

A Service of Morning Prayer
March 27, 2022
Fourth Sunday in Lent



The Parable of the Prodigal Son. Painting by Jan Cossiers, Flemish painter 1600-1671

I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him: Father I have sinned against heaven and before you.
Luke 15.18

CP 10 We, the Lord's People

1 We, the Lord's people, heart and voice
 uniting,
 praise him who called us out of sin and
 darkness
 into his own light, that he might anoint us
 a royal priesthood.

2 This is the Lord's house, home of all his
 people,
 school for the faithful, refuge for the sinner,
 rest for the pilgrim, haven for the weary;
 all find a welcome.

3 This is the Lord's day, day of God's own
 making,
 day of creation, day of resurrection,
 day of the Spirit, sign of heaven's banquet,
 day for rejoicing.

4 In the Lord's service bread and wine are
 offered,
 that Christ may take them, bless them, break
 and give them
 to all his people, his own life imparting,
 food everlasting.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 And the love of God,
 And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
 Be with you all.

And also with you.

May his grace and peace be with you.

May he fill our hearts with joy.

Almighty God,
**To you all hearts are open,
 All desires known,
 And from you no secrets are hidden.
 Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
 By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
 That we may perfectly love you,
 And worthily magnify your holy name;
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Psalm 32

Refrain: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

32:1 Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

32:2 Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

32:3 While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

32:4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

32:5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

32:6 Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

32:7 You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah

32:8 I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

32:9 Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

32:10 Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

32:11 Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Reading from Joshua 5:9-12

5:9 The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

5:10 While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho.

5:11 On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain.

5:12 The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 179 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

1 Tree of Life and awesome mystery,
in your death we are reborn;
though you die in all of history,
still you rise with every morn,
still you rise with every morn.

4 Gentle Jesus, mighty Spirit,
come inflame our hearts anew,
we may all your joy inherit
if we bear the cross with you,
if we bear the cross with you.

2 Seed that dies to rise in glory,
may we see ourselves in you;
if we learn to live your story
we may die to rise anew,
we may die to rise anew.

5 Christ, you lead and we shall follow,
stumbling though our steps may be;
one with you in joy and sorrow,
we the river, you the sea,
we the river you the sea.

3 We remember truth once spoken,
love passed on through act and word;
every person lost and broken
wears the body of our Lord,
wears the body of our Lord.

6b From the dawning of creation
you have loved us as your own;
stay with us through all temptation,
make us turn to you alone,
make us turn to you alone.

A Reading from 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

5:16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.

5:17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

5:18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;

5:19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

5:20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CP 641 Creator Spirit, By Whose Aid

1 Creator Spirit, by whose aid
the world's foundations first were laid,
come, visit every humble mind;
come, pour thy joys on humankind;
from sin and sorrow set us free,
and make us temples worthy thee.

3 Plenteous of grace, descend from high
rich in thy sevenfold energy;
make us eternal truths receive,
and practise all that we believe;
give us thyself, that we may see
the Father and the Son by thee.

2 O source of uncreated light,
the Father's promised Paraclete,
thrice holy fount, thrice holy fire,
our hearts with heavenly love inspire;
come, and thy sacred unction bring
to sanctify us while we sing.

4 Immortal honour, endless fame,
attend the almighty Father's name;
the Saviour Son be glorified,
who for the world's redemption died;
and equal adoration be,
eternal Paraclete, to thee.

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

15:1 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him.

15:2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

15:3 So he told them this parable:

15:11b "There was a man who had two sons.

15:12 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.

15:13 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.

15:14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need.

15:15 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.

15:16 He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

15:17 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!

15:18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you;

15:19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."

15:20 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.

15:21 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.'

15:22 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.

15:23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate;

15:24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

15:25 "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.

15:26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.

15:27 He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.'

15:28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

15:29 But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave

for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.

15:30 But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!

15:31 Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.

15:32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

(The Rev. Heather Liddell is preaching at All Saints' Cathedral today.)

CCLI 6635756 The Love of the Father

1 Lift up your voices and lift up your praise
Join with the heavens declaring
The wonders of His faithfulness
Forever

2 Sing of the victory the hope of the world
The Saviour has risen
The Spirit has come to bring us into love
Forever

Chorus

***Oh we are the people of God
With the freedom of hope in our hearts
How great is the love of the Father***

3 Lifted from darkness and into the light
The sons and the daughters are loved at a
price
Our God has made us His, Forever.

