

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
March 30, 2025, 9:30 a.m.
Fourth Sunday in Lent

The psalm sets the
are they whose
forgiven, and whose
Happy are those who
righteousness of God”
Jesus. Happy are
forgiveness of God
the disgrace” of
is the father at the
son. Happy are we
forgiven for Jesus’



tone this day: “Happy
transgressions are
sin is put away!”
have “become the
in the merits of Christ
those for whom the
has “rolled away . . .
former times. Happy
return of his prodigal
that our sins are
sake. Rejoice!

**(An offering for the continued mission of this church is
collected at the entryways)**

+GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

**Handbell Choir:
Now the Silence**

C. Schalk arr. S. E. Geschke

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One, **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Have No Fear, Little Flock

ELW 764

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

+WORD+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

First Reading

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

A reading from Joshua, chapter 5.

⁹ The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. ¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal, they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Joshua 5: 9-12

Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading

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.

A reading from 2nd Corinthians, chapter 5.

¹⁶ 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 no longer know him in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

2nd Corinthians 5:16-21

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(all sing)*



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

Gospel

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 believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

The holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up 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 like one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰ 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.

²¹ 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.' ²² 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. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.'

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

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ** *Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Please have an adult accompany children 3 yrs. old and younger.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY **By Grace You Have Been Saved** **ACS 1006**
All sing refrain -Choir sings verses

L: APOSTLES' CREED

Let us profess our faith using the words of the 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.

L: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our healer, we continue to pray for those on our prayer list. In addition we lift up to your care these loved ones and concerns that we name aloud or in our hearts before you now...*(time is allowed for additions)*. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

SHARE THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

+MEAL+

God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.

(An offering for the continued mission of this church is collected at the entryways)

OFFERTORY

We Are an Offering

ELW 692

L: OFFERING PRAYER

For all that we have received from God let us pray for what we return.

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and

God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

LORD'S PRAYER (Luke's version)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us as we pray:

**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.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

*At Faith **all** are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You are invited to come forward by the center aisle to fill in along the rail from the center to the sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive bread (or gluten-free wafers upon request) and wine (or white grape juice) in pre-filled glasses. Empty glasses can be placed in baskets provided as you return by the side aisles to your seat for silent meditation. If you need communion brought to you, please notify the usher.*

(if you are giving a reminder at the end of the service, please move to the lectern as the altar is cleared after communion distribution)

L: POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+SENDING+

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

REMINDERS

(If you are giving a reminder, come to the lectern as the altar is cleared).

BLESSING

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling ELW 608

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

All are welcome to refreshments and fellowship in the Social Hall following the service.

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, March 30, 2025

Presiding Minister: Pastor Chris Dion

Minister of Music: Deacon Gwynne Hopko

Assisting Minister: Heather Johnson

Lector: Bob Herold

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Cheryl Davis, Bill Golden, Kathy Golden, Donald Milbrandt

Altar Guild: Edie Valencis

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26763. Permission to reprint and stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-724528 and CCLI #22340990. All rights reserved.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, March 30, 2025

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

Monday, March 31, 2025

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

9:30 a.m. Men's Group at Parkside Diner

6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

Thursday, April 3, 2025

6:00 p.m. Parish Life (Youth Room)

6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon (YOUTH Room)

Sunday, April 6, 2025

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Church Phone: 860.583.5809

Email: churchoffice@FaithBristolCT.org

Pastor Chris Dion, phone: 860.989.3507

Deacon Gwynne Hopko, Minister of Music