



Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

Ministering to All in the Heart of Superior

Introduction and Announcements

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Let us confess our sin before God and one another:

**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 Song

Jesu, Jesus, Fill Us with Your Love

ELW 708

Gathering

ELW p.203

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

ELW p.203

Canticle

Glory be to God

ELW p.204

Prayer of the Day

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

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.**

Children's Message

Readings

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

Sue Connolly

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.

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: 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.

Gospel Acclamation

ELW p.206

We are turning, Lord, to hear you; you are merciful and kind -
slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke. **C: Glory to you, O Lord**

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Softly and Tenderly

ELW 608

The Apostles' Creed

ELW p.105

Prayers of the People

P: God, in your mercy, **C: receive our prayer.**

Peace

Offering

Special Music

Offertory*Create in Me a Clean Heart***ELW 186**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit!

Offering Prayer

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

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

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

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

Preface**Holy, Holy, Holy**

ELW p.207

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Words of Institution**Lord's Prayer**

ELW p.208

All are welcome at God's table of grace. Today we will receive communion via intinction. At the usher's direction, come forward and receive the bread, then dip your wafer into the red wine or the white grape juice. Gluten free elements are available. You may also come for a blessing – simply cross your arms over your chest when you come forward.

Communion Music

*Lamb of God
You Are Mine*

ELW p.208
ELW 581

Blessing of the Meal**Prayer after Communion**

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Benediction and Dismissal**Sending Song***Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ***ELW 674**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship this morning! We're so glad you're here. If you are new or a visitor here today, please take a moment to fill out the info card in the pew and drop that into the offering plate as it comes by. You can also use this card to submit any prayer requests you have.

Thank you to Max Rubesch for his outstanding job he did with the CPR/AED Training Class for our ushers that happened last week. Everyone has said that he did a great job and answered many questions. Thanks again Max.

Thank you to Emma Downing for playing for us today!

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 820 Belknap Street, Superior, WI 54880

~ 715- 392-4731

Church email – officemgr@plcsuperior.org

Rev. Tanner Howard, Pastor (email – tanner@plcsuperior.org)

Custodian: Anna Johnson Pianist: Lorelei Holland Violinist: Eliza Wilson

Choir Director: Curt Hanson

High School Youth Leader: Noah Holland

SAM – Jenny Dudderar

Website - www.plcsuperior.org



Potluck baby shower for Pastor Tanner and Katie will be Sunday April 6th down in Fellowship Hall after the church service. There's a sign up to bring a dessert, salad or jello! Please see Sandy Breitzman or Colleen Goesling for information regarding gift registry! Everyone is welcome !

Here is the link and QR code for their list: <https://my.babylist.com/pvzxfdenk>

Sunday Evening Prayer: Can't make Sunday mornings? A Sunday night service here at Pilgrim just for you. It's a great way to start your week with a calming and peaceful service to quiet your mind and talk to God. 1st and 3rd Sunday's at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Will also be on March 30th.

Easter Chancel Garden We are currently taking orders Easter Lily's. There are order forms on the Kiosk in the Narthex. Just drop it in the offering plate. **Orders must be turned in by March 31st.**

Archive Committee: Next Archive meeting will be on April 9th, from 9:00 – 12:00. You don't have to be there for the whole time. Any help is much appreciated.

Sunday Night Suppers

Join us on Sunday evenings for a **Community Meal at 5:30**.

Following the format of our campus ministry meals last fall, we are excited to open the doors to anyone who would like to join us for food and fellowship every Sunday here at Pilgrim.

There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex for 4 dates that Pilgrim will be hosting. Check out the list.

Adult Education

We are excited to offer a new opportunity for learning together with an Adult Ed class on Sunday evenings at 6:00. Come for the community meal at 5:30 and stick around to learn and discover together. Topics will range for biblical studies to theology, faith traditions to catechism.

PrayGround: Here at Pilgrim, everyone is welcome and wanted in worship. We love having children in worship, and we delight in their ability to see and experience all that is happening in the worship space. We invite you to sit anywhere you are comfortable. There is a special place in the front of the sanctuary on the right side that is our designated PrayGround, where kids can worship, wiggle, play, color, learn, and grow as part of our faith community. Adults are encouraged to sit where children can see them while they are using the PrayGround, in case they need assistance.

Have you connected with us online? Be sure to 'Like' us on Facebook and 'Subscribe' to our YouTube channel. Just jump on those platforms and search for 'Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Superior'. You can also visit our website for updates and events: www.plcsuperior.org

Coins for the Community.

For March and April we will be collecting for The Ruth House

Also on the table by the coins we are collecting pop tops. They will be going to the Ronald McDonald house in Duluth. These go to the funding of having families stay with their kids while they are in the hospital. It means so much to be able to have your family with you when you are going through medical things. Let's fill up the jars.

A reminder: If you or someone you know is in the hospital and you'd like Pastor Tanner to visit or call, please let the church office know. Federal law prohibits hospitals from calling the church and letting us know that you are ill, even if you've indicated who your church is on your forms. Thank you!

