

The Fourth Sunday of

LENT

March 30, 2025



Pastoral Staff

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Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. John L. Heins
Assisting Pastor

Rev. Ronald Guettler
Assisting Pastor

Rev. James Rolf
Assisting Pastor

Rev. Peter Nickel
Assisting Pastor

Rev. Alan Eisinger
Assisting Pastor

Rev. Dr. Gerberding, *Emeritus*

Rev. J. Gruetzner, *Emeritus*

Staff

Mr. Karl Osterland
Director of Music Ministry

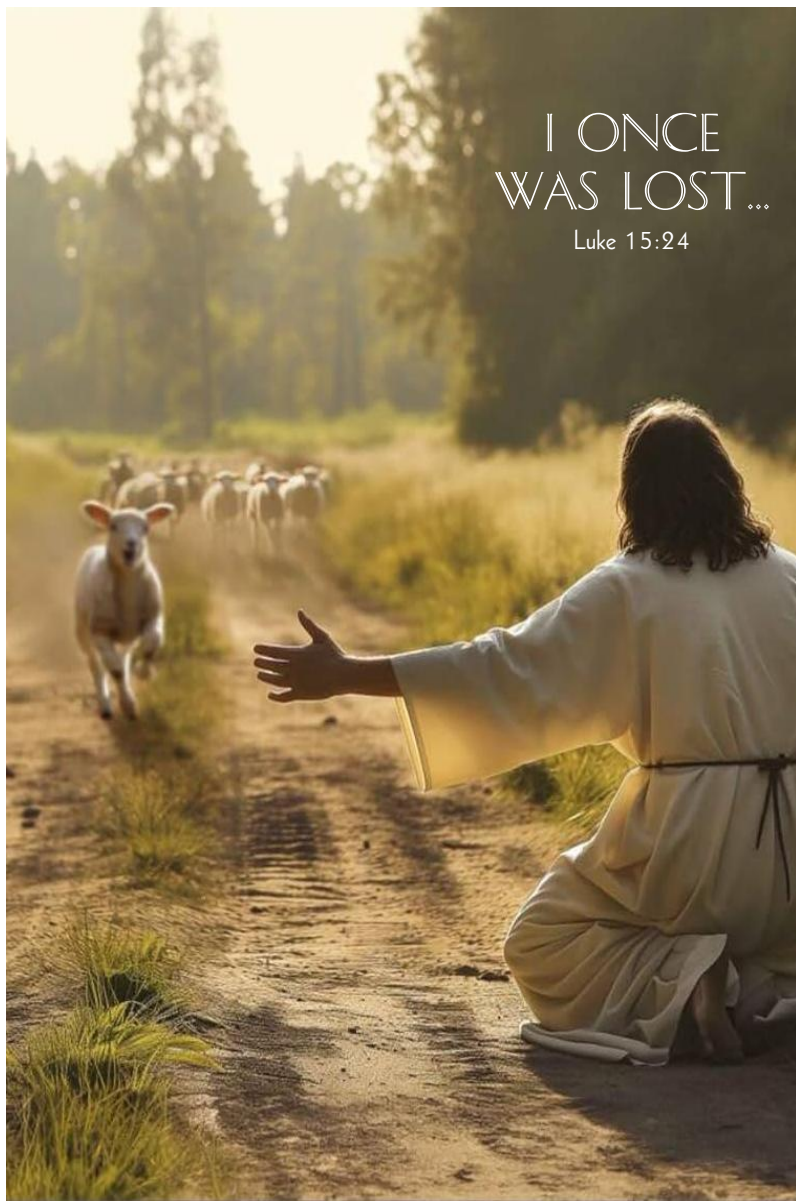
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I ONCE
WAS LOST...

