

# Lenten Midweek Worship

Wednesday, April 2, 2025; 7 p.m.



**St John's**  
Lutheran Church

## Prelude

*(Acolytes light the candles)*

Linda Ranney

## Greeting

The love of God poured into our hearts,  
the saving grace of Jesus Christ,  
and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Gathering Hymn

ELW #561; *Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory*

- 1 Joyous light of heav'nly glory,  
loving glow of God's own face,  
you who sing creation's story,  
shine on ev'ry land and race.  
Now as evening falls around us,  
we shall raise our songs to you.  
God of daybreak, God of shadows,  
come and light our hearts anew.
- 2 In the stars that grace the darkness,  
in the blazing sun of dawn,  
in the light of peace and wisdom,  
we can hear your quiet song.  
Love that fills the night with wonder,  
love that warms the weary soul,  
love that bursts all chains asunder,  
set us free and make us whole.
- 3 You who made the heaven's splendor,

ev'ry dancing star of night,  
make us shine with gentle justice,  
let us each reflect your light.  
Mighty God of all creation,  
gentle Christ who lights our way,  
loving Spirit of salvation,  
lead us on to endless day.

## Prayer

Let us pray. O God, **rich in mercy, full of kindness, out of your great love, you raise us up from sin and death and make us alive together with Christ. Write your word upon our hearts and restore in us the image of your love that, by your Spirit, our way of life may become the way of Christ, through whom we pray. Amen.**

## Reading: Luke 15:1-3; 11b-24

A reading from Luke.

<sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>11</sup>Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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.' <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Reflection

Mark Lundin

### Hymn of the Day *(please stand)*

ELW #591; *That Priceless Grace*

- 1 That priceless grace, that priceless grace,  
that priceless grace, which gave me life:  
Jesus' life is priceless grace.  
That priceless grace is life for me.
- 2 That priceless blood, that priceless blood,  
that priceless blood was shed for me:  
Jesus' blood is priceless grace.  
That priceless grace is life for me.
- 3 That painful death, that painful death,  
that painful death took sins away:  
Jesus' death is priceless grace.  
That priceless grace is life for me.
- 4 That precious word, that precious word,  
that precious word, which brought me light:  
Jesus' word is priceless grace.  
That priceless grace is life for me.

## Offering *(please sit)*

*(Acolyte will collect the offering from the ushers and bring forward.)*

Linda Ranney

## Prayers of the People

In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness and bears the wounds of the world. Therefore, let us be bold as we pray, trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

*(Petition)* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, receive these prayers and those that remain unspoken, and in return grant us your peace, all for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Prayer at the Sand Cross

*(Worshippers are invited to light a candle and pray at the Sand Cross.)*

## The 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Blessing

Christ Jesus dwell in our hearts through faith,  
as we are being rooted and grounded in love,  
strengthened by the Spirit,  
and filled with all the fullness of God.  
**Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

*(Acolytes extinguish the candles)*

ACS #1047; *What is the World Like* vs. 1, 3, 4

- 1     What is the world like when God's will is done?  
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:  
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.  
This is how God moves us each to believe.
  
- 3     What is the world like when God's will is done?  
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;  
peace thrives in places where once there was none.  
This is how God works when rivalries end.
  
- 4     What is the world like when God's will is done?  
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,  
tending our lamps till the new day's begun.  
This is how God readies us for the light.

## Sending

Go in peace. Turn toward God's abundance.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

Linda Ranney

## Serving at Worship Today

Pastor	Pastor Christine Emerson
Acolyte	
Ushers	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation
Greeters	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation
Media & Streaming	Scott Olsen
Screen Operator	Claire Ernster
Musicians	Linda Ranney, accompanist; Mark Lundin, Director of Music

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