

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 30, 2025

## *Grace Instead of Condemnation*

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**Opening Hymn** ..... 916, "Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

**Order of Service**.....Setting Two, Page 172

**Prayer of the Day:** 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.

### FIRST READING

**Psalm of the Day (*On Insert*)**.....Psalm 32B vv. 1-3

### SECOND READING

**Gospel Acclamation** ..... Page 179

**Gospel Acclamation Verse:** *There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.*

### GOSPEL

**Hymn of the Day** .....576, "Amazing Grace"

**SERMON – VIDEO (Part 5)** ..... "One by One"

**Offering Hymn** ..... 750 v. 1, "We Give Thee but Thine Own"

**Apostles' Creed** ..... Page 181

**Hymn** .....570, "God Loved the World So That He Gave"

**Closing Liturgy** ..... Page 171

**Closing Hymn** ..... 808 vv. 1 & 3, "Drawn to the Cross"

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## FIRST READING: Isaiah 12:1-6

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

*In that day you will say: I will give thanks to you, Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger has turned away, and you comfort me. Surely God is my salvation. I will trust him and will not be afraid, because Yah, the Lord, is my strength and song, and he has become my salvation.*

*Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say: Give thanks to the Lord! Proclaim his name. Declare among the peoples what he has done. Proclaim that his name is exalted! Sing to the Lord, for he has done amazing things! Let this be known in all the earth! Shout aloud and sing for joy, daughter of Zion, for the Holy One of Israel is great among you!*

## 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.

*So then, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For in Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. Indeed, what the law was unable to do, because it was weakened by the flesh, God did, when he sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with sin. God condemned sin in his flesh, so that the righteous decree of the law would be fully satisfied in us who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.*

*To be sure, those who are in harmony with the sinful flesh think about things the way the sinful flesh does, and those in harmony with the spirit think about things the way the spirit does. Now, the way the sinful flesh thinks results in death, but the way the spirit thinks results in life and peace. For the mind-set of the sinful flesh is hostile to God, since it does not submit to God's law, and in fact, it cannot. Those who are in the sinful flesh cannot please God.*

*But you are not in the sinful flesh but in the spirit, if indeed God's Spirit lives in you. And if someone does not have the Spirit of Christ, that person does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but your spirit is alive because of righteousness.*

## 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.

*All the tax collectors and sinners were coming to Jesus to hear him. But the Pharisees and the experts in the law were complaining, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." He told them this parable:*

*Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered together all that he had and traveled to a distant country. There he wasted his wealth with reckless living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that country, and he began to be in need. He went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He would have liked to fill his stomach with the carob pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, and I am dying from hunger! I will get up, go to my father, and tell him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."' He got up and went to his father.*

*"While he was still far away, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, hugged his son, and kissed him. The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick, bring out the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let us eat and celebrate, because this son of mine was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.' Then they began to celebrate.*

*"His older son was in the field. As he approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the*

## GOSPEL READING (Cont. on back page ➔)

## GOSPEL (cont.)

servants and asked what was going on. The servant told him, 'Your brother is here! Your father killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' The older brother was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. "He answered his father, 'Look, these many years I've been serving you, and I never disobeyed your command, but you never gave me even a young goat so that I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours arrived after wasting your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' "The father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. But it was fitting to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.'"

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HEAD USHERS:** Ronald Knueppel/Bill Keller, III; next Sunday: Dean Ebert/Rob Stern

**FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY:** Today is Fellowship Sunday! Everyone is invited to stay for the refreshments which will be served following today's worship service. We thank the Doug & Becky Schulz Family for hosting today's fellowship hour!

**ORGANISTS:** The April schedule is hanging on the SCHOOL bulletin board. Please look at your calendars in the near future and sign up for the date(s) you are willing to play for us. Thank you!

**MR. LORGE RECEIVES CALL:** Mr. Lorge has received a divine call to teach Gr. 7-8 at St. John's Lutheran School in Caledonia, Minnesota. Please keep Mr. Lorge in your prayers as he deliberates this call as well as his current call here at St. Matthew's. Mr. Lorge welcomes any input or thoughts you may have regarding these calls!

**THE LENTEN SEASON CONTINUES THIS WEEK!** Our Lenten worship services will be held on **Wednesday, April 2**, at **3:15 PM** and **7:00 PM**. Our guest pastor will be Pastor Ben Golisch of St. Paul, Slinger. Please join us!

