

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT - MARCH 27, 2022



Forgiveness is an incredible gift and is not something to take lightly. To forgive is to let go of all anger, hatred, and pain and offer a new reality where it is undeserved. This new reality is one of joy and freedom for the recipient and the giver and is demonstrated most clearly in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. God desires a relationship with us and offers us a new reality through this gift.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

PASTOR DAVE HANSEN (912) 826-2711

- ◆ You are here by God's calling and we extend Christ's hospitality to you this day.
- ◆ In worship, we hear God's Word, partake in the Lord's Supper, and give thanks to God in prayer and praise.
- ◆ If you receive the Lord's Supper in your home congregation, you are welcome to receive it here.
- ◆ Restrooms and a nursery are located in the backside hallway. Look for the horseshoe cross.
- ◆ Please fill out a visitor card so we can keep in touch. The Lord give you strength for daily living.
- ◆ A personal hearing aid is available if needed. Please ask a Greeter or any member for assistance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 9:55AM

▼ = SIT ▲ = STAND

LBW: DIVINE SERVICE ONE

WORSHIP: 10AM

MUSICIAN - KAREN HALL

CALL TO LENTEN REFLECTION

▼ LENTEN QUESTION FOR THE WEEK: AM I LOVING OTHERS WITH THE COMPASSION OF GOD?

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. The father said to his servants...'this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

▼ TIME OF REFLECTION: DO I LIVE IN GOD'S COMPASSION? AM I SHARING IT WITH OTHERS?

▲ OPENING HYMN—"CHANGE MY HEART, O GOD" *(The choir sings the first verse and the congregation joins the rest; CH #654)*

Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, May I be like You.
You are the Potter, I am the clay; Mold me and make me, This is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, May I be like You.

Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, May I be like You.

You are the Potter, I am the clay; Mold me and make me, This is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, May I be like You. [Sung Twice]

▲ PRAYER OF THE DAY *(Spoken)*

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: God of all mercy, by your power to heal and to forgive, graciously cleanse us from all sin and make us strong; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED

▼ FIRST READING—ISAIAH 12:1-6 *(Pew Bible, p. 684)*

[This song of praise from the book of Isaiah speaks the language of faith. "Surely God is my salvation; I will trust in him"; "The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song"; "Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name"; "Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things". When we remember God's saving deeds on our behalf it just naturally and joyfully leads us to praise.]

▼ SECOND READING—2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21 (*Pew Bible, p. 1148*)

[Few places in the New Testament speak more eloquently about the good news (gospel) of our forgiveness and reconciliation with God. This reconciliation rests fully on Christ Jesus: “God made him who had no sin to be a sin offering for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God”. Because of Christ, you and I are “new creations” who have been called to be ambassadors for Christ.]

▼ CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

▲ LENTEN VERSE (*Sung*)

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

▲ GOSPEL READING & RESPONSES - Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (*Pew Bible, p. 1039*)

P: The Holy Gospel from St. Luke, chapter 15. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

[This story is usually called “the Parable of the Prodigal Son”. But it could just as easily be called “the Parable of the Compassionate Father” or “the Parable of the Dutiful Son”. Jesus, of course, is the compassionate God come to earth to reach out to the “lost sheep of Israel” and indeed to all sinners estranged from God. Which of the three characters do you most relate to?]

▼ SERMON

▲ HYMN OF THE DAY—“JESUS, REFUGE OF THE WEARY” (*Sung, LBW #93*)

**Jesus, refuge of the weary, Blest redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life’s desert dreary, Savior from the world above:
Often have your eyes, offended, Gazed upon the sinner’s fall;
Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.**

**Do we pass that cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see you wounded, bleeding, See your thorn encircled brow?
Yet your sinless death has brought us Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what your grace has taught us Calms the sinner’s deep distress.**

**Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for you;
May our eyes be ever turning To behold your cross anew;
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior’s side,
Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified.**

▲ PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(During Lent, Prayers will be spoken in the midst of the Congregation. Members may offer petitions and/or public prayer from their seat. Pastor will return to the altar to conclude the prayer)

P: The Lord has set apart the godly for himself; the Lord hears when they call to him. (*Psalms 4:3*)

C: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

▲ OFFERING HYMN (*Sung, Psalm 51:10-12*)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

▲ OFFERING PRAYER (*Spoken*)

P: Almighty God, draw our hearts to you.

C: Use us as you will, always to your glory, as we seek the welfare of all people. Amen

▼ ADULT CHOIR - "UNTITLED HYMN: COME TO JESUS"

HOLY COMMUNION AT THE LORD'S SUPPER

▲ PREPARATION OF OUR HEARTS—CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Brothers and Sisters in Christ, St. Paul exhorts us with these words concerning the Holy Sacrament: "Let a person examine themselves...and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup" (1 Cor. 11:28). In order that we may worthily partake of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and receive the forgiveness he offers, let us examine our hearts and confess our sins to our merciful God.

C: O God, I confess that I have sinned against you and others by my own fault. With a humble and contrite heart, I lift to you those thoughts, words, and deeds of which I am ashamed, asking your mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ my Lord.

(Moment for examining one's heart)

P: God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. **C: Amen.**

P: Come now in faith to the holy table that you may commune with Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord.

C: O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

▲ GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Spoken)*

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.**

P: It is indeed right and salutary... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

▲ THE SANCTUS *(Sung)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

▲ WORDS OF INSTITUTION & THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Spoken)*

▲ AGNUS DEI *(Sung)*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

▼ HOLY COMMUNION

(Choir and congregation sing the following Hymns from the Green Hymnal: #225 vs 1,4,5, / #296 vs 1,2 3,5 / #304)

▲ POST-COMMUNION HYMN *(Sung; LBW #200, 1&4)*

For the bread which you have broken, For the wine which you have poured, For the words which you have spoken, Now we give you thanks, O Lord.

In your service, Lord, defend us; In our hearts keep watch and ward, In the world to which you send us Let your kingdom come, O Lord.

▲ POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(Spoken)*

P: Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and the model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

▲ BENEDICTION (*Spoken*)

P: May the God who is able to keep you from falling and present you before His glorious presence strengthen you for spiritual battle through the Spirit of Christ our Lord. **C: Amen** (*Jude 1:24-25, alt*)

▲ SENDING HYMN—"SAVIOR AGAIN TO YOUR DEAR NAME" (*Sung, LBW #262*)

**Savior, again to your dear name we raise With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
Once more we bless you ere our worship cease, Then, lowly bending, wait your word of peace.**

**Grant us your peace upon our homeward way; With you began, with you shall end the day;
Guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame, That in this house have called upon your name.**

**Grant us your peace, Lord, through the coming night; For us transform its darkness into light.
Keep us from harm and danger till the dawn; Your evening presence promise to your own.**

**Grant us your peace throughout our earthly life, Our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;
Then, when your voice shall bid our conflict cease, Call us, O Lord, to your eternal peace.**

▲ DISMISSAL (*Spoken*)

P: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...

C: that we not grow weary nor lose heart! (*Hebrews 12:2-3*)

MUSICAL POSTLUDE - KAREN HALL

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