



**St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church of Clarkston WA & Valley Bible Academy**

1107 14<sup>th</sup> Street

10:00 am Sunday School, 10:15 am Bible Class, 11:00 am Service

[www.ClarkstonLutheran.org](http://www.ClarkstonLutheran.org)

Watch the Service at [www.ustream.tv](http://www.ustream.tv)

(Search: St. John's Lutheran Church, Clarkston, WA)

Nursery Room with Service Monitor

**Peace Lutheran Church of Orofino ID**

13946 1st Ave

7:30 am Bible Class, 8:00 am Worship Service

[orofino.clclutheran.org](http://orofino.clclutheran.org)

Members of the Church of the Lutheran Confession – CLC

Organists: Deena Irby, Donna Lowary, Sue Martin

Pastor Dave Naumann 1119 14<sup>th</sup> Street Clarkston, WA 99403

email: [ddnaumann@clclutheran.com](mailto:ddnaumann@clclutheran.com)

Church: 509 758-8261 Home: 509 295-6109 Cell: 920 266-5384

4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 15, 2015

Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 125 (front of the hymnal p. 153)

The Hymns: 157, 371, 755, 158

Prayer: *Gracious Redeemer, grant Your blessing to us during this Lenten season. Let us see the pains of body and agony of soul that were Yours, and help us to realize that our sins were also responsible for them. May we by faith always see You as our Substitute, Who bore the burden of our sin and guilt perfectly, so that we now stand pure and sinless in God's holy eyes. Hear us, for Your love's sake. Amen.*

**Opening Prayer**

**Opening Hymn 157**

**The Invocation**

*We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



**Congregation sings:**

A - men.

**THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS**

*We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

**Pastor** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.



**C: Who made heaven and earth.**

**Pastor** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.



**C: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin**

**ALL:** O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**PASTOR:** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called servant of God's Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ; I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.



**C** A - men. (congregation is seated)

### THE INTROIT

*Having received the Lord's forgiveness, we are glad to enter into His courts with praise and thanksgiving. This entrance is made in the Introit with the Lord's own Word, often from the Psalms.*

**P:** Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad with her:

**C:** All you who love her.

**P:** Rejoice for joy with her:

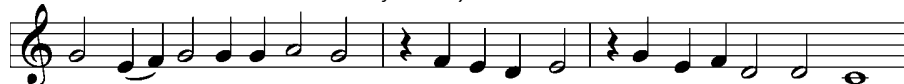
**C:** All you who mourn for her.

**P:** I was glad when they said to me:

**C:** Let us go into the house of the Lord.

### THE GLORIA PATRI

*Latin for "Glory to the Father"*



**Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;**



**as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.**

### THE KYRIE

*Latin for "O Lord." We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.*



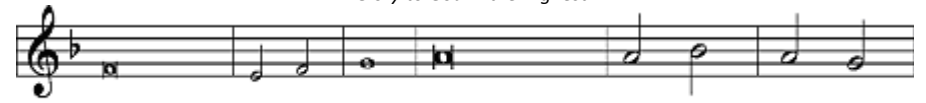
**Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -**



**on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.**

### THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

*"Glory to God in the Highest"*



**Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward**



**men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,**



**we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.**



**O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.**



**O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;**



**O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,**



**that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.**



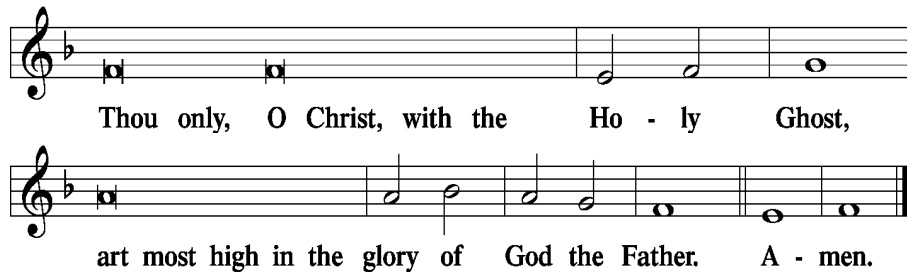
**Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.**



**Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-**



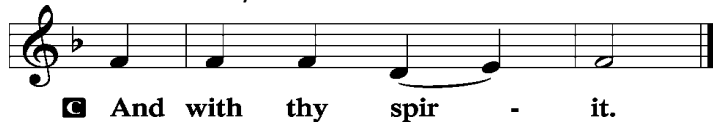
**on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.**



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

### **THE SALUTATION** *(Greeting)*

**PASTOR** The Lord be with you.



☐ And with thy spir - it.

### **THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY**

*The main thoughts for the day are "collected" together in this prayer.*

**PASTOR** Let us pray.



☐ A - men.

