



FREE AND FAITHFUL GRACE

The Fourth Sunday in Lent
— Laetare Sunday —

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Kearney, Nebraska*

Sunday, March 6, 2016

WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD!

We are so happy you could join us today! If we can assist you in any way with questions about our confession of faith, spiritual struggles, understanding our liturgical service, or any other need, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you.

For your convenience, **Listening Devices** are available for those who need assistance in hearing the service. Please speak with an usher if you need one. A **Nursery** is also available and is equipped with a speaker so that a minimal amount of the service is missed. The nursery is located in the hallway just off the entryway (first door on left).

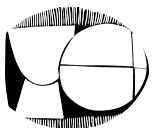
SERVICE NOTES FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

The repentant sinner rejoices at being found in the loving embrace of the Father's full, free, and "foolish" forgiveness. Even though our sin should separate us from the family of God, he welcomes us back into the family with the full rights sons. To the self-righteous, this seems foolish, even offensive. But for the loving Father this is cause for celebration.

LAETARE SUNDAY

Historically, the Fourth Sunday in Lent has been called *Laetare Sunday*. "Laetare" is Latin for, "rejoice," and is the first word in the *Introit*, (* see note at the bottom of the next page; see also pg. 5). This Sunday has been viewed as a sort of respite from the sorrowful season of Lent. This Sunday also marks the halfway point to Good Friday, and is the first time Jerusalem is mentioned in the Divine Service during Lent. We can see the end of Jesus' time on earth approaching as we near Jerusalem.

HOLY COMMUNION IS OFFERED TODAY



In Holy Communion, we share in the mystery of the bread and wine offered together with the body and blood of Christ. As Christians who believe that the Bible is inspired by God and that every word written in it is God's holy Word, we believe that we receive the body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine.

While this is something that goes beyond our human understanding, our faith allows us to accept this as true. God warns us in the Bible that anyone who doesn't understand this teaching or who denies this real presence of Christ's body and blood will do damage to his or her soul if not taught first.

As a congregation we care about people and about the spiritual well-being of individuals, especially those attending the Lord's Table this morning. If you are a guest and desire to commune, please speak to the pastor before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are not under church discipline in another congregation, and are members of our congregation, one of our sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod [WELS], or a member of our sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS].

SERVING IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

Preacher & Presiding Minister	Pr. Nathanael Seelow
Organist	Logan Hansen
Ushers	Phil & Matthew Brei
Greeters	Rich & Sandy Harp
Sound Technician	Chaden Darby

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* Traditionally, the Divine Service begins in the rear of the church nave. The Invocation ("In the name of the Father..."), Confession & Absolution, and the Kyrie ("Lord, have mercy...") are said from the back of the church. Then, the Introit, which means "entrance," is spoken or sung as the pastor(s) enter the sanctuary in procession (usually with a processional cross/crucifix and candles). The service would then continue with the first of two "services" or rites in the Divine Service:
(1) the SERVICE OF THE WORD (see pg. 5), which includes the Salutation ("The Lord be with you..."), the assigned readings for the Day, the Psalm of the Day, the Verse of the Day, the Hymn of the Day, and the Sermon; (2) and then, the SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT (see pg. 13), which includes the Salutation again, the Proper Preface ("It is truly good and right that we should at all times, and at all places..."), the Sanctus ("Holy..."), the Prayer of Thanksgiving, the Lord's Prayer, the Words of Consecration, the Agnus Dei ("Lamb of God..."), and the distribution.



THE DIVINE SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

Not in Anger, Mighty God | CW 423

INVOCATION

Please stand.

Throughout the service, the sign of the cross (✙) may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.¹

M In the name of the Father and of the ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

M God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

C Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

¹ The name of the Triune God and the sign of the cross reminds worshipers of their baptisms. Martin Luther wrote in his *Small Catechism*, "In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'"



ABSOLUTION

M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

INTROIT

Psalm 28:6-7a, 8-9; antiphon: Isaiah 66:10

The congregation sings the verses in bold.



M (*antiphon*)
Rejoice with Jerusalem and be | glad for her,*
all you who | love her;
rejoice great- | ly with her,*
all you who mourn | over her.

C Praise be | to the LORD,*
for he has heard my cry for | mercy.
The LORD is my strength | and my shield,*
my heart trusts in him, and | I am helped.

The LORD is the strength of his | people,*
a fortress of salvation for his a- | nointed one.
Save your people and bless your in- | heritance;*
be their shepherd and carry them for- | ever.

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

M (*antiphon*)



The Service of the Word

LORD, HAVE MERCY — *Kyrie*

- [M]** For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



- [M]** For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



- [M]** For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



- [M]** Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



O LORD, OUR LORD — *Gloria in Excelsis*

During the season of Lent, the GLORIA IN EXCELSIS is omitted.

PRAYER OF THE DAY — *Collect*

[M] Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your mercies are new every morning, and though we have in now way deserved your goodness, you still abundantly provide for all our wants of body and soul. Give us, we pray, your Holy Spirit that we may heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness toward us, 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.



