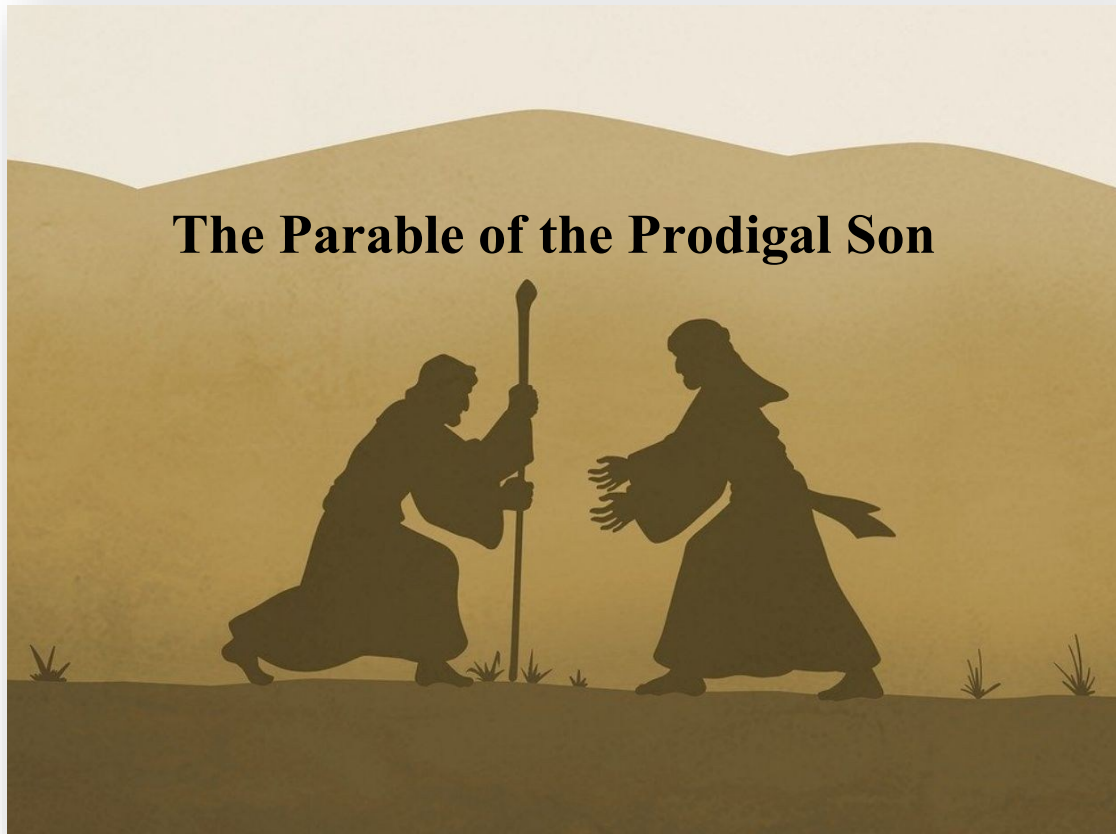


Shepherd of the Desert Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Fourth Week of Lent
March 29,30, 2025



The Parable of the Prodigal Son

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-24

Pastor: John Maroni

Message: What Wondrous Love

Shepherd of the Desert Mission Statement

"To be a congregation that puts the Love of Christ into action from one generation to another and from our community to our world".

✠ Please stand as you are able when noted.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

✠ Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

C **Amen.**

P Holy and gracious God,

C **we confess that we have sinned against you this day. Some of our sin we know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which we are ashamed—but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ we ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace. Amen.**

P As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ.

C **Thanks be to God who crowns us with mercy and love.**

✠ Gathering Hymn Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

ELW 779 vs. 1, 3, and 5

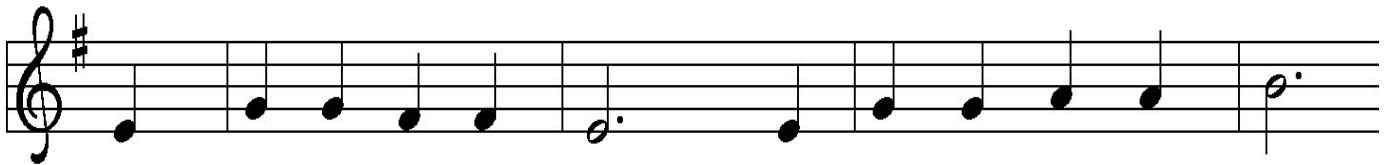
✠ Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

‡ Kyrie

Setting 10



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

‡ Hymn of Praise

Setting 10



- 1 Come, let us join our cheer - ful songs with an - gels round the throne;
- 2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex - alt - ed thus!"
- 3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow'r di - vine;
- 4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou - sand thou - sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
"Wor - thy the Lamb," our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us!"
and bless - ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

†† Prayer of the Day

A God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

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.

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

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 32



Be glad, you right-teous, and re-joice in the LORD.

- ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions I are forgiven,
and whose sin is I put away!
- ² Happy are they to whom the LORD im- I putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there I is no guile! **R**
- ³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- I ered away,
because of my groaning I all day long.
- ⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me I day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the I heat of summer.
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- I ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt I of my sin.
- ⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in I time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they I shall not reach them. **R**
- ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve I me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts I of deliverance.
- ⁸ "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that I you should go;
I will guide you I with my eye.
- ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no I understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will I not stay near you."
- ¹⁰ Great are the tribulations I of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust I in the LORD.
- ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice I in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are I true of heart. **R**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

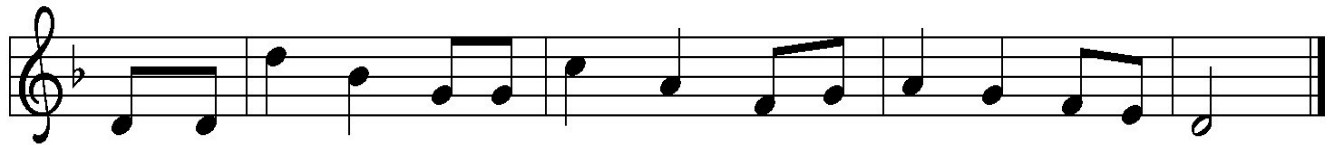
¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 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. 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. 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.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

‡ Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-24

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} "There was a man who had two sons. 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. 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.

¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 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. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 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!

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; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." 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. 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.' 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. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Message What Wondrous Love

Pastor John Maroni

‡ Hymn of the Day Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW 335

†† Apostles' Creed

A With the whole church let us confess our faith

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 Gathered Community

Each petition ends with:

A God, in your mercy, **C** receive our prayer.

P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through
Jesus Christ, our Savior. **C** Amen.

†† Sharing the Peace

Anthem

†† Offertory

ELW 182



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

✠ Offering Prayer

P Abiding God,

C under the cover of darkness, you bring forth life. Nourish us with earth's bounty, that we may freely share the gifts you have first given us, through the one who gives his life for the world, Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. Amen.

✠ Prayer at the Table

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

✠ Sanctus (Holy, Holy Holy)

Setting 10



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

‡ Thanksgiving at the Table

P We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth.
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

P With hearts full of memories and hopes, we break this bread and share this cup,
remembering the death and resurrection of Christ, and his promise to be with us always
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

‡ Invitation to Communion

‡ Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C **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,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

‡ Lamb of God

Setting 10



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

‡ Prayer after Communion

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

A Let us pray. Living God,

C **as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord, we have been nourished with the very presence of Christ. Through this meal may we be strengthened to keep your word and to proclaim the power of your love in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Sending of Communion Ministers

‡ Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C **Amen.**

‡ Sending Hymn What Wonderful Love Is This

‡ Dismissal

A Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Shepherd of the Desert 11025 N 111th Ave. Sun City, AZ 623-933-1359

Senior Pastor: Rev. John Maroni

Interim Musicians: Gary Rutherford (Sunday) Linda McClellan (Saturday)

Pastors in Residence: Rev. Art Goetz / Rev. Paul Nordeen / Rev. George Natonick / Rev. Phil Gustafson / Rev. Bruce Ayers

Website: www.sdaz.org Email: Church Office - Kristen Wood Secretary: secretarysod1@gmail.com

SHEPHERD OF THE DESERT ANNOUNCEMENTS



Sharon Bradley 4/03, Sheri Thirkell 4/05,
and Daniel Nelson 4/07.

Midweek Lenten Services April 2, 9 at 6 p.m. in Walton Hall. Starting with a soup supper at 6:00 p.m. During midweek Lenten we will have representatives from some of our Mission of the Month recipients that S.O.D support. Make plans to join us! April 2nd will be Patterson Yazzi from The Navajo Lutheran Mission.

Monday Morning Bible Study 10:00 a.m. in the Founders Room. Remember to bring your bible and a beverage. We will be studying Deuteronomy.

Ladies Book Club Is starting a new book “Mad Mary” by Liz Curtis Higgs. April 2nd at 9:00 a.m. in the Founders Room. If you need a book you can contact Nancy Fisher. Now is the time to join us!

Paint Night April 11th at 5:30pm Please sign up in the narthex so we can plan for supplies. Please bring your own drink(s) to sip on while painting. Snacks will be provided.

Easter Lily and flowers If you would like to donate for Easter flowers there will be envelopes in the narthex or you can note “Flowers” on your giving envelope. Also, make sure to note who you would like to honor so we can have them in the Easter Bulletin. The last week to donate and submit your name for the bulletin will be April 12 & 13.

Holy Week and Easter Schedule 2025

Passion of the Palms

April 12th at 4:00 pm & April 13th at 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday

April 17th at 7 pm

Good Friday

April 18th at 7 pm

The Resurrection of our Lord

April 19th at 4 pm & April 20th at 9:30 am