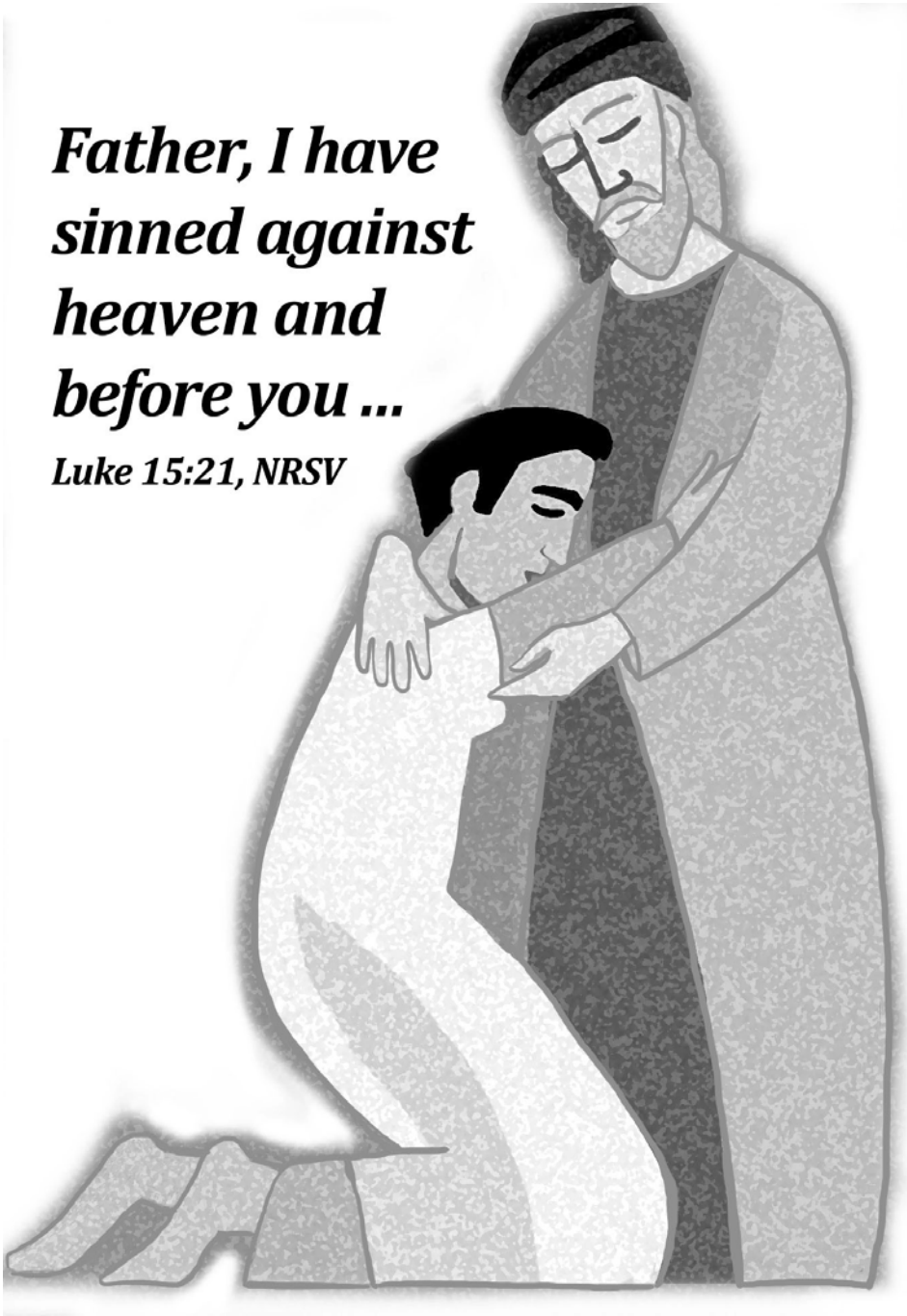


***Father, I have  
sinned against  
heaven and  
before you ...***

***Luke 15:21, NRSV***



*“Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!*

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**GATHERING . . . WORD . . . MEAL . . . SENDING**

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All invitations to stand or kneel are for those who are able.

Singing Bowl

With the help of the Spirit, look within. See what burdens may be lifted, what obstacles may be removed, what new life and promise await us.

