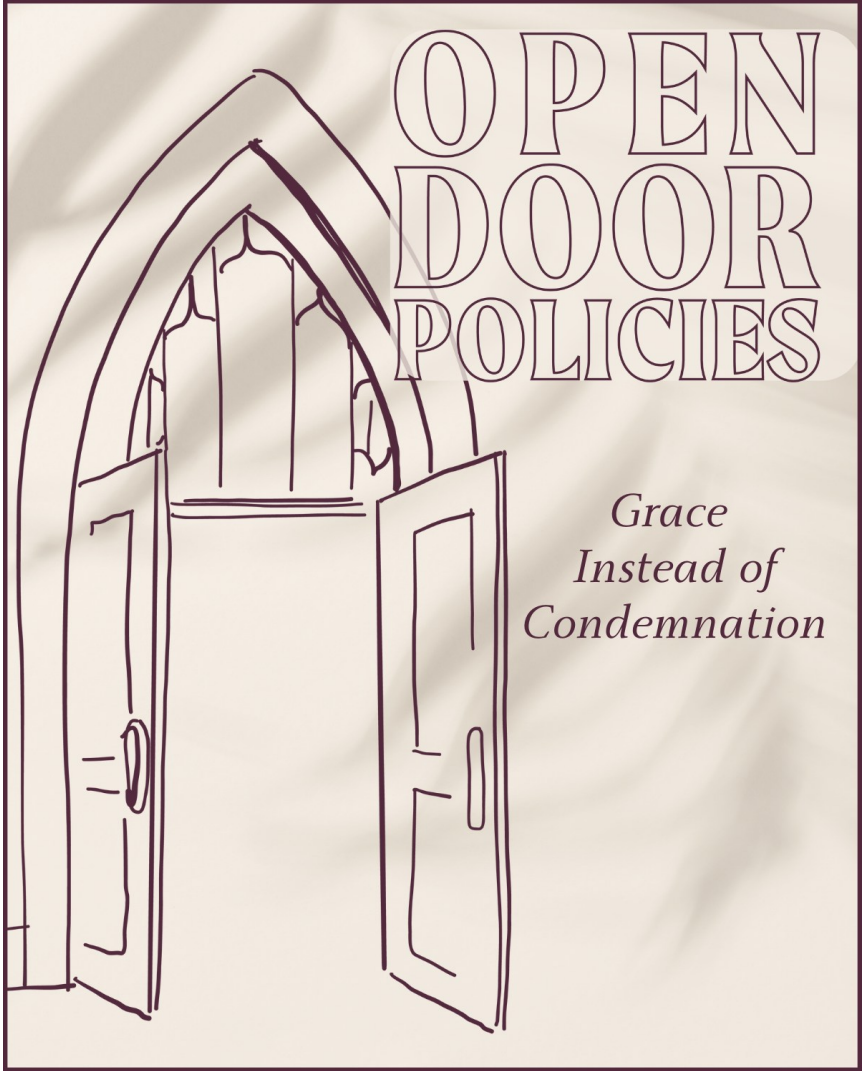


Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 29-30, 2023



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

[www.salemlutheran.org](http://www.salemlutheran.org)



## Fourth Sunday in Lent

*Open Door Policies—  
Grace Instead of Condemnation*

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** Heavenly Father, I thank you that you have brought me once again to your house and your Word. Bless me by your Spirit that I may better know my sin, and better know your forgiveness for that sin. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** Human nature assumes that people get what they deserve. We assume that what goes around comes around. We assume that God helps those who help themselves. But those assumptions are false. God does not operate on the principle of merit but of grace. God loves all people, and that love never stops. At the entrance of God's open door is not a Father looking to condemn us, but a Father longing to take us in his loving arms and assure us we are still his children.

**WORSHIP SERIES:** When adult children lose their way in life, parents discipline in love but let them know the door is always open to be welcomed back. Likewise, when we wander from God, he keeps his door open for us too. But God doesn't just passively wait for us to return. He lovingly pursues sinners in ways that make them long for home. For over 1400 years the Church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a time of repentance and renewal in the season of Lent. In this 40-day journey to the cross and tomb, we see the surprising strategies our heavenly Father uses to bring sinners back home. He draws us close to him with loving discipline and an open door of unfailing love.

### ***SERVING GOD, SERVING US:***

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano: Paige Reiners

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# Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Two



## Welcome & Introduction

### Hymn: How Deep the Father's Love for Us

CW 523



1 How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how vast be - yond all  
2 Be - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on his  
3 I will not boast in an - y - thing: no gifts, no pow'r, no



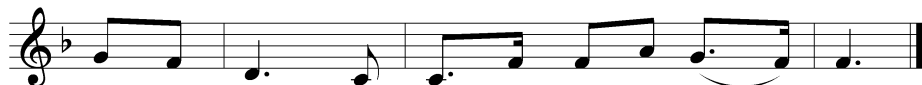
mea - sure, that he should give his on - ly Son to  
shoul - ders. A - shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call  
wis - dom. But I will boast in Je - sus Christ: his



make a wretch his trea - sure. How great the pain of sear - ing loss.  
out a - mong the scof - fers. It was my sin that held him there  
death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why should I gain from his re - ward?



