**Shape

Description automatically generated with low confidenceGood Shepherd Lutheran Church**

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| Pastor: Rev. Katie Anderson | Music Director: Rev. Lois Swanson |
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**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**March 30, 2025, 9:00 am**

***Introduction to the day…***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

**GATHERING HYMN O Living Breath of God ELW 407**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who forgives all our sin,

whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,

**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,**

**but our lives do not always reflect you** **and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion** **you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality** **you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,**

**even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives**

**and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,

God’s arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God’s house forever.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S MUSIC Goodness is Stronger than Evil ELW 721**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12**

9 The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.  
  10 While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal, they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. 11 On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain. 12 The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

A graphic of a cross and a road

AI-generated content may be incorrect.Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 32**

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
 and whose sin is put away!  
2 **Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,**  
 **and in whose spirit there is no guile!**  
3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
 because of my groaning all day long.  
4 **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;**  
 **my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**  
5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.  
 I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.  
6 **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;**  
 **when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**  
7 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
 you surround me with shouts of deliverance.  
8 **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;**  
 **I will guide you with my eye.**  
9 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;  
 who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”  
10 **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;**  
 **but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**  
11 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;  
 shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. 17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ACS pg. 34**

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

1 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”  
  3 So he told them this parable: 11b “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. 13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. 14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16 He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. 17 But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will get up 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 like one of your hired hands.” ’ 20 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. 21 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.’ 22 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. 23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, 24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.  
  25 “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27 He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ 28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29 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. 30 But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ 31 Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 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.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling ELW 608**

**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 power of 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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

…God, in your mercy,

**Receive our prayer**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**OFFERING***In addition to our normal offering, a* ***Special Benevolence in March*** *(collected in a special*

*envelope) will be going to* ***SOS.***

**OFFERING SONG** **Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound ELW 779**

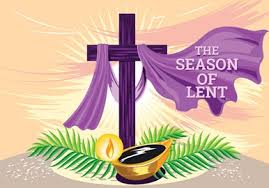
**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Gracious Provider,

you set your immense treasures among us,

opening your heart to the world.

As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,

****deepen our commitment to sharing those

treasures with others,

through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Holy, Holy, Holy ACS pg. 36**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and

the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for

the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup

we remember our Lord’s passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us

and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth,

burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,

with the earth and all its creatures,

with sun and moon and stars,

we praise you, O God,

blessed and holy Trinity,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION** *- Certified gluten-free crackers are in the bowl on the communion plate.*

All who are hungry, come!

The feast of grace is spread.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,

that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,

in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

God our tender parent,

God the crucified one,

God the reconciling Spirit,

☩ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN God Loved the World ELW 323**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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| **Coming up at GSLC** | | |
| Sunday, March 30 | 9:00 am | Worship Service   * Fourth Sunday in Lent * Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32; The parable of the prodigal father and the repentant son |
|  | 10:00 am | Book Study (*Unclobber* Ch. 7-8) |
| Tuesday, April 1 | 7:00 pm | AA Meeting |
| Wednesday, April 2 | 9:00 am | Executive Committee Meeting |
|  | 12:00 pm | Bible Study (Exodus 14) |
|  | 6:00 pm | Bread & Broth |
|  | 7:00 pm | Midweek Worship  Confirmation Class |
| Thursday, April 3 | 11am-2pm | Purple Angels Lunch and Fellowship |
| Sunday, April 6 | 9:00 am | Worship Service – Sunday School   * Fifth Sunday in Lent * John 12:1-8; Mary anoints Jesus for his burial |
|  | 10:00 am | Book Study (*Unclobber* Ch. 9-10) |