**PRELUDE . . .** *Leilani Camara & Michael Keating*

**WELCOME**

Please Stand

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** Invited into the wilderness of our lives, we follow in the footsteps of our ancestors.

**All:** We will journey to a land flowing with milk and honey.

**March 31, 2019**

L: Invited to wander as we search for deeper meaning, we follow in the footsteps of Christ.

**All: We will journey without fear through the temptations of life.**

L: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

**All: Let us worship with thanksgiving and praise.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross,  
the sign marked at baptism.

*P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.*

**All: Amen**

*P: In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.*

Silence is kept for reflection

*P: God at the margins,*

**All: We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.**

*P: Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces us in tender care.*

**All: Like manna in the desert, God feeds us with surprising mercy.**

*P: Like a loving parent, God runs to meet us again this day,*

**All: forgiving our sins for the sake of Christ, leading us from death into life. Amen.**

**HYMN . . . "Our Father, by Whose Name" vs 1, 2**  
Text: F. Bland Tucker - Tune: John D. Edwards - ELW #640

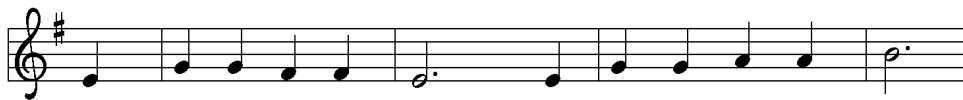
**GREETING**

*P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.*

**All: Amen.**



## KYRIE



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!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**L:** God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy.

**All:** **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. Amen.**

Be Seated

## CHOIR ANTHEM . . . “The Road Home”

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GATHERING . . . **WORD** . . . MEAL . . . SENDING

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

**Reader:** Lead us in your truths, O God.

**All:** **Teach us your ways and your paths.**

**Reader:** Into whatever journey lies before us,

**All:** **lead on, Holy Spirit; lead on.**



## 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.*

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. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 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. 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. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Reader:** Word of God, word of life.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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.

*P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the fifteenth chapter.*

**All: Glory to You, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL . . . Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

*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. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believed it was his obedience that earned his place in the father's home.*

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

So he told them this parable: “There was a man who had two sons. 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. 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. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 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. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 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! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ 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. 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.’ 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. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 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. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 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.’”

*P: The Gospel of the Lord.*

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Be Seated

**CHILDREN’S TIME . . . “Growing into Lent” - Carmen Blair**

Please Stand

**HYMN . . . “Our Father, We Have Wandered” vs. 1, 2**

Text: Kevin Nichols - Tune: Hans Leo Hassler – ELW #606



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,



in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,  
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.  
in glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.

Be Seated

**HOMILY . . . Pastor Tim**

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GATHERING . . . WORD . . . MEAL . . . SENDING

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Please Stand

**APOSTLES' CREED**

L: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**All: 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.**

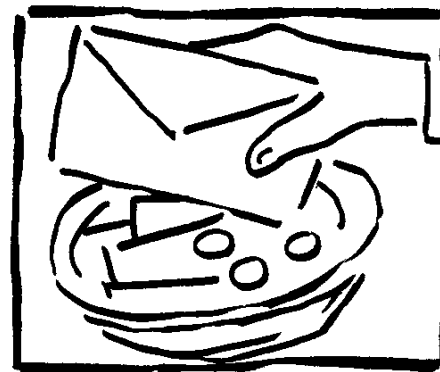
**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

L: With grateful hearts, let us share a portion of the bounty God has given us.

