

NEW BEGINNINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fifth Sunday in Lent – April 6th, 2025 (11:11 am)

LOST BUT FOUND

Psalm 126
Isaiah 43:16-21
Philippians 3:4-14
Luke 15:1-3; 11-32

God's Beloved Son Has Redeemed Us

Our life and works apart from Christ, no matter how they may glitter to the eyes of the world, are ultimately rubbish and have no righteousness. Rather, in the scandalous cross of Jesus, we find our righteousness alone *"through faith in Christ"* (Phil. 3:9). By such faith, we *"know him and the power of his resurrection"* (Phil. 3:10). For the same God who brought Israel out of Egypt has done a *"new thing"* for us in Christ Jesus (Is. 43:19). He has sent His beloved Son into His vineyard to be killed by sinful men and to become *"the stone that the builders rejected."* Yet, the One rejected by men *"has become the cornerstone"* of His Church (Luke 20:17). Through the waters of Holy Baptism, He provides us daily refreshment in our earthly pilgrimage, *"a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert"* (Is. 43:19).

WELCOME – (Ana)

GATHERING SONGS – BECAUSE HE LIVES

God sent His Son they called Him Jesus
He came to love heal and forgive
He bled and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove
My Savior lives

Because He lives I can face tomorrow

Because He lives all fear is gone

Because I know He holds the future

And life is worth the living

Just because He lives

How sweet to hold our newborn baby
And feel the pride and joy he gives
But greater still the calm assurance
This child can face uncertain days
Because Christ lives

And then one day I'll cross that river
I'll fight life's final war with pain
And then as death gives way to vict'ry
I'll see the lights of glory

And I'll know He reigns

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AS WE BEGIN and CALLING ON GOD'S NAME

P – This is the day that the Lord has made!

C – Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P – Let us begin in the name of our God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C – Amen!

KIDS MOMENT (Marilyn)

WORSHIP SONG – PRODIGAL SON

There once was a boy who went away,
He left his home one sunny day.
He took his money, he took his pride,
And thought he'd never need a guide.

***Come back home, where love is true,
No matter what, it waits for you.
Open arms, and hearts so wide,
Forgiveness always by your side.***

He danced and played, he laughed with glee,
But soon he found, it's not so free.
His coins were gone, his friends were too,
Alone he wondered, "What should I do?"

***Come back home, where love is true,
No matter what, it waits for you.
Open arms, and hearts so wide,
Forgiveness always by your side.***

His father saw him from afar,
Ran to him with open arms.
"My son is back!" he called with joy,
"I'll celebrate my precious boy!"

***Come back home, where love is true,
No matter what, it waits for you.
Open arms, and hearts so wide,
Forgiveness always by your side.***

The son was home, and all was well,
His heart was full, no need to dwell.

For love is strong, and grace is free,
Just like the Father's love for me!

READING OF THE OLD TESTAMENT – ISAIAH 43:16–21 (Terry)

Thus says the LORD,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings forth chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ “Remember not the former things,
nor consider the things of old.
¹⁹ Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
²⁰ The wild beasts will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches,
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
that they might declare my praise.

READING OF EPISTLE OF PHILIPPIANS 3:4–14 (Terry)

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him

and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

READING OF THE GOSPEL LUKE 15:1-3, 11-32 - (Terry)

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable:

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

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

²⁵ "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ 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.' ²⁸ But he was angry

and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him,²⁹ 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.³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹ And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

WORSHIP SONG – IN CHRIST ALONE

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

 In Christ alone who took on flesh
 Fullness of God in helpless babe
 This gift of love and righteousness
 Scorned by the ones He came to save
 Till on that cross as Jesus died
 The wrath of God was satisfied
 For every sin on Him was laid
 Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

 No guilt in life no fear in death
 This is the power of Christ in me
 From life's first cry to final breath
 Jesus commands my destiny
 No power of hell no scheme of man

Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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MESSAGE – "LOST BUT FOUND" *Based on Luke 15:1–3, 11–32 (The Father)*

WORSHIP SONG – AMAZING GRACE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE)

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see
 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
 And grace my fears relieved
 How precious did that grace appear
 The hour I first believed

***My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace***

 The Lord has promised good to me
 His word my hope secures
 He will my shield and portion be
 As long as life endures
The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

***My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace***

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (Prayer)

LORD'S PRAYER (Prayer)

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.