**EASTER LILIES:** If you wish to order a lily (or lilies) to be placed in church for the services on Easter Sunday, please sign up on the sheet posted on the church bulletin board in the school hallway. Lilies will be purchased only for those who sign up! After the Easter services, the lily is yours to take home and enjoy. The cost is **\$13.50** per plant. The last day to order is **Sunday (TODAY), March 30**.

**LWMS SPRING MISSION RALLY:** The LWMS Spring Mission Rally will be hosted by St. Paul, Neosho, on **Saturday, April 5**, from **8:30 AM – 12:30 PM**. It will be co-hosted by Bethany Lutheran, Hustisford. The speaker will be **Rev. John Borgwardt** who will update everyone on the District's mission work and the home missions in this area. Donations will be taken at registration for the Working Fund, and those attending are also asked to bring non-perishable food and household items for the Seminary Food Pantry. If you would like more information about this rally, please speak with **Becky** or **Abby Schulz**.

**WE THANK** everyone who donated to last week's LWMS free-will offering! A total of **\$270.00** was collected.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont. on Insert →)**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.)

**EASTER BREAKFAST:** On **Sunday, April 20**, between our **7:00 AM -and- 9:00 AM** worship services, we will be hosting an Easter breakfast. **Dean & Suanne Ebert** are our coordinators. Scrambled eggs with ham, breakfast sausages, pancakes and French toast will be provided, but we will need donations of food items to supplement the meal. If you would like to provide something, please watch for the sign-up sheet which will be posted on the church bulletin board in the near future. We will also need volunteers to help set up, clean up, and prepare food that day. You may sign up to help in that way as well. Thanks, in advance, to all who help in any way!

**PASTOR SCHULTE'S INSTALLATION** has been scheduled for **Sunday, May 4**, at **2:00 PM**. Following the service there will be a catered meal. So that we may plan for the amount of food which is needed, please sign up on the sheet posted on the church bulletin board if you are planning on staying for the meal. Also, in connection with Pastor Schulte's installation, we would like to welcome Pastor and Mrs. Schulte with housewarming gifts. If you wish to give a gift to the Schultes, there is an Amazon gift list which can be emailed to you, please speak with **Debbi Foulkes** if you are interested. You can also email her at [church@stmatthewironridge.com](mailto:church@stmatthewironridge.com) -or- you can call the office phone number of **920-625-6600**. Please leave a message if no one is available to answer your call. If you prefer, cash or gifts cards would also be accepted and appreciated.

**WE THANK** the Adult Choir for enriching today's service with their song!

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## OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

**Attendance:** Lenten Services: 33/24; Sunday: 114

**Offerings:** Lenten Services: \$740.00; Sunday: \$5,502.00

*(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$7,355.00)*

**Special Funds:** Debt Retirement: \$100.00; Church Refurbishment: \$500.00



*We invite you to support this ministry through financial offerings out of thanksgiving for the Gospel you have received here. Offerings may be placed in the plate located on the table at the back of church, or you may scan the QR code to give electronically.*

## OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

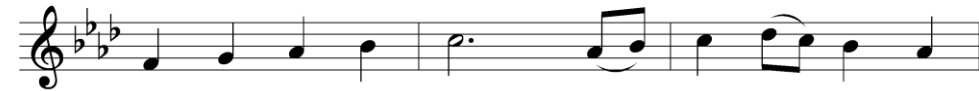
Sunday:	Worship Service ( <b>Fellowship Sunday</b> ).....	9:00 AM
Tuesday:	School Board Meeting .....	7:00 PM
Wednesday:	Lenten Worship Services.....	3:15 PM/7:00 PM
Thursday:	Adult Choir.....	7:00 PM
	<b>Scrip Orders Due</b>	
Saturday:	<i>LWMS SPRING RALLY (@ St. Paul, Neosho)</i> <b>Registration Begins</b> .....	<b>8:30 AM</b>
Sunday:	Communion Worship Service .....	9:00 AM
	Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School .....	10:15 AM

### 32B How Blest Are Those

*Psalm 32B sts. 1-3*



1 How blest are those the LORD for - gives; how  
 2 I si - lent - ly con - cealed my guilt, but  
 3 I then con - fessed my sin to you, my



glad they are to hear their sin is gone, their  
 then I groaned all day: your heav - y hand, like  
 griev - ous guilt and shame, and you for - gave my



guilt a - toned, their rec - ord clean and clear.  
 sum - mer heat, took all my strength a - way.  
 wick - ed - ness by your most gra - cious name.

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