



Journeying to the Cross

Third Sunday in Lent

March 7, 2021

Lost Sheep, Coin, Son

Repentance is relational. It is about restoring and repairing a damaged relationship.

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Prelude

"Lord, I'm Coming Home"

- arr. Wells

Announcements

Call to Worship

**Return to God with all your heart, the source of grace and mercy;
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.**

**If you break the chains of oppression, if you set the pris'ner free
if you share your bread with the hungry, give protection to the lost;
give a shelter to the homeless, clothe the naked in your midst,
then your light shall break forth like the dawn.**

(Refrain)

Confession & Forgiveness

In this holy season of Lent, we are mindful that we are tempted on our journeys and on our own, our only destination is death. In our journey we choose trails of deceit, self-centeredness and blindness to our neighbor in need. We confess our sin that leads us away and separates us from God and one another...

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may journey with you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

Christ journeys with us and through Christ's life, death, and resurrection we are forgiven. Siblings in Christ, let us journey together, forgiven and freed for the life we know in Christ. **Amen.**

Opening Song

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

Red ELW 608

**Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.**

Refrain

**"Come home, (Come home,)
come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

**Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. *Refrain***

Prayer of the Day

Forgiving God, You long for your lost children to return to you. Lead us homeward on the path of repentance, that we might be restored to you and to your community in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching & song

*Through the parable of the lost sheep and coin, and the parable of the lost son,
Jesus showed how repentance is about returning what was lost and repairing damaged relationships.*

Invitation to the Word

You set your face toward Jerusalem for our sake,
come to us now in the proclamation of your word.

Scripture Reading

Luke 15:1-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³So he told them this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

¹¹Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The 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. ¹³A 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. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But 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! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’ ²⁰So 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. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But 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. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. ²⁵Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him

back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But 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. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But 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.'"

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

Apostles' Creed

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

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We are sorry for all the things which we allow to come between ourselves and others, and between ourselves and you, O Lord. Give us a clean slate and another chance to build our relationships and renew our souls.

Merciful God, **Hear our prayer.**

Be with all the children around the world who are lost to their families and whose fate is unknown. Protect the innocent, comfort the bereaved, bring loved ones back together, and bring perpetrators to justice for their unspeakable deeds.

Merciful God, **Hear our prayer.**

Forgive us for all the species which have gone extinct on our watch, blessed creator. Make us diligent workers to guard the precious life upon this planet, with whom we are so closely bound.

Merciful God, **Hear our prayer.**

Hearts need healing as much as bodies. Bring us to a state of repentance which opens us to your Spirit's renewal and restores lost connections. Heal all those who ask for your help, especially...

Merciful God, **Hear our prayer.**

Other petitions may be offered.

You hear all your children's prayers and gather the lost into your loving arms. Teach us to put our trust in you, and in our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Offering Prayer

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. As our congregation gathers food and necessities for the Action Center during this Lenten season, turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Sharing God's Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Blessing

With Christ's face set towards Jerusalem, may you be blessed with God's faithfulness, mercy and love for the journey ahead of us. **Amen.**

Sending Song

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

**How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory**

**Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished**

**I will not boast in anything
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom**

Sending

Go in peace as you continue your journey with Christ.

Postlude

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

- arr. Shackley



Participants

- Pastors: Courtney Steitz, Michael TeKrony
- Prelude: Jordan Ortman
- Assisting Minister: Eric Kurtz
- Liturgy leaders: Kathy Irwin, Del Felton, Susie DiPaolo, Gaylene Szaltzer
- Opening Song: Jordan Ortman
- Closing Song: Diane & Kevin Klinkerfues, Larry Lagerberg, Brenda Gleason,
Karen Novess
- Postlude: Jordan Ortman
- Photographs: Michael TeKrony, Winston Herbert, Ron Skabo, Amy Evancheck