

## WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

**THE BIBLE** – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

**GOD** – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

**MAN** – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

**SIN** – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

**REDEMPTION** – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

**FAITH** – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

**THE CHURCH** – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

**SACRAMENTS** – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper, believing communicants, with the bread and wine, also really receive Christ’s body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

**SECOND COMING OF CHRIST** – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

**RESURRECTION** – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).

# The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 27, 2022

## INTROIT

*Psalm 51:2-6; Antiphon: Psalm 51:1*

*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.*

*Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your judgment.*

*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.*

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.*

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** *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 Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.*

**C** *♪[Amen]♪*

## GRADUAL

*Hebrew 12:2*

*[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,  
the founder and perfecter of our faith,  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,  
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

## RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS

After each petition: **P** Lord, in Your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.

## **Isaiah 12:1-6 (ESV)**

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.

<sup>2</sup> “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.”

<sup>3</sup> With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> “Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

## **2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> From 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. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf

of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## **Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (ESV)**

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable:

<sup>11</sup> And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in 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 into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> “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! <sup>18</sup> I will arise 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 as one of your hired servants.’” <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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.’<sup>22</sup> 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.’<sup>23</sup> And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate.<sup>24</sup> For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing.<sup>26</sup> And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant.<sup>27</sup> 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.’<sup>28</sup> But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him,<sup>29</sup> 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.’<sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’<sup>31</sup> And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.’<sup>32</sup> It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’

#### **FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

Isaiah 12:1–6

2 Corinthians 5:16–21

Luke 15:1–3, 11–32

#### ***Jesus Christ Has Reconciled Us to the Father***

God the Father has opened His heart to us in love. While we were “*still a long way off,*” He saw us and “*felt compassion*” (Luke 15:20). Therefore, He gave His only-begotten Son for us, making “*Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God*” (2 Cor. 5:21). By the ministry of reconciliation, He runs to us, embraces us in mercy, and clothes us with His glory as beloved sons in Christ Jesus. And so we give thanks unto the Lord our God, who has taken away our sins and turned His anger from us (Is. 12:1). As He has become our salvation, our strength and our song, so we “*will trust, and will not be afraid*” (Is. 12:2).

#### ***Next Week’s Readings from God’s Word:***

April 3: The Fifth Sunday in Lent (Series C):

Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126, Philippians 3:(4b-7) 8-14, Luke 20:9-20