

Sunday, March 6, 2016

Fourth Sunday in Lent

**FIRST READING. Joshua 5:9-12**

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. 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. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. 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.

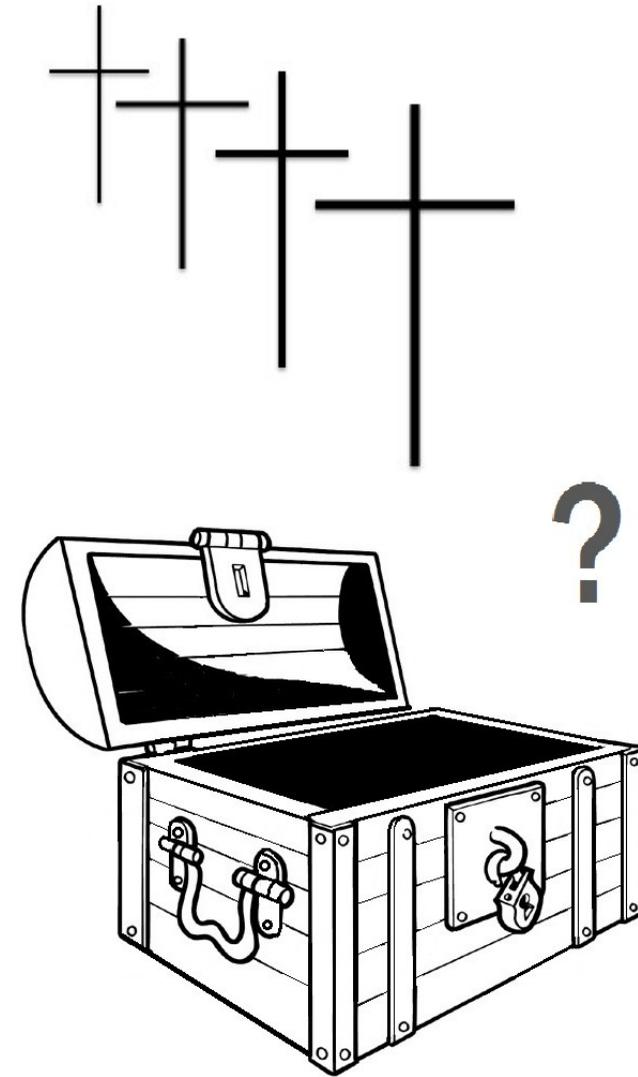
**SECOND READING. 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

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 know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 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. 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. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**GOSPEL. Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The 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. A 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. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But 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! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' 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. 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.' 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. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 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. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 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.'"

# ***Lent: Discovering the Treasure***



**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
MARCH 6, 2016**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
March 6, 2016  
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

First Lutheran Church  
Fergus Falls, Minnesota  
(218) 739-3348

Online  
Giving  
(QR Code)



[www.firstlutheranchurchff.org](http://www.firstlutheranchurchff.org)    [firstlc@live.com](mailto:firstlc@live.com)

Jesus tells a beautiful story of a father's love in today's Gospel. And then he says, "That's what God is like." God is not an angry, vengeful judge. God is a loving father who longs to welcome us with open arms, whether we are the younger son or the elder brother.

**Prelude**

**Announcements**

**\* Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who brings us out of captivity into freedom, out of the wilderness into the promised land, out of death into life.. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,  
**We confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,  
By what we have done and by what we have left undone.  
Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin  
And to serve you in the newness of life. Amen**

By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us new birth,  
and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ,  
God forgives us all our sins.  
Almighty God strengthen us in all goodness  
and keep us in eternal life. **Amen**

**\* Entrance Hymn**

*God Loved the World*

**ELW 323 (v.1-4)**

**\* Apostolic Greeting**

ELW Page 138

**\* Kyrie**

ELW Page 138

**\* Prayer of the Day**

**P** Let us pray ...  
**C** Amen

**Anthem (11:00)**

Adult Choir

**First Lesson**

Joshua 5:9-12

*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.*

(Congregational response after reading: **Thanks be to God.**)

**Fellowship and Refreshments** this morning in the narthex between services by Sarah's Froslee and her Girl Scout Troop.

**Large Print Edition** of the order of worship, the lessons, and the hymns for today are available. If you would like copies for worship, please ask an usher.

**Visitors!** If you didn't get a "Visitors Bag" when you came in this morning please pick one up on your way out after worship. You'll find them in a basket located on the small table on the ramp coming up from the narthex into the sanctuary.

**Altar Flowers** are given by Raymond & Jacqueline Ness-Ludwig in celebration of their 33<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Attention Seniors:** Scholarship Application forms for the 2014 ELCA Scholarship and First Lutheran Foundation Scholarship have been mailed to your homes. Applications must be completed by dates listed on these forms. If you need extra forms stop by the church office.

**Red Cross Blood Drive** – First Lutheran Church is hosting the Red Cross Blood Drive on March 29<sup>th</sup> from 1-8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. To make an appointment, please see the kiosk for more information.

**Lenten Coin Folders** are available for you to pick up at the back of the sanctuary. They will also be available at the info counter, in the church office or we can send you one if you call the church office. The folders are a wonderful way to give back during the Lenten Season. The money collected from the coin folders is given to Luther Crest Bible Camp.

**Noon Lenten Worship:** A soup lunch will be available after the noon worship and will be served in the narthex or you can get soup in a cup with buttered bread and a bar, **TO GO!!**

**Pizza Ranch Fundraiser:** The First Lutheran Youth will be bussing tables on Monday (March 7) from 5-8 p.m. The Youth receive a portion of the profit that evening and any tips that they earn. Let's pack Pizza Ranch on Monday night! The First Lutheran Youth thank you for your support!!

**Fergus Falls Area Habitat for Humanity Celebrates 25 Years!** Join us on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at the National Guard Armory. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. With a silent auction, game booths and dinner at 6:15 p.m. The Live auction will follow dinner. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by calling the Habitat office at 218-736-2905. Free will donations are accepted.

**Scouting for Food:** The Oxcart Trail District of the Boy Scouts of America will conduct their annual "Scouting for Food" project on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016. When a scout comes to your door on Saturday morning, please consider a donation of non-perishable food or monies to your local food shelf.

OFFERING UPDATE			
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual (1-1 to 1-31)</u>	<u>Difference</u>
February as of 2-29-2016	\$ 39,931.00	\$ 26,698.19	-\$13,232.81
Year to date	\$ 79,862.00	\$ 62,872.18	-\$16,989.82

**This Week at First Lutheran:**

Today: 8:30 a.m. Worship/Holy Communion  
9:30-11 a.m. **Relay For Life Bake Sale**  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study  
10:00 a.m. **4<sup>th</sup> Grade Milestone Class**  
11:00 a.m. Worship/Holy Communion

Monday: 9:00 a.m. WELCA Love Days  
5:00 p.m. Al-Anon  
5-8 p.m. **Pizza Ranch fundraiser for Outlaw Ranch Youth Trip**

Tuesday: 7:30 a.m. **BBC at Taco John's**  
9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon  
10:00 a.m. AA  
12:10 p.m. Lent Worship & Lunch in Narthex  
3:45 p.m. Children's Choir  
4:30 p.m. FLY K4  
5:30 p.m. **Hosanna Handbells**  
7:00 p.m. Lenten Vespers  
7:30 p.m. SENIOR FLY (following Vespers)  
7:30 p.m. Adult Choir (following Vespers)

Thurs.: 8:45 a.m. Morning Watch – Pr. Saul– KBRF AM 1250  
9:45 a.m. Senior Coffee & Bible Study

Friday: OFFICE CLOSED

**Next Sunday, March 13:**

8:30 a.m. Blended Worship/H. Communion/4<sup>th</sup> Grade Milestone Blessing in worship  
9:45 a.m. **Butterflies**  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Adult Bible study  
10:00 a.m. **5<sup>th</sup> Grade First Communion Class**  
11:00 a.m. Worship/H. Communion

**\*\*Correction:**  
There is no  
WELCA Board  
Meeting in March

**Second Lesson**

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

*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.*

(Congregational response after reading: **Thanks be to God.**)

**\*Lenten Sentence**

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

(After Gospel is announced, congregation says, **Glory to you, O Lord.**)

**Gospel**

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

*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 believed it was his obedience that earned his place in the father's home.*

(Congregational response after Gospel is read: **Praise to you, O Christ.**)

**Sermon**

***The Treasure of a Father's Love***

Pastor Saul

**Hymn of the Day**

***Our Father, We Have Wandered***

**ELW 606**

**Children's Event**

Pastor Saul

**\* Apostles' Creed**

Inside back cover of the ELW Hymnal

**\* The Prayers**

P ...Lord, in your mercy, OR P ... Let us pray to the Lord,  
C hear our prayer. C Lord, have mercy.

