

Regarding the Lord's Supper

We believe that the Lord's Supper is one of the greatest gifts God gives to His church on earth. It is our Lord's meal of grace, in which He bestows the forgiveness of sins to troubled souls; and for that reason, we want all who are able to receive the Lord's Supper.

We also believe, however, that this sacrament *can* be received to our spiritual detriment, because we receive with the bread and wine the real body and blood of a holy God who died to redeem the world. The scriptures tell us:

"Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself." (1 Corinthians 11:27-29)

Because we want to be good stewards of this precious and mysterious gift of the Lord's Supper, we lovingly restrict its distribution to those who are able properly to examine themselves and recognize the body and blood of Christ in the meal.

To assist all of our worshippers in examining themselves, we offer the following questions for your reflection and affirmation:

- ✘ Do I believe that I am a sinner without hope of eternal life, except for God's mercy offered through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? (*1 John 1:8-10; 4:10; John 3:16*)
- ✘ Am I sorry for my sins, and do I believe Christ's promise that in His body and blood is forgiveness, life and salvation? (*Proverbs 28:13; Matthew 26:26-28; Luke 22:19-20; John 6:51*)
- ✘ Do I believe that with the bread and wine I receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ, not just a symbol of it? (*1 Corinthians 10:16; Mark 14:22-24*)
- ✘ Do I intend, with the help of God, to live a life that is pleasing to God? (*Ephesians 4:22-24*)

If you can answer "yes" to these questions, then come with a repentant heart to join us in the blessing of Christ's true body and blood for the forgiveness of your sins and the strengthening of your faith. If you hold a belief that differs from the beliefs of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we kindly ask that you refrain from communing at our altar at this time. We also ask that children, under the age of 15, who have not been instructed in the faith, also refrain from communing. If you have any questions we invite you to speak to one of our pastors after the service. May God bless our worship together!

“Come on Home”
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
March 14, 2010



✝ **AS WE GATHER** ✝

Welcome to Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, a special welcome to our guests. The “Parable of the Prodigal Son” tells of the son who rebelled against his father and lived in a far off country. This parable, however, could aptly be called the “Parable of the Loving Father.” The father infinitely loved and longed for his son’s return. This parable explains to us God’s attitude toward us in Christ. Our Heavenly Father loves us and longs for our return, and he lavishes on us spiritual and eternal blessings. God bless your worship with us.

So that everyone can worship without distraction: please turn off all cell phones and pagers, and please feel free to take your child(ren) to the staffed nursery or out to the narthex if they become restless during the service. Thank you for your cooperation.

ORDER of WORSHIP – Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service, Setting 2, p. 167 ff.

PRESERVICE MUSIC.....“Today Your Mercy Calls Us” ~ *Culli*

✝ **PREPARATION** ✝

WELCOME & SHARING OF PEACE

OPENING HYMN “Today Your Mercy Calls Us” Hymn 915

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (*Page 167*)

✝ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ✝

KYRIE (*Pages 168-169 - sung responsively*)

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY (Page 172)

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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING.....Isaiah 12:1-6

(The Lord has become my salvation.)

¹ In that day you will say: "I will praise you, O LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. ² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation." ³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ In that day you will say: "Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵ Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God. *(spoken)*

MUSICAL RESPONSE....."I Will Rely on Him" ~ *Hokanson*
(8 am Grades 3 & 4 Schoolchildren, 10:45 am Kindergarten Schoolchildren)

When I am hurried, when I am worried, Jesus, my Shepherd cares. Through every sorrow, today and tomorrow, Jesus, my Shepherd cares. When I'm in danger, or meet a stranger, Jesus keeps watch o'er me. In second chances and tough circumstances, Jesus keeps watch o'er me. I will rely on Him in troubles great and small. Jesus, Good Shepherd, loves you and me. For us He gave His all. When I need a shoulder, as I grow older, My Shepherd leads me on. When I am hurried, when I am worried, I will rely on Him. Through every sorrow, today and tomorrow, I will rely on Him.

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EPISTLE READING2 Corinthians 5:16-21


(The old has passed away, the new has come.)

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.** *(spoken)*

VERSE FOR LENT *(Page 173 – sung by all)*



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15th chapter.



Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL.....Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

(The parable of the prodigal son.)

¹ Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. ²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' ³¹ " 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' "

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES CREED *(Page 175 – spoken by all)*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY “God Loved the World So That He Gave” Hymn 571

SERMON “Come on Home” Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

OFFERING

(This is a time when we give back to the Lord as a response of faith. As our offerings are being gathered, we ask that each of you sign the Rite of Fellowship Folder located in each pew. If you are visiting with us please include your full name, mailing address, & phone number. After all have signed it please pass it back to the center aisle.)

MUSICAL OFFERING.....“Christ, the Life of All the Living” ~ J. S. Bach

OFFERTORY *(Page 176, sung by all)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

(Special Petitions) P: Lord, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

✠ **COMMUNION WITH CHRIST** ✠

Regarding the Lord's Supper: *We are celebrating the sacrament of Holy Communion, which we believe to be a great gift from our loving God. If you desire to participate with us in this sacred part of our service, please refer to our communion policy on the inside front cover of the bulletin. Thank you.*

Communion Distribution: *We will commune this morning by "continuous line". The ushers will direct each pew to come forward by the center aisle. We invite you to pause and consume each element at the station in which you receive it before moving on. If you wish, you may move to the end of the chancel for further reflection before returning to your seat. You will return to your seat by the side aisle. Please place individual cups in the basket at the end of the first pew.*

PREFACE *(Page 177 – sung responsively)*

SANCTUS *(Page 178 – sung by all)*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(Page 178)*

LORD'S PRAYER *(Page 179 – column 2)*

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *(Page 179 – column 2)*

PAX DOMINI *"The Peace of the Lord" (Page 180, sung responsively)*

AGNUS DEI *(Page 180 – sung by all)*

DISTRIBUTION & HYMNS Hymn 420, "Christ, the Life of All the Living"
Hymn 609, "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE *"Nunc Dimittis" (Page 182, sung by all)*

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT *(Page 183, sung responsively)*