WORSHIP SONG (COMMUNION'S PREPARATION) – WHEN GOD RAN (HE RAN TO ME)

Almighty God the great I Am

Immovable Rock omnipotent

Powerful awesome Lord

Victorious Warrior

Commanding King of kings mighty Conqueror

And the only time

The only time I ever saw Him run

(Was) when He ran to me

Took me in His arms

Held my head to His chest

Said My son's come home again

Lifted my face

Wiped the tears from my eyes

With forgiveness in His voice

He said son do you know

I still love you

He caught me by surprise

(He brought me to my knees)

When God ran

After I left home I knew I'd broken His heart

I wondered then if things

Would ever be the same but one night

I remembered His love for me

And down that dusty road ahead I could see

It's the only time

The only time I ever saw Him run

*I saw Him run to me
And then I ran to Him
I was so ashamed all alone and far away
But now I know He's been waiting for this day*
**(And then) He ran to me
Took me in His arms
Held my head to His chest
Said My son's come home again
Lifted my face
Wiped the tears from my eyes
With forgiveness in His voice
(I felt His love call me again)**

He said son He said son
My son do you know I still love you
He ran to me
When God ran

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS

P – O Lord Jesus Christ, You have lived and died that we might be saved from our sinfulness through faith in You, yet we continue to try to justify ourselves through our own actions.

C – **Forgive us and free us from self-righteousness.**

P – O Lord Jesus Christ, too often we take our salvation for granted, and fail to live in thankful worship and service.

C – **Forgive us and free us from ingratitude.**

P – O Lord Jesus Christ, You have made us free, yet we often live in bondage to our own ideas and ways of doing things.

C – **Forgive us and help us continue to reform the church and our own lives based on Your Grace!**

P – God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to redeem us by His blood, to forgive our sins, and to justify us apart from our good works. Through faith in Christ, we have been set free from the devil, the world and our own sinful flesh.

C – **We are free indeed! Thanks be to God!**

P – We are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ our Lord. Therefore, let us be reconciled with one another and share the peace of the Lord.

C – Amen.

'As a Lutheran Church, we believe that Jesus' body and blood are really and truly present in the Lord's Supper. And we believe that Jesus is giving real and true spiritual gifts to us through this eating and drinking: forgiveness, life, and salvation. It is pure gospel for our comfort and spiritual strength.'

COMMUNION PREPARATION

These are our statements about Holy Communion:

- **I know I am a sinner.**
- **I believe that Jesus is my personal Savior.**
- **I believe that Jesus is really present in the bread and wine.**
- **I intend, with God's help, to change my sinful life and live for him.**
- **I understand that when I come to this table, I publicly state that I believe these things.**

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the FATHER almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in JESUS CHRIST, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the HOLY SPIRIT
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,**

¹ "It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ for us Christians to eat and to drink."
(<https://catechism.cph.org/en/sacrament-of-the-altar.html>)

**the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (Pastor)

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said: "**Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.**" In the same way also, he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "**Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.**"

DISTRIBUTION – SONGS: BLESSED & KING OF KINGS

BLESSED

Blessed are those who dwell in Your house
They are ever praising You
Blessed are those whose strength is in You
Whose hearts are set on our God
*We will go from strength to strength
'Til we see You face to face*

Hear our prayer

O Lord God Almighty

Come bless our land

As we seek You

Worship You

*For You are holy
For You are holy
For You are holy Lord*

KING OF KINGS

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word

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From a throne of endless glory

To a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father

Praise the Son

Praise the Spirit three in one

God of Glory

Majesty

Praise forever to the King of kings

To reveal the kingdom coming

And to reconcile the lost

To redeem the whole creation

You did not despise the cross

For even in Your suffering

You saw to the other side

Knowing this was our salvation

Jesus for our sake You died

And the morning that You rose

All of heaven held its breath

Till that stone was moved for good

For the Lamb had conquered death

And the dead rose from their tombs

And the angels stood in awe

For the souls of all who'd come

To the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born

Then the Spirit lit the flame

Now this Gospel truth of old

Shall not kneel shall not faint

By His blood and in His Name

In His freedom I am free

For the love of Jesus Christ

Who has resurrected me

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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING (Pastor)

BENEDICTION

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 favour and give you peace. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FINAL SONG – MY REDEEMER LIVES

I know He rescued my soul
His blood has covered my sin
I believe I believe
My shame He's taken away
My pain is healed in His name
I believe I believe

I'll raise a banner

'Cause my Lord has conquered the grave

My Redeemer lives

My Redeemer lives

My Redeemer lives

My Redeemer lives

You lift my burdens
I'll rise with You
I'm dancing on this mountaintop
To see Your kingdom come

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