Attention all Youth: We have Sunday school on Sunday about 10:15. All kids are welcome. Confirmation is going very well. We meet on Wednesdays at 4:00. Anyone is still welcome to join. Talk with Pastor Tanner if you are interested or have any question.

The new Word in Season and Christ in Our Home devotional books are out. They start on April 1st. If you know someone who would enjoy them please bring them one. We also have large print in both books for those who like bigger print.

2025 EcoFaith Summit of the Upper Midwest: Earth's Cries, Earth's Call: Becoming Midwives of Hope for the Healing of Creation: Saturday, April 5, 9:30am - 5:00pm, First Lutheran Church in Duluth and Online. The day includes impactful speakers, action-oriented engagement sessions, vibrant worship, inspiring art, table exhibits, and networking time to equip disciples in congregations, camps, campuses and communities to respond to God's call in the cries of Creation. To register and for more information including a carpool discount, free registration under age 30 and free childcare provided: ecofaithnetwork.org/ecofaith-summit-2025

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## **Prayer Around the Cross – A Pilgrimage Through Lent**



Throughout this season of Lent we will gather around the image of the cross. The cross is so imbued into our faith and traditions that we often don't think about it. So a part of our artwork that we may not notice it. This year you are invited to bring your cross to church.

There will be a special display in the narthex that you can add your crosses to, and we will bless these household crosses before sending them home again during Holy Week. In addition, we will hear stories from members of this congregation reflecting on their experience of the cross and life of faith.

We will gather for midweek meals and worship. The meal begins at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall and worship will be at 6:00 using Holden Evening Prayer. All are always welcome! *There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex for the meals.*

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Helpers for today, March 30

Ushers – Team 1: Ted Nelson, Capt.; Greg Elonen, Elaine Arnovich,
Dean & Katherine McCall

Sound system – Tyler

Worship Asst. – Sue Connolly

Altar Guild – Colleen and Rachel

Hospitality – Laura Swanson

Greeter - Dan Breneman

Helpers for Wednesday , April 2 at 6:00 p.m.

Sound system – Fred

Soup Supper – Colleen Goesling and Joan Altman

Helpers for next Sunday, April 6

Ushers – Team 2: Tad Matheson, Capt.; Clyde Johnson, Mary Matheson and Joan Altman

Sound system – Greg

Worship Asst. – Julie McLaren

Altar Guild – Laura and Greg

Hospitality – Sue Winner

Greeter - ?? anyone

This week at a glance:

Tuesday - 11:00 Pastor's Text Study
 2:45-5:30 Eliza's classes
 4:00-5:30 lessons by Teresa
 5:00 Step in Line Dancing
 5:30 Choir Practice
 6:15 Martial Arts Class
 6:30 Praise practice

Wednesday – 4:00 Confirmation Class
 4:15-7:30 Eliza's classes
 4:45 Girl Scouts
 5:30 Soup Supper
 6:00 Lent Worship
 7:00 - Theology on Tap (at Tap on Tower, 1106 Tower Ave.)

Thursday – 8:00-8:45, 12:15-6:30 Eliza's classes
 10:00 Bible Study
 5:00 CHIMS meeting at Pilgrim
 5:45 Martial Arts Class

Friday - 11:00-12:00, 3:30-8:00 Eliza's classes

Saturday 8:00-10:00 Martial Arts class

Next Sunday – 9:30 Worship
 10:15 Sunday School
 10:45 Bell Practice
 Baby Shower today!! Following worship in fellowship.
 4:00 NA Group
 5:30 Community Meal (free)
 6:00 Adult Ed class
 6:30 Evening Worship

Holy Week at Pilgrim



As we prepare to celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday, we hope you'll plan to join us as we gather around opportunities for worship and fellowship throughout Holy Week – the week leading up to Easter.



Palm Sunday – April 13th at 9:30 | Wave your palms and shout Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Spy Wednesday – April 16th at 5:30 | Traditionally commemorating the story of Judas as the spy and betrayer, we will gather for food, communion class, and bread baking.



Maundy Thursday – April 17th at 6:00 | We gather to hear again Christ's command to love all people and celebrate the institution of the Lord's Supper.

Good Friday – April 18th at 1:00 & 6:00 | Join us for a community Good Friday service at 1:00 at Concordia Lutheran Church. We will also hold our usual service at 6:00 that evening here at Pilgrim.



Holy Saturday – April 19th at 6:00 | Join us for an abridged version of the Great Vigil of Easter as we light a new fire, hear ancient stories of our faith, and welcome the Light of Christ into the world.

Easter Sunrise – April 20th at 6:11 | Gather with folks from around our community on the shores of Lake Superior (parking lot #1) as we worship together.



Easter Sunday – April 20th at 9:30 | Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!



March 30, 2025

Sue Connolly

Please read:

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.

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.

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

Psalm 32 (read responsively)

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.

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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.**

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but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

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March 30, 2025

Sue Connolly

Please read:

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.

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.

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

Please Read: Please stand for the Gospel as you are able

March 30, 2025

Pastor Tanner

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke. C: **Glory to you, O Lord**

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, “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!’

Continued Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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.’”

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ**