

Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year C

Color: Purple

Scriptures: [Scripture linked to NRSV at [Oremus Bible Browser](#)]

[Joshua 5:9-12](#) (*God rolled away the people's disgrace; they kept Passover*)

[Psalm 32](#) (*Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven: be glad in the Lord*)

[2 Corinthians 5:16-21](#) (*If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; be reconciled*)

[Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32](#) (*The parable of the prodigal: what was lost has been found*)

Themes: God's Love, Thanksgiving, New Creation, Forgiveness, Gratitude

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to [Hymnary.org](#), a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the scriptures or themes of this service.

Amazing Grace (<i>NEW BRITAIN</i>)	2 Corinthians, Luke
Come to the Feast (<i>TABLE OF PLENTY</i>)	Joshua
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (<i>NETTLETON</i>)	Joshua, 2 Corinthians, Luke
Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy (<i>RESTORATION</i>)	Joshua, 2 Corinthians, Luke
Cuando El Pobre (When the Poor Ones) (<i>EL CAMINO</i>)	Luke
Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil (<i>GOODNESS IS STRONGER</i>)	2 Corinthians, Luke
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (<i>CWM RHONDDA</i>)	Joshua
Jesus, Lover of My Soul (<i>ABERYSTWYTH</i>)	Psalms, Luke
Just As I Am Without One Plea (<i>WOODWORTH</i>)	Joshua, 2 Corinthians, Luke
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (<i>BEECHER; HYFRYDOL</i>)	2 Corinthians
My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep from Singing) (<i>ENDLESS SONG</i>)	2 Corinthians
Softly and Tenderly (<i>THOMPSON</i>)	Luke
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (<i>WELLESLEY</i>)	Joshua, Psalms, Luke
This is a Day of New Beginnings (<i>BEGINNINGS</i>)	2 Corinthians
What Wondrous Love Is This (<i>WONDRIOUS LOVE</i>)	Luke

ANTHEMS

E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult

Amazing Grace – M Luke
NEW BRITAIN/Robert T. Gibson, arr.
© 2018, Walton Music, WW1879
SATB, Piano, Violin, Cello

Create In Me – M..... 2 Corinthians, Luke
Clayton White
© 2021, Augsburg Fortress, 978-1-5064-8493-8
SATB, Solo, Piano

I Am His Child – M Luke
Moses Hogan
© 1999, Alliance Music, AMP 0349
SSA, Piano

I Will Arise – ME Luke
RESTORATION/Alice Parker & Robert Shaw, arr.
© 1960, Lawson-Gould, LG00905
SATB, a cappella

Love Divine – M..... Luke
Howard Goodall
© 2000, Faber Music/MorningStar Music, 56-0011
SATB, Organ, opt. Strings

The Love of God – M 2 Corinthians
Benjamin Kornelis
© 2019, MorningStar Music, 50-6094
SATB, Piano

O Taste and See – M Joshua
Ralph Vaughan Williams
© 1953, Oxford University Press, 9780193535114
SATB, a cappella

Rejoice and Praise the Lord – M Psalms, Luke
G.F. Handel/Patrick Liebergen, arr.
© 1991, Alfred Music, 7987
SATB, Keyboard

Take All the Lost Home – ME Luke, Communion
Joe Wise/Margaret Jellison, arr.
© 1976, 2006, GIA Publications, G-5882
SATB, Keyboard, C-Instrument

We Are Redeemed – ME 2 Corinthians
Lee Dengler, incorporating “Amazing Grace”
© 1998, Shawnee Press, A7280
SATB, Keyboard

A Woman and a Coin – E..... Luke
Paul D. Weber
© 2021, Augsburg Fortress, 978-1-5064-8486-0
2-Part Mixed, Organ, 2 Flutes

-- Youth and Children --

My Father's Gifts – E Luke
John Leavitt
© 1987, GIA Publications, G-9313
2-Part (Any), Keyboard

Rejoice! I Found the Lost – E..... Luke
Wayne Wold
© 1994, Augsburg Fortress, 978-0-8006-5354-5
2-Part or Unison, Keyboard

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

*Surround me with your boundless love
Confound me with your boundless love
I was drowning in the sea, lost as I could be
When you found me with your boundless love*

— JOHN PRINE, “Boundless Love”

Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.

— C.S. LEWIS, *The Joyful Christian*

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP
(Based upon Psalm 32 and 2 Corinthians 5)

We gather for worship and a new day greets us.

The old has gone. The new has come.

Our sins are forgiven and faithful Love surrounds us.

The old has gone. The new has come.

Those who are in Christ Jesus are part of the new creation.

The old has gone. The new has come.

We worship Creator, Son, and Spirit.

The old has gone. The new has come.

— Erin Clarke*

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GATHERING PRAYER
(Based upon Psalm 32 and 2 Corinthians 5)

God the Father, you are our hiding place. You protect us from trouble and surround us with songs of deliverance. Holy Spirit, you instruct us and teach us in the way we should go. You counsel us and watch over us. Jesus the Son, you were without sin but became sin for our sake so that we may be reconciled and made new. Father, Spirit, Son. We have come today to worship You.

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION
(Based upon Luke 15)

Like the Prodigal son,

We confess that we ask to be blessed but are not thankful for your gifts.

We confess that we waste your resources instead of using them wisely.

We confess that we run away from you when we should run toward you.

Like the Older son,

We confess that we outwardly follow the rules but inwardly harbor resentment.

We confess that we expect to receive grace but refuse to extend grace to others.

We confess that we cannot be happy for others because we are focused on ourselves.

Like the Father,

You see us and are moved with compassion.

You run to us and embrace us in our brokenness.

For we were lost, but now are found.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(Based upon Psalm 32 and 2 Corinthians 5)

Blessed are we whose transgressions are forgiven and whose sins are covered. Our sins are not counted against us. God caused the One who knew no sin to be sin for our sake so that through Him we can become the righteousness of God.

We rejoice in the Lord and are glad. We sing, for our hearts are made right.

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

(Based upon Luke 15 and 2 Corinthians 5)

Our God, you have blessed us with many resources. We are thankful for food, clothing, shelter, and love. You have given your children more than we deserve, and we desire not to squander your gifts. We are happy for what others have and content with what we are given. It is our desire to be wise stewards. Instead of wasting our resources in extravagance that does not honor you, may we expend abundant love, extravagant grace, and excessive mercy to those in need. Please use these offerings, which we cheerfully hand over, to further your Kingdom and to make something new, even as you are making us new.

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*O 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.
Come home, come home; you who are weary, come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home.*

— WILL L. THOMPSON, 1880
Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

BENEDICTION

Go now in peace into your week and the world that God so loves. And as you go, return moment by moment into the care of God, who will go with you, beside you, and ahead of you in the Spirit of the Jesus. Amen.

* Thanks to Erin Clarke for contributing this week's liturgies.

Warren Howell, editor