**All: We do so as an act of faith, and in support of God's work in this congregation and the world.**

Be Seated

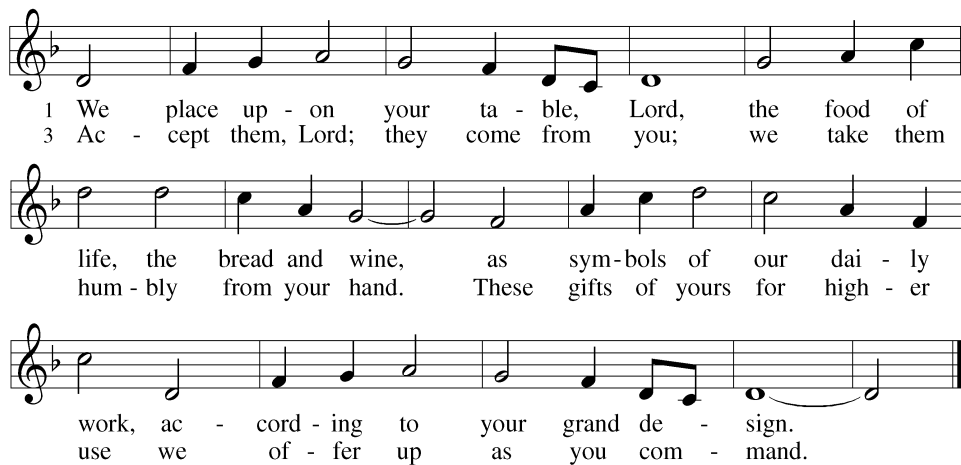
**THANKFUL OFFERING**



Please Stand

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE . . . “We Place upon Your Table, Lord” vs. 1, 3

Text: M. F. C. Wilson – Tune: W. Walker – LBW #217



1 We place up - on your ta - ble, Lord, the food of  
3 Ac - cept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them  
life, the bread and wine, as sym-bols of our dai - ly  
hum - bly from your hand. These gifts of yours for high - er  
work, ac - cord - ing to your grand de - sign.  
use we of - fer up as you com - mand.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Generous God, you feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need.

**All: Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS

L: Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation. God of abundant grace, guide your church to look upon people as you look upon them, with compassion and as deserving of mercy. Shape us to be worthy ambassadors of Christ. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: Bestow dignity on migrant and seasonal farm and factory workers. When the time comes for them to leave jobs, provide new ways for them to make a livelihood. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: Inspire musicians and poets to point to your unfathomable beauty and creativity. Enhance our vision of your holiness through their works. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: Invite your whole company of saints into eternal, joyful feasting. When we question your abundant mercy, soften our hearts to receive the gifts of faith and love. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: God of all, hear the prayers of our heart said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: God is with you.

**All: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*P: 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." With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.*

**All: Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*P: God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:*

**All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*P: Christ has prepared the feast.*

**All: We come to the table where all are welcomed home.**

Be Seated

The ushers will invite you to the Lord's Table after the Lamb of God is sung.

### LAMB OF GOD



1 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.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

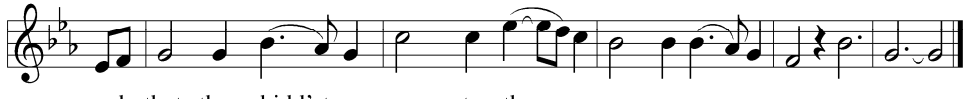
Holy Communion is open to all.  
Grape juice is white, wine is red.  
Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.  
If you desire communion brought to you,  
please let an usher know.

### COMMUNION HYMN . . . "Just as I Am, without One Plea"

Text: Charlotte Elliott - Tune: William B. Bradbury - ELW #592



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,  
2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not to rid my soul of one dark blot,  
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt,  
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,



and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
fight-ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
yea, all I need in thee to find,



## COMMUNION HYMN . . . “Holy Spirit, Come to Us”

Text & Tune: Taizé Community

Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us, kin - dle in us the fire of your love.  
Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us. Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.

Singing Bowl

Please Stand

### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

*P:* Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy.

**All:** Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation,

*P:* mending broken hearts, working for justice,

**All:** and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**L:** Compassionate God, you have fed us with bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:

**All:** may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Be Seated

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GATHERING . . . WORD . . . MEAL . . . SENDING

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## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

### BLESSING

*P:* God, who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

**All:** Amen.

### SENDING OUT “God, When Human Bonds Are Broken”

vs 1, 4, 5

Text: Fred Kaan - Tune: William H. Monk - ELW #603

1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the  
4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful  
5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to  
love or skill to re - store the hope of heal - ing,  
in - to life. Use us as a means of bless - ing:  
be more true, give us love to go on learn - ing:  
give us grace and make us still.  
make us stron - ger, give us faith.  
God, en - cour - age and re - new!

### DISMISSAL

**L:** You are marked with the cross of Christ.

**All:** We go forth to love and serve God.