Be seated.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 12:1-6

*The LORD, the God of free and faithful
grace, has turned from his fierce
anger to bring comfort and 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.”

M The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 32 | **CW** p. 78

Refrain

Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;
re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

Psalm tone

*

Refrain

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,*
whose sins are covered.

When I kept silent, your hand was heavy upon me;*
my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

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

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”*
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Refrain

Psalm tone *

Refrain

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The greatest comfort for the repentant heart is the full and free forgiveness, the love and welcome of the Father.

Please stand.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter fifteen.

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.’”

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus Sinners Does Receive | **CW 304**

SERMON

Luke 15:17-24

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.

Have you come to your senses, yet?

NICENE CREED

Please stand.

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We believe in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated.

OFFERING

Please sign the Friendship Register and pass it on to others in the pew. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to give an offering.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Please stand.



The Service of the Sacrament

SALUTATION

[M] The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

[M] Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

[M] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

[M] Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY — *Sanctus*



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M Blessed are you, O God our Savior, for you have gathered us here to remember Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf. In this meal you give us his true body and blood, which paid our debt to you and assures us of your forgiveness. For all of your undeserved love toward us, we give thanks and praise to your living and life-giving name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ☩ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ☩ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



LAMB OF GOD — *Agnus Dei*

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

We ask that only members of the Wisconsin Synod [WELS] or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS] join us at the Lord's Table. If you have questions concerning our communion practice, or would like to inquire about how you, too, can commune with us, please speak with the Pastor following the service.

In dismissing the communicants, the minister says:

- [M]** Now, may this true body and blood strengthen and keep you in the true faith to life everlasting. Your sins ☩ are forgiven. Go in peace. Amen.

PRAYER FOR GRACE

- [M]** Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BLESSING

- [M]** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the LORD with gladness.

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: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

By Grace I'm Saved | **CW 384**



Announcements

BIBLE CLASS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY! Sunday School will meet at 10:45 in the church. Bible Class will start at 10:55 in the multi-purpose room. We will be continuing our study of *Romans 1-8*.

LENT CONTINUES THIS WEEK This year's series is titled: "*A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth*", and are based on a sermon series from a Professor of our seminary in 1889. Services are on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. Lenten suppers will begin each week at 6:00pm (except for Ash Wednesday when there is no supper.) A schedule for this Lenten season is included as an insert in this bulletin. Please start making plans now in your schedule to be able to spend some time with the Lord during this blessed season of the church year.



A LAMB GOES
UNCOMPLAINING FORTH

THE LORD'S SUPPER DURING LENT During the season of Lent, the Lord's Supper will be offered every week in the Divine Service. Since the season of Lent is a season of repentance, it is only fitting that the church offers forgiveness through the Holy Supper throughout the season. If you have any questions or concerns about this practice, please speak with Pastor Seelow.

EASTER LILLY SIGN-UP There is a sign-up sheet in the entry way to sign up to purchase a Lilly to be used to decorate the front of the church for the Easter season. The cost of a Lilly is \$8. As in the past, a memorial may be attached to the flower(s).

CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOS In the coming weeks, you are asked to take a moment before or after the Divine Service and have a photo taken individually and as a family. These photos will be uploaded to our online Church directory. An effort is being made to make this directory available to everyone, especially our new(er) members so that they can more easily put a name to a face. If you have questions concerning this, or would like more information on how to log on to our online directory, speak to Pastor Seelow or one of the council members.

NELHS BLOOD DRIVE Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School in Waco, NE is having their annual Blood Drive on Friday, March 11th. If you would like to donate please call the front office at

(402) 728-5236 or email Pastor Haakenson (shaakenson@nelhs.org) to schedule an appointment. Their goal this year is 40 units.

CHURCH BULLETINS ARE ONLINE! Beginning with the January 3 Divine Service, the bulletins have been uploaded and stored on our church website. If you miss the service, or have a friend you think would like to see what we do on a Sunday morning, please make use of this resource. These are a meant to serve as an aid to recorded services that will be available online. While still only in a planning phase, we hope to provide an audio file of the weekly service on the website each week. If you would like to know more about this, please speak with Pastor Seelow.

CONGREGATION AT PRAYER A copy of the newest “A Congregation at Prayer” is available on the table in the entryway. This packet is not only a good outline for personal and family devotions, but it also includes an up-to-date prayer list for those in (and outside) our congregation.

This Week’s Calendar

Wednesday, March 910:30a — Matins
4p — Confirmation
6p — Lenten Supper
7p — **Mid-Week Lenten Service**

Sunday, March 139:30a — Divine Service with Holy Communion
Ushers: Mark Darby & Jim Cantrell
Greeters: Powers Family

10:45a — Sunday School
10:55a — *Romans 1-8*

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Cleaning (3/6-3/12)*Church*—Hass; *Fellowship*—Hansen; *Ed. Bldg.*—Harp
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