Luke 15:24



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March 30, 2025

PRELUDE

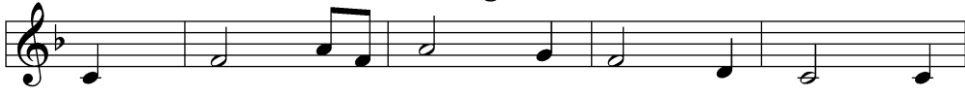
“Amazing Grace”

Karl Osterland

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Amazing Grace”

LSB 744



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 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
5 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; His grace has brought me
mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
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, His grace will lead me home.
then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

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INVOCATION Mt 28:19

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: ♪ Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Psalm 32:1–2

Pastor: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. *Hebrews 12:1-2*

People: **Return to the Lord Your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. *Joel 2:13***

Pastor: Today God calls us to confess our sins of willful blindness. God of Light,

People: **We are born in sin and darkness, separated from You. We are blind to Your Word and Your work, choosing to see only what pleases ourselves and fulfills our desires. Although You have called us to be children of light, we all too often go back to the fruitless deeds of darkness, sinning against You in thoughts, words, and actions. For the sake of Jesus, who is the Light of the world, we pray for Your forgiveness.**

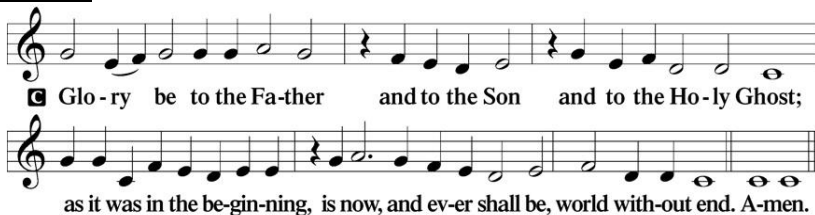
Pastor: The Lord Christ, who died on the cross for You, has shined on You, making You light in the Lord. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **♪ Amen.**

THE INTROIT *Psalm 51:2-3, 5-6; antiphon: v. 1*

Pastor/Choir: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

THE GLORIA PATRI



THE KYRIE *Mt 9:27, 15:22*

LSB p. 187

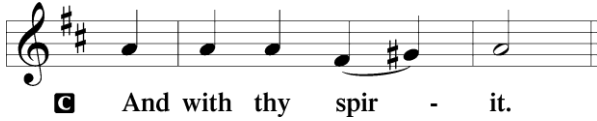
♪ **Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

The hymn of praise is omitted during Lent

THE SALUTATION 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People:



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: God of patient love, you await the return of the wayward and wandering and eagerly embrace them in pardon. Through baptism you have clothed us with the glory of Christ and restored our inheritance: give us generous hearts to welcome all who seek a place at the table of your unconditional love. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: ♪ **Amen.**

† The Word †

The readings for the Fourth Sunday in Lent fill us with a cause for joy. From the prophet Isaiah comes the song of joy in the God who has become our Savior. In the Epistle, we are reminded that in Christ we are a whole new creation. In the familiar parable of the prodigal son, or, better named, the parable of the waiting father, we see the mercy of God that welcomes His wandering children back, forgives them of their sins, and restores them to be His own children again.

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 12:1-6 NIV

(The Lord has become my salvation.)

¹ You 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."

³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And 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. ⁶ Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM @9am

"The First Song of Isaiah"

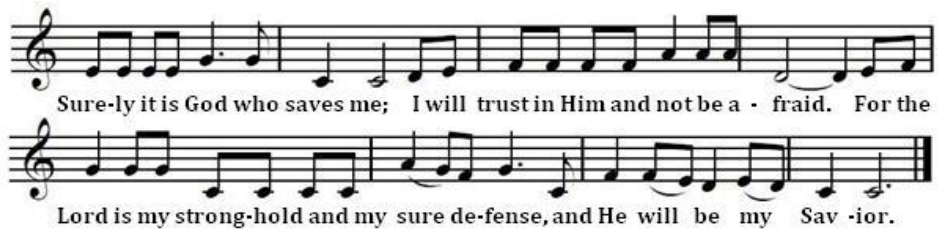
Jack Noble White

The Cathedral Choir and Congregation

(the congregation is invited to sing the refrain)

Refrain.