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| ***Upcoming Worship Assistants*** | | | | | | |
|  | **Usher** | **Lector** | **Communion** | **Offering Counters** | | **Deep Clean** |
| March 30 | Chris & Sara Bauer | Rob Pankratz | Dave & Sue Schraeder | Heidi Binder | Kami Weis | March:  Chris Tipping  Julie Will  Andrea Hovick  Deb Janz |
| April 6 | Susan Schoolman | Jon Hill | Sarah Kopitzke  Tammy Neuman | Pam Mundt | Margo Berrier | April:  John & Jane Wagner  Laurel Peterson |
| April 13 | Julie Will | Tammy Neumann | Matt & Margo Berrier | Dan Mundt | Bob Peterson |
| April 20 | Rob & Leslie Mader | Nancy Tibbett | Ron Rothfusz  Andrea Hovick | Nancy Leonard | Rob Mader |

The Reconciling in Christ team will be hosting a 6-week book study on *Unclobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality* to discuss how the Bible has been used as a tool to discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community. The book study will begin after worship today. Books are available for pickup from church.

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SOS has provided their list of needs for this month, which includes: **Pasta Sauce, Mayo/Miracle Whip and Broth**. Your continued generosity greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all the Good Shepherd members for their support.

We are seeking one person to be on the nominating committee. If you are willing to serve, please speak with Pastor Katie or a council member.

Names on the prayer list will now default to 6 weeks. If you would like a name to remain on the list longer, please let Pastor Katie know.

**Pastor Katie’s Office Hours**: Monday-Thursday 9am-2pm. Tuesday mornings at Uptown Coffee. Afternoons available by appointment. You are welcome to stop in any time for conversation or concerns.

The mobile pack event in Marshfield takes place April 24-26, 2025. The goal is to pack over 145,000 meals which costs $41,000.   
  
We have signed up to help pack on Saturday, April 26 @12-1:30pm. Contact Pastor Katie or the office to help.  
**Please follow this student-to-adult ratio when registering to volunteer:  
-For safety reasons, children under the age of 5 are not allowed in our packing area**

**(sorry, no exceptions)  
-Grades K-2: 1 student to 1 adult  
-Grades 3-6: 3 students to 1 adult  
-Grades 7-12: 4 students to 1 adult**  
**Everyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.**



**Bible Study is returning for Lent!**

We’ll follow a series on Exodus beginning Wednesday, March 12 at noon. All are welcome to join!

Session 1: Exodus 1:8-2:10

Session 2: Exodus 2:11-25

Session 3: Exodus 3 & 4

Session 4: Exodus 14

Session 5: Exodus 16:2-30

Session 6: Exodus 17:1-7

**Easter Garden Donations**

Good Shepherd altar care will soon be purchasing a variety of plants and

decorations for the Easter Garden and Outdoor Summer Services.

If you would like to make a donation, fill out the form on the table in the

narthex and place it with your check with Easter Garden in the memo line in

the offering plate or on the desk in the office.



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| **Good Shepherd Directory Update**  The Church Directory Team is seeking your photos and contact information. A list of families who submitted photos and information a few years ago is available in the narthex. Please approve that these details are correct.  You haven’t submitted your information, pick up the form on the table and return it to church with your photo before the deadline of May 1st. You may also click on the link in the upcoming newsletter to complete the form online. Please sign up in the narthex to have your photo taken after church on April 6th or 20th. For questions, contact Jon Hill, Pam Mundt, Jane Wagner or Margo Berrier. |

A poster for a church

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**Massage from the Green Team**

Little Free Library is celebrating its 200,000th book box! This landmark library has been donated to Benjamin E. Mays IB World School, an elementary school in St. Paul’s historic Rondo neighborhood. It marks the first of 200 Little Free Libraries being granted to Title I schools across the country, in an effort to expand children’s access to books.  This 200k milestone library joins our worldwide network, which spans all 50 states, 128 countries, and all seven continents.

The Green Team will be sponsoring a book drive for a few weeks in celebration of this new milestone.  The box is located on the counter in the narthex.  Please feel free to bring in books you no longer need or want, especially children's books.  Thank you!