**\* The PEACE is shared**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C And also with you.

**Offering**

**\* Offertory**

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**\*Words of Institution**

**\* The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the  
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

**Distribution of Holy Communion**

Hymns during Communion:

ELW 595, 803

**\*Post Communion Blessing**

**\*Post Communion Hymn**

*God Loved the World*

ELW 323 (v. 5)

All glory to the Father, Son, and Holy  
Spirit, Three in One! To you, O blessed  
Trinity, be praise now and eternally!

**\* Benediction**

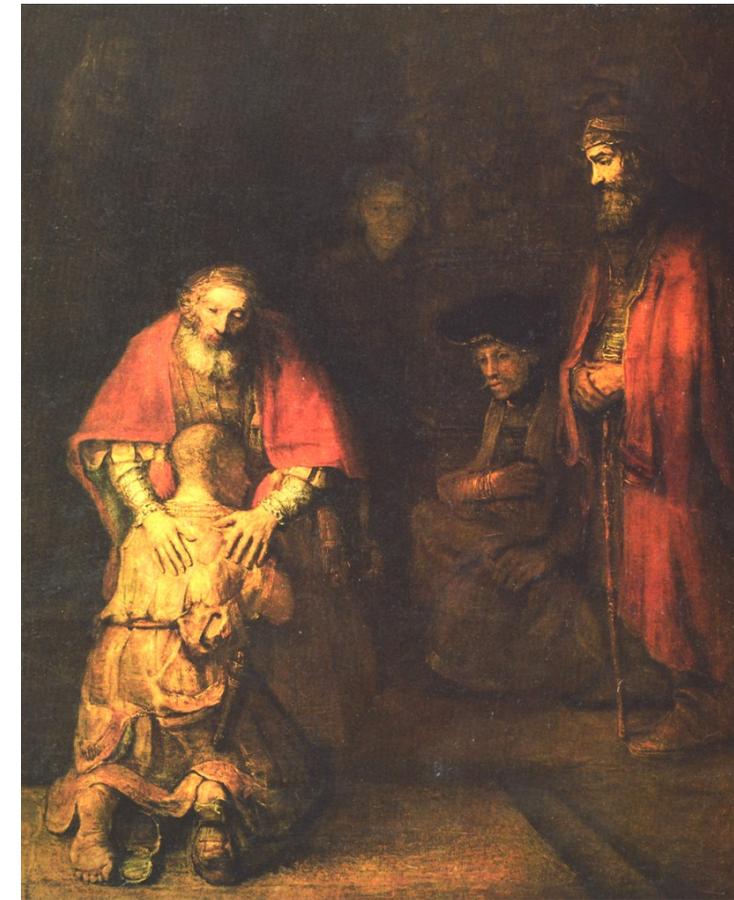
**\* Three-Fold Amen**

**\* Blessing and Sending**

(Congregational response: "Thanks be to God")

**\* Postlude**

\* Indicates where to stand



Senior Pastor:	Saul Stensvaag
Associate Pastor:	Jennifer Rose
Visitation Pastor:	Stan Satre
Sunday School Superintendent:	Cindy Larson
Council President:	Elizabeth Abrahams
Organist:	Keith Melberg
Cantors:	8:30 –Jacob Opatz 11 – Paul Sanderson
Lectors:	8:30 –Dick Felstul 11-Andrey Lockett
Adult Choir Director:	Erik Vigesaa
Acolytes:	8:30- Madeline Trosvig, Olivia Becker 11- Alexis Larson, Aaron Shelstad
Greeters:	Girl Scouts
Sacristans:	Mark & Susan Hermes
Communion Assistants:	8:30– Rick & Linda West 11–Tom & Jane Willett
PA Operators:	8:30- Kevyn Heck 11–Margaret Ness-Ludwig