



**A** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;\*  
according to your abundant mercy blot out my trans-| gressions.

**C** **Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,\***  
**and cleanse me | from my sin!**

**For I know my trans- | gressions,\***  
**and my sin is ever be- | fore me.**

**Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil | in**  
**your sight,\***  
**so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in**  
**your | judgment.**

**Behold, I was brought forth in in- | iquity,\***  
**and in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.**

**Behold, you delight in truth in the inward | being,\***  
**and you teach me wisdom in the | secret heart.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen..**

**A** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;\*  
according to your abundant mercy blot out my trans-| gressions.  
(Psalm 51:2-6; antiphon: v. 1)

**Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Old Testament – Isaiah 12:1-6**

You will say in that day:  
“I will give thanks to you, O Lord,  
for though you were angry with me,

your anger turned away,  
that you might comfort me.

<sup>2</sup>“Behold, God is my salvation;  
I will trust, and will not be afraid;  
for the Lord God is my strength and my song,  
and he has become my salvation.”

<sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup>And you  
will say in that day:

“Give thanks to the Lord,  
call upon his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples,  
proclaim that his name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>“Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be made known in all the earth.

<sup>6</sup>Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

**The Gradual**

O come, let us fix our eyes on | Jesus,\*  
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- | ing  
the shame,\*  
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

**Epistle - 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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**Verse of the Day – (Sung)**

**Return to the LORD, your God,  
for He is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding  
in steadfast love, and  
abounding in steadfast love**

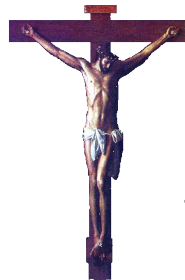
**The Holy Gospel – Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32**

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus].<sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: . . .

“There was a man who had two sons.<sup>12</sup>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.<sup>13</sup>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.<sup>14</sup>And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need.<sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs.<sup>16</sup>And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.<sup>17</sup>“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!<sup>18</sup>I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I

have sinned against heaven and before you.<sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’”<sup>20</sup>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.<sup>21</sup>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.’<sup>22</sup>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.<sup>23</sup>And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate.<sup>24</sup>For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.<sup>25</sup>“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing.<sup>26</sup>And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant.<sup>27</sup>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.’<sup>28</sup>But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him,<sup>29</sup>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.<sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’<sup>31</sup>And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.<sup>32</sup>It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

Soli Deo Gloria



*Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church*

*The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod*

**A Biblical, Confessional and Traditional congregation in the Chicago region committed to ministering to sinners with the forgiving presence of Jesus Christ.**

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**MARCH 27, 2022**

**THE DIVINE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**PAGE 203**

**A WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME** to all who gather in the Lord’s House today. You have joined with the seen and unseen host of God, around the throne of the Lamb, to be served by the Triune God through the preaching of His Word and the administration of the Holy Sacraments. Apart from these Means of Grace there are no Christians and there is no Church! Therefore the entire Liturgy places God at center stage as He acts towards His people through the Word and Sacraments to bring His gifts of life and salvation. That is why the Liturgy is called “Divine Service” - it is God’s Service to His people! This service reaches its fulfillment in the Lord’s Supper or Sacrament of the Altar.

Dear Visitors and Friends: LENT is a time of repentance, reflection, and renewal in preparation for the three holy days of Easter and for the seven weeks of the Easter season. It is a time in which we are called to subdue and cast aside whatever gets in the way of faith toward God and fervent love for our neighbor.

For this reason, the congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of “Closed Communion.” **If you desire to receive the Lord’s Supper and are not a communicant member of Divine Shepherd, or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod we respectfully ask that you not commune this morning.** Rather, we would invite you to speak with Pastor Zimmer about Holy Communion and about becoming a communicant member of this congregation. It is the sincere prayer of this congregation that our careful practice of the administration of the Lord’s Supper will not be a hindrance to our fellowship with you but instead that it would lead you to appreciate the high regard we have for Christ and His Word concerning this precious gift. **Thank you for your understanding.**