The Fa - ther turns his face a - way as wounds which mar the  
un - til it was ac - com - plished; his dy - ing breath has  
I can - not give an an - swer. But this I know with



Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.  
brought me life. I know that it is fin - ished.  
all my heart: his wounds have paid my ran - som.

*Please stand.*

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the  $\dagger$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: If we claim to be without sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.** *(1 John 1:8-9)*

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**C: Holy God, gracious Father,  
I am sinful by nature  
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.  
I have not loved you with my whole heart;  
I have not loved others as I should.  
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.  
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins  
with his innocent suffering and death.  
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### **(Sunday) Choir Anthem**

### *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

*Arr. Dan Forrest*

When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown.

Were the whole realm of nature min, were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

## THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

M: 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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*Be seated.*

### **First Reading**

*Isaiah 12:1-6*

*God's grace turns the fear of our condemnation into the joy of our salvation.*

<sup>1</sup>In that day you will say:

"I will praise you, LORD.

Although you were angry with me,  
your anger has turned away  
and you have comforted me.

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust and not be afraid.

The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense;  
he has become my salvation."

<sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.

<sup>4</sup>In that day you will say:

"Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;  
make known among the nations what he has done,  
and proclaim that his name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things;  
let this be known to all the world.

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,  
for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

M: Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

C: **Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.**

M: When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

C: **For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.**

M: Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity.

C: **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

M: You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble.

C: **Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him.**

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.**

## **Second Reading**

Romans 8:1-10

*In Christ Jesus, God has already condemned all sin. For us there is only grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

<sup>5</sup>Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation

Luke 15:10



*Refrain*



Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, king of end - less glo - ry.

There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. **Refrain**

## Gospel

Luke 15:1-3,11-32

*How does God respond to those who object to or are enraged by His grace? He responds with more grace.*

<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus.

<sup>2</sup>But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." <sup>3</sup>Then Jesus told them this parable:

<sup>11</sup>Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup>"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup>After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup>I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' <sup>20</sup>So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed

him. <sup>21</sup> The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

<sup>22</sup>"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup>'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

<sup>28</sup>"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

<sup>31</sup>" 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' "

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

*Be seated.*

## Children's Devotion

### Hymn of the Day: Amazing Grace

CW 576



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— that  
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

## Sermon

Based on Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

*“The Father loves his children”*

- 1) He loves the obvious sinner
- 2) He loves the oblivious sinner

Please stand after the sermon.

# THANKSGIVING

## Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.**

Be seated.

## Offering



Connect Card

Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



Give Online

Please stand.

# Prayer of the Church

## Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

*Be seated.*

## Hymn: Baptismal Waters Cover Me

CW 657



1 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me as I ap -  
2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, his bod - y  
3 Lord, may your wound - ed hand im - part your heal - ing  
4 From your own mouth comes forth a word; your shep - herd  
5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's wound - ed



proach on bend - ed knee; my Fa - ther's mer - cy  
bro - ken there for me; I lay be - fore him  
to my bro - ken heart; your love a - lone can  
speaks, but you are heard; through him your hand now  
hand has set me free. Held in my Fa - ther's



here I plead, for griev - ous sins of thought and deed.  
all my sin, my dark - est se - crets from with - in.  
form in me a heart that serves you joy - ful - ly.  
stretch - es out, for - giv - ing sin, de - stroy - ing doubt.  
strong em - brace, with joy I praise him for his grace.

## Prayer

**M:** Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

## Hymn: On My Heart Imprint Your Image

CW 405



On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



that life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures have no pow'r to hide your face.



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, and my glo - ry and sal - va - tion.

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

### Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:15am in the sanctuary.

### For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Open Door Policies: Hiding Treasure in the Trash

Bible Readings: Isaiah 43:16-21, Philippians 3:4b-14, Luke 20:9-19

Hymns: 402, 573, 861

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

## FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help!

Please take note of a few helpful things:

- ✦ Restrooms with diaper-changing tables are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance.
- ✦ Our sanctuary is equipped with a "loop" system for hearing assistance. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position or ask an usher for a headset.
- ✦ You will find a connection card in your pew. Please share names, contact information, and prayer requests.
- ✦ Salem members give an offering to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.
- ✦ Our services are streamed live on our YouTube channel. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the seats located beneath the balcony.

## FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing, pray, and grow with us in our services.

We provide a few special worship aids and helps for families:

- ✦ Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- ✦ If your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live into the room.
- ✦ Children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the weekly children's message. Parents are welcome too!

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God  
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may  
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