### **THE BIBLE LESSONS**

*God speaks to us.*

#### **The Old Testament Reading:**

Isaiah 12 And in that day you will say: "O LORD, I will praise You; Though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. 2 Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.'" 3 Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation. 4 And in that day you will say: "Praise the LORD, call upon His name; Declare His deeds among the peoples, Make mention that His name is exalted. 5 Sing to the LORD, For He has done excellent things; This is known in all the earth. 6 Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, For great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!"

**PASTOR** Here ends the Old Testament Reading. We continue with the responsive reading of:

### **THE GRADUAL**

*The Gradual is a "Bridge of praise" that links the Old Testament with the New Testament.*

P: I was glad when they said to me:

**C: Let us go into the house of the Lord.**

P: Peace be within your walls:

**C: And prosperity within your palaces.**

P: Those who trust in the Lord shall be as Mt. Zion:

**C: Which cannot be removed, but abides forever. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

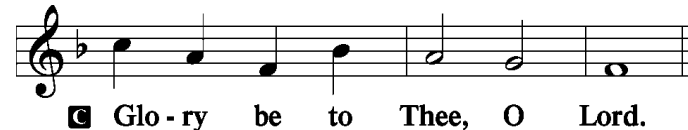
P: As the mountains are round about Jerusalem:

**C: So the Lord is round about His people from this time on, even forevermore. Hallelujah!**



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

**PASTOR** The Gospel Reading comes from Luke chapter 15 beginning there in the 1<sup>st</sup> verse.



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

#### **The Gospel Reading**

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them." 3 So He spoke this parable to them, saying: 11 "A certain man had two sons. 12 "And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. 13 "And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. 14 "But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. 15 "Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 "And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. 17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 "and I am no longer worthy to be called

your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'" 20 "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. 21 "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. 23 'And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; 24 'for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. 25 "Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 "So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 "And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' 28 "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. 29 "So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. 30 'But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' 31 "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. 32 'It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.'"

**PASTOR:** Here ends the Gospel Reading.

**P:** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## **THE NICENE CREED**

*We boldly confess what we believe. (Hymnal, page 22)*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Hymn 371**

## **THE SERMON**

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." 20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the

things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God; and righteousness and sanctification and redemption; 31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

Theme: "THE CROSS IS TRUE WISDOM"

I. God's foolishness brings down man's wisdom (18-25)

II. God's wisdom brings about our salvation (26-31)

### THE OFFERTORY

*In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart O God, and re-  
new a right spir - it with - in me  
Cast me not a - way from Thy pre - sence, and  
take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me.  
Re-store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion; and up-  
hold me with Thy free spir-

it. A - men.

### THE OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

*In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him. While the ushers present our offerings at the Lord's Altar, we stand and sing the offering hymn 441:1-2:*

***We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.  
May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our first-fruits give!***

## PRAYERS - (Pastor)

Congregation sings Hymn 755

### The Communion Liturgy

#### THE PREFACE/ PROPER PREFACE

*Now we approach the second high point of the liturgy, the Sacrament, in which the Lord comes to bless us with His very body and blood. We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration. Please stand.*

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spir - it.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.  
**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**PASTOR:** It is truly meet, right, and spiritually beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

#### THE SANCTUS

*Latin: "Holy." We join our voices to the angels who sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy" round about His throne and we welcome Him with the Palm Sunday multitude who sang, "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest!"*

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,  
 ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,  
 bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**PASTOR:** 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  
 glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*(The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His sacramental body and blood for all time)*

**PASTOR:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always

A - men.

**THE AGNUS DEI**

*Latin: "Lamb of God." As we approach the Table of Forgiveness, we want to think only of that Lamb of God who was sacrificed for us on Calvary's cross.*

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
 world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
 tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.  
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

**COMMUNION TODAY IS FOR MEMBERS ONLY PLEASE**

Why doesn't our church just pass the Sacrament out in the pews, as some churches do? Because we understand Communion very differently than others. From God's Word, we understand the Lord's Supper can be spiritually harmful as well as beneficial. (I Corinthians 11:17-29). Out of love

for God's Word, (and for you, our visitors!) we do not give it out unless we know that it will work for your good and therefore for the good of the Church. In fact, we do not even commune our own children until they have been properly instructed! For this reason, we trust that those of our visitors who wish to commune with us will prepare with the pastor first. Pastor Naumann would be happy to discuss this with you at your convenience!

**The Distribution of the Sacrament** *(congregation is seated)*

**THE NUNC DIMITTIS**

*Latin: "Now Dismiss." Simeon's words after seeing the Christ Child. (Luke 2:29-32)*

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -  
 cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

**PASTOR:** Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**PASTOR:** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we beseech You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

A - men.