Chorus...

Bridge

This is the song of the redeemed
The ransomed and the free
Given life at such a price
This is love this is love
And when the Father calls us home
And we see Him on the throne
Hear the voices sing as one
This is love this is love

Chorus...

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven.
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People compiled and led by Lesley Lambert

Let us lift our prayers to You, O Lord, remembering that, whenever supplications are raised to You, You will hear us with kindness and care and grant our desires in a way that is best both for us and for those for whom we pray. May You enter our hearts and allow us to hear the calm reassurance of Your promise of everlasting love shown to us so clearly as we journey through Lent and onward to the cross and the resurrection.

We pray to You today for the people of Ukraine that they may be held in Your loving protection even as their situation becomes ever more dire. We pray for those countries who have opened their homes to huge numbers of refugees from the war, many of whom have left behind members of their families who were too frail to flee or chose to stay behind to protect a beloved homeland. Transform the hearts and minds of those who seek to perpetuate violence and oppression and grant wisdom to all world leaders as they seek ways to advance peace in our world without self interest or reckless indifference. Let us remember all those hurting in our own country of Canada, and most especially for the First Nations People who walked this land before us and for whom recent findings have been agonizing. We pray for all who are lost, hurting, hungry, marginalized, lonely or sick in mind, body or spirit, and most particularly today for: Sandra, Merle, Mona, Lois Ward, Mary, Irene, Kathryn, Helen, Jenifer, Judy, Tony and Mary Jean, Luisa, Lois Davis, Miranda, Iain, Diane and Bill, Maxine, Geraldine, Florence, Joan, Shirley and Cyril.

We ask for the peaceful repose of the souls of Kathleen Frances Crerar, Gillian U, Andrew, Ray Hayden and the Rev. John Rushton, and Your infinite comfort to those who mourn them.

Let us pray for the work of the church throughout the world. Give all of us strength to live as ambassadors of Your word in thought, word and deed. We pray most especially today for: The Church of the Province of Myanmar; Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, the art. Rev. Sam Rose, Bishop; for St. Patrick's, Edmonton, Kevin Kraglund, Rector, Mark Vigrass, Vocational Deacon, John Agwiking, Filipino Congregation; Joanne Chambers, Susan Storey, Honorary Assistants; for St. Peter's, our beloved parish home and our ministry, Heather and Alison and Our musician, Nadine, and all our dear friends in our parish family. Today we give thanks for our new wardens and those who have committed their time and energies to parish committees. We are so thankful for the blessing of their presence amongst us. We also pray today for the Buye Diocese, Kibonde Parish, Serges Rwsa, Rector; for the Métis Nation of Alberta.

As we continue the journey of Lent, we give thanks for the blessing of Your most precious son. May we seek to follow Him always, and may He walk alongside us, and those for whom we pray, every day, every step of the way.
Amen.

Confession and Absolution

The people are invited to confession in these or similar words.

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
he welcomes sinners
and invites them to his table.
Let us confess our sins,
confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect

Gracious Father,
whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came from heaven
to be the true bread which gives life to the world,
evermore give us this bread,
that he may live in us, and we in him,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

CP 556 O for a Closer Walk with God

1 O for a closer walk with God,
 a calm and heavenly frame,
 a light to shine upon the road
 that leads me to the Lamb.

4 The dearest idol I have known,
 what e'er that idol be,
 help me to tear it from thy throne
 and worship only thee.

2 What peaceful hours I once enjoyed!
 How sweet their memory still!
 But they have left an aching void
 the world can never fill.

5 So shall my walk be close with God,
 calm and serene my frame;
 so purer light shall mark the road
 that leads me to the Lamb.

3 Return, O holy Dove,
 return, sweet messenger of rest:
 I hate the sins that made thee mourn
 and drove thee from my breast.

The Dismissal

I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him: Father I have sinned against heaven and before you.

Luke 15.18

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness working in us what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever, Amen.

My dear friends, be swift to love, make haste to be kind,
 and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.