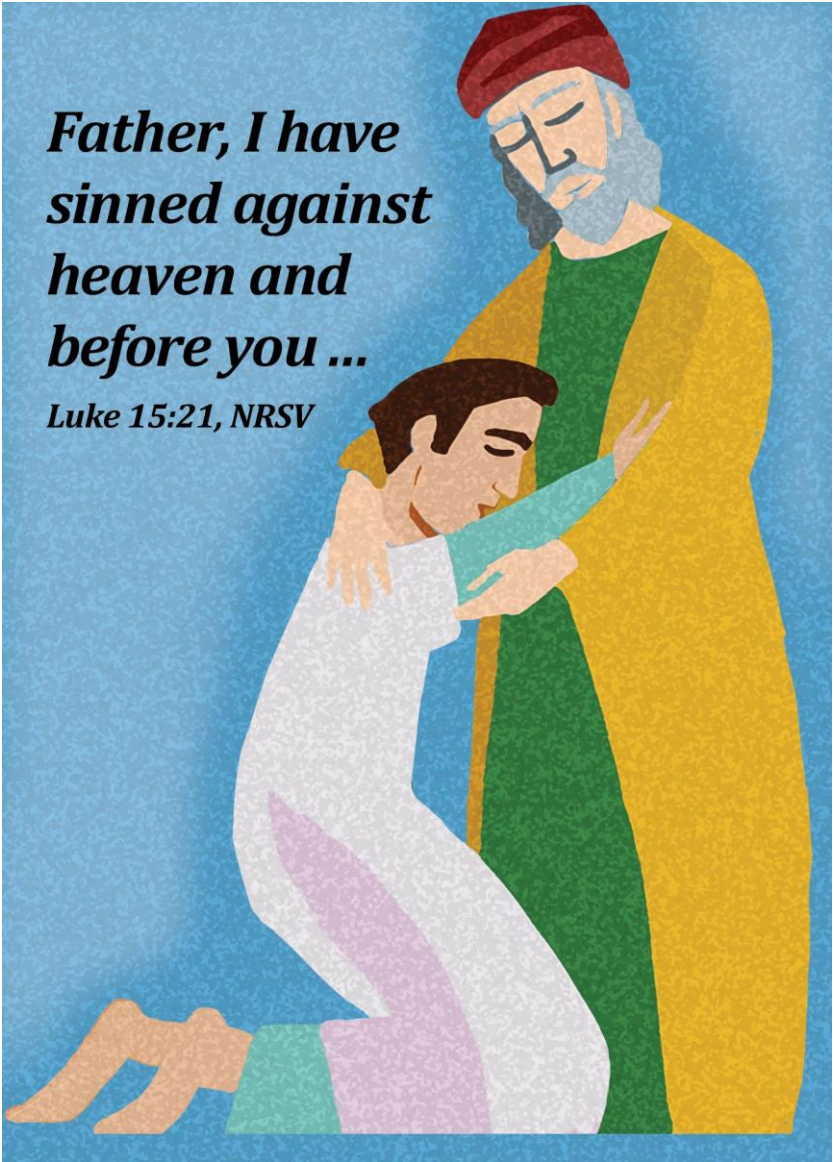


***Father, I have
sinned against
heaven and
before you ...***

Luke 15:21, NRSV



Full } *Prodigal*
to **Brim** } *grace*

March 27, 2022

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
38801 Blacow Road
Fremont, CA 94536
Office: (510) 793-6285

March 27, 2022
10:00 AM 4th Sunday in Lent
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

The psalm sets the tone this day: “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!*

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

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 . . . “Let it Rise” (sung twice)

Let the glory of the Lord
Rise among us
Let the glory of the Lord
Rise among us
Let the praises of the King
Rise among us
Let it rise

Let the songs of the Lord
Rise among us

Let the songs of the Lord
Rise among us
Let the joy of the King
Rise among us
Let it rise

Oh let it rise
Oh let it rise

WELCOME

Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God's reach is endless.

All: God's mercy is unstoppable.

L: God's grace is lavish.

All: God's love is constant.

L: God's wisdom is vast.

All: God's hope is stubborn.

L: God's presence is here—

All: with us, among us, moving through us.

L: Breathe easy. Breathe deeply.

