



St. Luke's Lutheran Church



4801 Anderson Ave
Manhattan, KS 66503
www.stlukesmanhattan.org

Sharing Jesus Christ's love with those around us.

Sunday, March 30, 2025 – 11:00 AM

*Rev. Michael J. Schmidt, Sr. Pastor
William Prann, Director of Christian Education
Gretchen Hartsook, Director of Music*

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

(Series C)

WELCOME

We are glad you are here to worship our Savior with us. Please remember to turn your cell phone to silence. Restrooms are on the west side of the sanctuary. Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office through email, office@stlukesmanhattan.org, or by calling 785-539-2604. On Communion Sundays, if you need non-gluten wafers at communion, or need to have communion brought to you, please notify the elder who is serving. We hope you will join us again so that you may experience Jesus.

AS WE GATHER

Traditionally, the Fourth Sunday in Lent has been known as Laetare Sunday, from the Latin Introit *Laetare Jerusalem*: “Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her” (Isaiah 66:10). Though still in the penitential season of Lent, this Sunday is a relaxation from normal Lenten discipline. Flowers may appear, and ministers may wear rose-colored vestments as a lighter shade of violet.

Today’s service is inspired by the Old Testament Reading of Isaiah, the First Song of Isaiah: “Sing praises to the LORD, for He has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth” (Isaiah 12:5). In the joy of the faithful father in Jesus’ parable of the prodigal son, the forgiveness of our sin and reconciliation with God as His baptized sons and daughters, well, it just makes you want to sing! So we shall!

IMAGE ON THE COVER

For the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation. *Isaiah 12:2b*

PRELUDE

(Please use this time to prayerfully prepare your hearts to enter into the presence of Jesus.)

✠A SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE✠

WELCOME

PRESERVICE SONG – Special Music JuBellation Handbell Choir

Stand

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Isaiah 12:2

P Behold, God is my salvation;

C I will trust, and will not be afraid;

P for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,

C and He has become my salvation.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

1 Corinthians 10:13; Psalm 96:2

P Beloved in the Lord, Paul reassures us, saying, “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability.” Let us with confidence and gladness enter God’s presence, confessing our sins and receiving His grace, assurance, and forgiveness.

C Lord God, we are exceedingly glad to enter Your house this day, for we have heard and believe in the invitation of Your loving kindness and redemption through Jesus Christ, Your Son. In the trust and hope of the faith You have given us as Your baptized children, we confess to You all our sins and failures to share Your gifts of mercy with others. Grant us the forgiveness for which we ask and give us a renewed heart and spirit to sing Your praises in worship of You and to the joy of all.

P “Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.” Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

P Lord, have mercy,

C Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

P God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

OPENING SONG – “God So Loved”

- 1 Come all you weary, come all you thirsty
 Come to the well that never runs dry
 Drink of the water, come and thirst no more
 Come all you sinners, come find His mercy
 Come to the table, He will satisfy
 Taste of His goodness, find what you’re looking for
- 2, 4 For God so loved the world that He gave us
8 His one and only Son to save us
 Whoever believes in Him will live forever
- 3 Bring all your failures, bring your addictions
 Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
 Jesus is waiting there with open arms
- 5, 9 The power of hell forever defeated
 Now it is well, I’m walking in freedom
 For God so loved, God so loved the world
- 6, 7 Praise God, praise God
 From whom all blessings flow
 Praise Him, praise Him
 For the wonders of His love
- 10 Bring all your failures, bring your addictions
 Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
 Jesus is waiting for God so loved the world

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 12:1-6

("The Lord God is my strength and my song.")

¹You will say in that day:

"I will give thanks to you, O LORD,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
that you might comfort me.

²"Behold, God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation."

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴And you will say in that day:

"Give thanks to the LORD,
call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵"Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.

⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 32; antiphon: v. 11

L ¹¹Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,

C and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

L ¹Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,

C whose sin is covered.

L ²Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,

C and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

- L** ³For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
C **through my groaning all day long.**
- L** ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
C **my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**
- L** ⁵I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
C **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"**
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- L** ⁶Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
C **surely in the rush of great waters,**
they shall not reach him.
- L** ⁷You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
C **you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**
- L** ⁸I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
C **I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**
- L** ⁹Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
C **which must be curbed with bit and bridle,**
or it will not stay near you.
- L** ¹⁰Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
C **but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.**
- L** ¹¹Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
C **and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

L ¹¹Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
C **and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

(A new creation.)

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

VERSE

Luke 15:22a, 24a

P The father said to his servants,

C “This my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.”

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

(The Parable of the Prodigal Son.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus].

²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: . . .

“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.

¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ ²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate.

²⁴*For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.*

²⁵*“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”*

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

LAMB'S MESSAGE

SERMON

VOTUM

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

OFFERING

There are several ways to give.

1. Please **send** your offerings to
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
4801 Anderson Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66503
2. **Electronic Funds Transfer** - Sign up through the church office.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE: Luke 15:12 – “And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them.” This prodigal son only sees the father as a source of wealth. “Give me my inheritance now!” he says, which is really to say, “You are better off dead in my eyes.” This is the sin at the heart of all greed: valuing things over people. This parable calls us to come to our senses as well, and to see God as the loving Giver of all good, the true Father to be valued above and beyond all the things of this world.

OFFERTORY – “Here is Love” 1 John 4:10

- 1, 3 Here is love vast as the ocean, loving kindness as the flood
When the Prince of Life, our ransom, shed for us His precious blood
Who His love will not remember? Who can cease to sing His praise?
He will never be forgotten throughout heav’n’s eternal days
- 2 On the mount of crucifixion fountains opened deep and wide
Through the flood gates of God’s mercy flowed a vast and gracious tide
Grace and love like mighty rivers poured incessant from above
Heaven’s peace and perfect justice kissed a guilty world in love
- 4 He will never be forgotten throughout heav’n’s eternal days
(Robert Lowry, traditional music arr. ©1997 Maranatha! Music CCLI #288089)

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love. Give us a proper knowledge of the evil we have done in Your sight. Move us to confess our offenses against You, and justify us with Your holy absolution. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Holy God, You delight in truth in the inward being and teach us wisdom in the secret heart. Give to our pastors every good gift as Your ambassadors, that we may grow in faith and hope. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Father of mercy, remember Your baptized children who have left Your household and departed from the faith. Call them to repentance according to Your gracious will. Remember parents, grandparents and all who mourn their departure. Sustain them in faithful patience to wait and pray. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, in Christ You reconciled the world to Yourself. Watch over our nation and all whom You have placed in authority. Give them wisdom and prudence, that Your people might live in peace and freely make known the message of reconciliation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Everlasting Father, although this world is passing away due to sin, we pray that You would preserve Your creation for our provision until You usher in Your new creation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, hear our prayers for all who cry out to You for mercy, healing and help [including]. Deliver them according to Your will and, as You have made them a new creation in Christ, keep them mindful of the day when sorrow and sickness will be no more. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.**

COLLECT FOR GRACE

P Let us pray.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

GREET ONE ANOTHER

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "The Lord be with you," "Peace be with you," or "The peace of the Lord be with you".

CLOSING SONG – "Rock of Ages" I Samuel 2: 2

1, 2, 4 There is no rock, there is no god like our God
No other name worthy of all our praise
The Rock of salvation that cannot be moved
He's proven Himself to be faithful and true
There is no rock, there is no god like ours

3, 5 Rock of Ages, Jesus is the Rock
Rock of Ages, Jesus is the Rock
Rock of Ages, Jesus is the Rock
There is no rock, there is no god like ours

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