Congregation:



Choir: *Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name. Refrain.*

Choir: *Make his deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, and this is known in all the world. Refrain.*

Choir: *Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel. Refrain.*

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

(The old has passed away; the new has come.)

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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

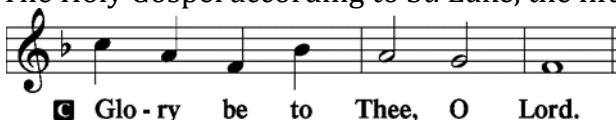
HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

(He once was lost, but now is found.)

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

People:



¹ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable:

¹¹ "There was a man who had two sons. 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. ¹³ Not 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. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And 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! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' ²⁰ And 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. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But 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. ²³ And 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. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And 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.' ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but 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. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹ And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People:



THE APOSTLES CREED

**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.

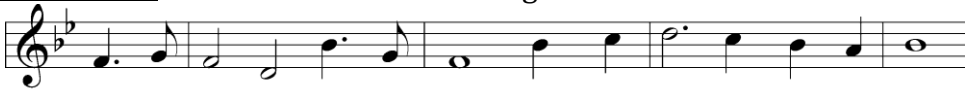
**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Rock of Ages”

LSB 761



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de-mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;
When I soar to worlds un - known, See Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
Foul, I to the foun - tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

SERMON

“A Maze in Grace”

Is 12:2/2 Co 5:20/Lk 15:20

*Rev. D. Lee Andrzejewski, Head Pastor
Historic Trinity Lutheran Church*

OFFERTORY Ps 51:10-12

♪ **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We continue to gather offerings utilizing the offering receptacles (one at the back of the church and one at the Gratiot entrance in the parish hall), through the mail, and online.



VOLUNTARY

“Rock of Ages”

Seth Bingham

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH



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Pastor: Lord, hear a prayer for our daughters. For their light, their heart, their joy, their smile, we offer you a thanksgiving that is beyond our words. Our daughters are the most beautiful parts of who we are. And so often, they are wounded beyond our capacity to see. Help us understand, so that when we pray, we know how to carry them to You. Reveal to us their hurt that we may help them heal. Give us wisdom and direction on if... or how... or when to talk about any of the things I may have done to wound her precious heart. She is our joy, O Lord. Help her to see our hearts too.

People: **May it be so!**



Pastor: Lord, hear a prayer for our sons. For their strength, their courage, their faithfulness, their soul, we offer you a thanksgiving that is beyond our words. And so often, they are wounded in quiet. Kept inside behind walls and guardrails. And all too often that silence turns toward You. Wake his spirit, Lord, to You. Create in him a desire to know you more and be known by You. Reveal Yourself to him in ways where he is compelled to see You at work. Where he is seeking fulfillment apart from You, cause his heart to feel empty. Stir a hunger in our son to be drawn closer to Your heart.

People: **May it be so!**



Pastor: For our sons, Lord, who are strong like their father even when they were scared, when they were in trouble, you never left them there. For our daughters, Lord, who love You like their mother, like there's nothing to lose. They're our unsung heroes, so we pray this prayer to You.

(other intercessions...)

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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The † Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace.



RECESSIONAL HYMN

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

LSB 425



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

POSTLUDE

"Toccata"

Léon Boëllmann

(Suite Gothique)

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 2.	12pm.	The Shroud. Lutheran High Northwest.
Sunday, April 6.	8/9/10:30am	The Fifth Sunday of Lent (8am- Matins)
Wednesday, April 9.	12pm.	The Stone. Immanuel Lutheran School, Macomb.
Sunday, April 13.	9am/10:30am.	Palm Sunday
Thursday, April 17	7pm.	Maundy Thursday
Friday, April 18	12/12:45/1:30pm	Tre- Ore
Friday, April 19	7pm	Tenebrae
Sunday, April 20	7:30/9/11am	The Festival of the Resurrection