All: We are in God's house.

L: Let us worship the One who welcomes us home.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: If you ask a parent with a teenager what it's like to wait up for their child to meet curfew, they will tell you— they're standing at the door. The porch light is on. No one can sleep until that child is home safe.

Friends, I think God is like that for us. The porch light is on. The door is unlocked. We might be late for curfew, but God is just so glad we're home.

So let us pray the prayer of confession together, trusting that no matter what we do or what we leave undone, the porch light is always on. Let us pray. . .

**All: The prodigal son isn't given a name,
but we know his name.**

It sounds like ours.

And we know his story.

It sounds like ours.

For who among us hasn't burned a bridge?

Who among us hasn't forgotten that we belong to one another?

Who among us has not ached for home?

**The prodigal son isn't given a name,
but we know his name.**

Forgive us God. We want to come home.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Family of faith, the word 'prodigal' can be defined as wasteful or imprudent, hence the name, "Prodigal Son." However, 'prodigal' can also be described as extravagant and excessive.

All: we worship a prodigal God—a God who is extravagant in mercy and excessive in grace.

P: For no matter how many times we run, no matter how far we go or how lost we get, God is standing at the end of the driveway waiting for us. The doors are open. The feast is for you. This grace is extravagant.

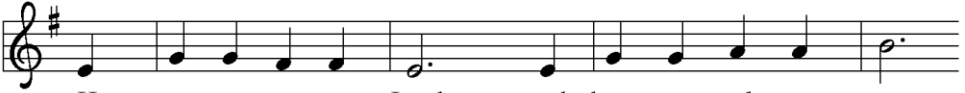
All: Thanks be to God, amen.

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!

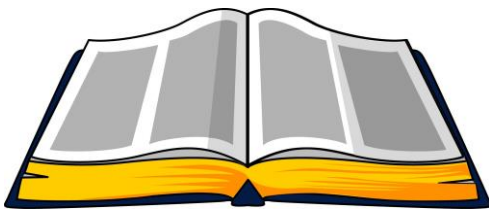
PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

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



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Reader: God of open doors, we often long to come home to you, to love, and to ourselves, but we aren't always sure how to get there.

All: We know that we need you, but the road back to you is heavy with distractions.

Reader: Quiet everything but your Word for us today. Leave us awestruck. Drown out the distractions.

All: Come as thunder or come as a still, small voice; we don't care which, we just pray that you will come.

Reader: Turn on the light. Speak through these words.

All: Find the parts of us that are lost. With hope we pray, amen.

Reader: The first reading is Psalm thirty-two.

READING . . . *Psalm 32 (The Inclusive Bible)*

Happiness comes from having your rebellion taken away,
from having your failure completely covered.

Happiness comes from Yahweh not counting your mistakes,
from having nothing to hide.

As long as I kept my stubborn silence,
my bones grew weak because of my constant complaints.
Day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was sapped by a summer's heat.

Finally I admitted my sin to you,
and stopped hiding my guilt.
I said, "I confess my rebellion, Yahweh,"
and you took away the guilt of my sin.

That's why people of faith everywhere
should pray to you – they'll find you.
Even when the flood begins rising,
it will never touch them.

You are my hiding place;
you'll protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of freedom.

“I'll teach you
and show you the way you should walk;
I will counsel you,
and keep watch over you.
Be wise! Don't be like horses and mules,
who need to be harnessed with bit and bridle
before they'll come to you.”

Wrongdoers are prone to many sorrows,
but those who trust in Yahweh
are surrounded with unfailing love.
Be glad in Yahweh and rejoice, you who love justice!
Exult, you upright of heart!

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, chapter fifteen,
beginning with the first verse.*

All: Glory to You, O God.

GOSPEL . . . Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (The Inclusive Bible)

Meanwhile, the tax collectors and the “sinners” were all gathering around Jesus to listen to his teaching, at which the Pharisees and the religious scholars murmured, “this person welcomes sinners and eats with them!”

Jesus then addressed this parable to them: “A man had two sons, the younger of them said to their father, ‘Give me the share of the estate that is coming to me.’ So the father divided up the property between them. Some days later, the younger son gathered up his belongings and went off to a distant land. Here, he squandered all his money on loose living.

“After everything was spent, a great famine broke out in the land, and the son was in great need. So he went to a landowner, who sent him to a farm to take care of the pigs. The son was so hungry that he could have eaten the husks that were fodder for the pigs, but no one made a move to give him anything. Coming to his senses at last, he said, ‘How many hired hands at my father’s house have more than enough to eat, while here I am starving! I’ll quit and go back home and say, “I’ve sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children. Treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ With that, the younger son set off for home.

“While still a long way off, the father caught sight of the returning child and was deeply moved. The father ran out to meet him, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, ‘I’ve sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children.’ But his father said to one of the workers, ‘Quick! Bring out the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Take the calf we’ve been fattening and butcher it. Let’s eat and celebrate! This son of mine was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and now he’s found!’ And the celebration began.

“Meanwhile, the elder son had been out in the field. As he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called to one of the workers and asked what was happening. The worker answered, ‘Your brother is home, and the fatted calf has been killed because your father has him back safe and sound.’

“The son got angry at this and refused to go in to the party, but his father came out and pleaded with him. The older son replied, ‘Look! For years now I’ve done every single thing you asked me to do. I never disobeyed even one of your orders, yet you never gave me so much as a kid goat to celebrate with my friends. But then this son of yours comes home after going through your money with prostitutes, and you kill the fatted calf for him!’

“‘But my child!’ the father said, ‘You’re with me always, and everything I have is yours. But we have to celebrate and rejoice! This brother of yours was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and now he’s found.’”

P: The Gospel of our Living God.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME . . . *Carmen Blair*



PRE-MESSAGE SONG . . . *“I Can Only Imagine”*

I can only imagine
What it will be like
When I walk by Your side
I can only imagine
What my eyes will see
When Your face is before me
I can only imagine

Chorus:

Surrounded by Your glory
What will my heart feel
Will I dance for You Jesus
Or in awe of You be still
Will I stand in Your presence
Or to my knees will I fall
Will I sing hallelujah
Will I be able to speak at all
I can only imagine
I can only imagine

I can only imagine
When that day comes
And I find myself standing in the Son
I can only imagine
When all I will do
Is forever, forever worship You
I can only imagine
I can only imagine

Chorus

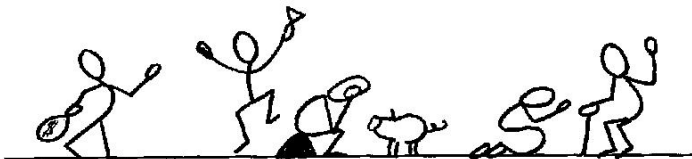
Repeat Chorus

I can only imagine, I can only imagine
I can only imagine, I can only imagine

I can only imagine
When all I can do
Is forever, forever worship you
I can only imagine

Be Seated

MESSAGE . . . *Pastor Tim*



Please Stand

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

All: We believe in a God who waits in the driveway for us.
We believe in a God who leaves the porch light on
and throws a feast when we are found.
We believe in a God who doesn't stop looking for us
when we get lost.
We believe in a God of prodigal grace—excessive,
extravagant, over-the-top grace.
In response to this grace, we hold tighter to each other.
We remember that humans are not meant to go
through life alone;
so we look for ways to welcome each other in, to live
like we are family, and to lead with grace—
excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.
We believe that this is our call. Let it be so. 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



OFFERING SONG . . . “More Love, More Power”

Chorus:

More Love, More Power
More of You in my life
More Love, More Power
More of You in my life

Verse 1:

And I will worship You with all of my heart
And I will worship You with all of my mind
And I will worship You with all of my strength
For You are my Lord

Repeat Chorus and Verse 1

Verse 2:

And I will seek Your face with all of my heart
And I will seek Your face with all of my mind
And I will seek your face with all of my strength
for You are my Lord

Chorus

Please Stand

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



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: Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Countries are divided and leaders often harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict, especially Ukraine and Russia. Act quickly to bring an end to war. Anoint peacemakers trained in the art of diplomacy and foster a spirit of collaboration among political rivals. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Save those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving. Console us with the promise that everything can become new. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

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

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: Our God is with you!

All: And also with you!

L: Lift up your hearts to the one who welcomes you home.

All: We open them to our God, who runs to embrace us with grace.

L: Sing glad songs to the One who provides this feast.

All: We join in singing to God, who throws a party for us in this place.

P: On those days you called creation from the hiding places of your imagination, mighty rivers rushed down to the seas, a rainbow of produce sprang up in fields, day and night rippled with your beauty.

All: All this was from you, God of Wonder, gifts for those created in your image.

P: But we demanded our share, traveling to that far country called death, squandering everything in sin's hidden shadows. Longing for us to come home, you sent the prophets to surround us with glad songs of deliverance, but we regarded their words as empty husks, continuing to waste away all our days.

All: So you sent us Jesus, your Son, to lead us back from the dead so we might celebrate your life.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, 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 Savior’s Passover from death to life.

Holy are you, God of prodigals, and blessed is Jesus Christ, in whom there is no deceit. Coming to that far country we call life, he shared the gifts of grace and peace.

All: Going to the cross and dying, he comes to life in joy, surrounded by your glad cries of resurrection.

P: As we remember how he welcomed those we overlook, as we celebrate at the feast which is offered in his name, we would reflect on that mystery we call faith:

All: Christ died, to be our salvation; Christ rose, to be our reconciliation; Christ will return, to lead us home.

P: On this day, Parenting God, pour out your Spirit on the gifts of the bread and the cup, the celebration of our new life with you.

All: In this feast you provide, we find the healing we hunger for in the bread which is broken for us.

P: At this table of peace and joy, in the deep richness of grace’s cup, we receive new sight, so we can see our siblings in a new way,

All: not strangers, but siblings, not outsiders, but members of the family.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation which is most familiar to each of us.

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: Jesus has always been one to invite. He said, "Drop your nets and follow me." And, "Let the little children come."

All: Jesus has always been one to invite, and that has not changed. Each and every one of us—with our doubts, our fears, our scars, our joy, our dreams, our hopes, our questions—we are invited to God's table.

P: And here we will be met. Here we will be fed.

All: Here we are given a taste of an expansive life that is full to the brim with love, overflowing with joy.

P: So come. Not because you must, but because you can.

All: All are invited to this Table.

Be Seated

Holy Communion is open to all.

Come forward up the center aisle to receive the individually packaged elements from Pastor Tim, then return to your seat down the side aisles before opening them. Separate and remove the clear top seal to access the wafer, then remove the foil layer to access the grape juice. The ushers will come around to collect the empties.

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.

COMMUNION SONG . . . “*Eat this Bread*”

Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup
Come to me and never be hungry
Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup
Trust in me and you will not thirst

COMMUNION SONG . . . “*Stay Here*”

Stay here, and keep watch with me
The hour has come.
Stay here and keep watch with me.
Watch and pray.

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: We thank you, living God, for the body and blood of your Son, which sustains us in the wilderness and the garden alike.

All: As Christ has loved us in this feast, so send us to love Christ in our neighbors. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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

Be Seated

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

WORDS FOR THE JOURNEY

P: As we leave this place, may we be awestruck by the beauty of this world. May we laugh, and may it be contagious.

All: May we overflow with love for those around us.

P: May we be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy. And in all of our living, and breathing, and being, may we find ourselves full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit, and may it change our life.

All: In the name of the Beloved, and Love itself— we go in peace, full to the brim. Amen.

CLOSING SONG . . . “Revelation” vs. 1

Verse 1:

My life has led me down the road that's so uncertain
Now I am left alone and I am broken
Tryin' to find my way tryin' to find the faith
That's gone

Verse 2:

This time I know
That You are holding all the answers
I'm tired of losing hope and taking chances on roads
That never seem to be the ones that bring me home

Chorus:

Give me a revelation
Show me what to do
'Cause I've been tryin' to find my way
I haven't got a clue
Tell me should I stay here or do I need to move
Give me a revelation
I've got nothing without You
I've got nothing without You

Verse 3:

My life has led me down
This path that's ever winding
Through ev'ry twist and turn
I'm always finding that I am lost again
Tell me when this road will ever end

Chorus:

Give me a revelation
Show me what to do
'Cause I've been tryin' to find my way
I haven't got a clue
Tell me should I stay here or do I need to move
Give me a revelation
I've got nothing without You
I've got nothing without
I've got nothing without You

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

