help us to hold space for one another, trusting that in you, there is room for all of it and all of us. Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S TIME

### FIRST READING

**Ezra 3:10-13**

<sup>10</sup> When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments were stationed to praise the LORD with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, according to the directions of King David of Israel; <sup>11</sup> and they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel."

And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the LORD because the foundation of the house of the LORD had been laid. <sup>12</sup> But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy, <sup>13</sup> so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard far away.

L: The Word of our Lord C: **Thanks Be to God**

### GOSPEL READING

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

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 Jesus 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.'"

L: The Gospel of our Lord C: **Thanks Be to God**

**MESSAGE**

**Pastor Brent Erler**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**"Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"**

**ELW #618**

**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.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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Family of Christ



### THE MEAL

God feeds us with the  
forgiveness and presence  
of Christ.

All are invited to receive  
these gifts of God.

No Exceptions!

Children are welcome to  
come forward and receive  
communion or a blessing  
and Goldfish Crackers.



### THE SENDING

We are blessed and  
sent out into the world  
to share God's Love  
with all people.



### Serving Today

Pastor

Brent Erler

Musicians

Solveig Englund

Sound and Video

Cheryl & Gerry Wills

\*Thanks to all those who  
helped make worship  
possible.

## NOISY OFFERING

Luther Park Camp

## OFFERING

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L: Lord, in Your Mercy

C: Hear our prayers

## HOLY COMMUNION

## 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;**

**and 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.**

## BLESSING

## PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE

Lord God, you have called your servants  
to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,

by paths as yet untrodden,  
through perils unknown.

Give us faith to go out with good courage,  
not knowing where we go,

but only that your hand is leading us  
and your love supporting us,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## CLOSING HYMN

Let All Things Now Living"

ELW #881

## POSTLUDE

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# FamilyofChrist

## FAITH, LOVE, and COMPASSION

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