**THE BENEDICTION**

*The blessing given by God for His people (Numbers 6:24-26)*

**PASTOR:**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

**Closing Hymn 158**

\*\*\* Silent Prayer \*\*\*

# Announcements

*"If the LORD wills, we will do this or that." James 4:15*

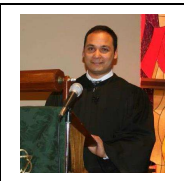
**WELCOME EVERYONE!** Especially any visitors who may be with us. We are glad you are here and invite you to join us again soon in our worship of the One true God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you've found it with us. If you'd like to become a member, we offer a free "Information Course" in which the Pastor will meet with you at your convenience to study and discuss the Bible's teachings. Just ask!

**IN OUR PRAYERS** Charlotte Hoffman continues to recover at home from a fractured leg. Every two weeks, we plan on sending volunteers to help out with her household cleaning. If you'd like to help, speak with Sue Martin. **"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2**

**DINNER INVITATION AT PEACE** After church service at Peace (1pm), we have been invited to a 2:30 luncheon at High Country Inn hosted by Bob Jensen.

**THANKYOU!** Many thanks to those who turned out yesterday at St. John's to finish the installation of a fence for our school playground. The fence is now up and the gates are installed. Next Saturday at 10am we'll start building the playground boundaries and putting in the woodchips. If you'd like to help, please stop by!

**TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY** 10am at St. John's. All are invited!



**THE FIFTH MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE** this Wednesday March 18, we will have a guest speaker. Pastor Raju Bhitrakoti of the Himalayan Church of the Lutheran Confession, will be in town to both preach and then give a presentation to our congregations on mission work in Nepal.

At Peace: 4pm presentation, service at 5pm  
At St. John's: 7pm Service, 7:45 presentation

**Other Ongoing Home Bible Studies** – 6:00pm Tuesdays with Suzie and Ben. 1:00pm Thursdays with Steve and Nancy.

**SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND** This fund has been established for anyone who wishes to help finance children attending our new school at St. John's.

## **WAYS TO HELP OUR NEW SCHOOL – VALLEY BIBLE ACADEMY**

We have certain upcoming projects that could use your prayers along with any combination of your time, talent, and treasure. 1) Playground equipment is being sought. 2) "Save your soup labels & box tops for education" and place them in the box on the back church table.

**NEXT SUNDAY'S THREE BIBLE READINGS** To help prepare hearts:  
Isaiah 43:16-21 – God's mercies to His people Israel  
Phillippians 3:8-14 – Pressing on toward the heavenly goal (sermon)  
Luke 20:9-19 – The parable of the tenant farmers

**MISSION HELPER FUND** This fund was established to help sponsor Sam Naumann's participation in the Mission Helper trip to East Africa this Summer. The overall cost of this trip is usually over \$5,000. If you'd like to help, gifts may be made directly to Sam or make checks out to St. John's and mark "Mission Helper" in the memo line.

## **Summer Youth Camp 2015**

Just a quick reminder that registration for Summer Youth Camp 2015 opens March 13! Camp takes place on the campus of Immanuel Lutheran College in Eau Claire, WI. Camp is for children going into grades 5-9. Cost is \$125 per camper. There are two sessions of camp: June 21-27 and July 19-25. Each session will have a maximum capacity of 80 campers. When one session fills up, registration for that session will close immediately. For more info about camp, FAQs, and a longer explanation of how the registration process will work please go to [youthcamp.clclutheran.net](http://youthcamp.clclutheran.net). Please address any specific questions to one of the camp directors: Tom Naumann (920-266-5387 [thomasjnaumann@gmail.com](mailto:thomasjnaumann@gmail.com)) and Jessica Sydow ([952-905-9981](tel:952-905-9981) [jessicasydow10@gmail.com](mailto:jessicasydow10@gmail.com))

**CLC NEWS** <> Gethsemane Lutheran, Spokane Valley WA, has called Jennifer Ohlmann, teacher at Luther Memorial school, Fond du Lac WI, to serve as principal and teacher. <> The Rev. Edward Starkey, missionary to India, has accepted the call to Resurrection Lutheran, Corpus Christi TX. <> Calvary Lutheran, Marquette MI, has called the Rev. Andrew Schaller, pastor of Trinity Lutheran, Watertown, and Zion Lutheran, Hidewood Twp. SD.

## *Weekly Memory Verse*

**But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God; and righteousness and sanctification and redemption; that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."**

**1 Corinthians 1:30-31**



## LAETARA - BEHOLD THE LIBERATOR AS PROPHET

### The Old Testament Reading:

*As our ultimate Prophet, Jesus Christ who is the Word of God, gives us salvation through the Word. With joy we draw from the wells of salvation, we hear, learn, and witness His saving Word. We read...*

Isaiah 12:1-6 And in that day you will say: "O LORD, I will praise You; Though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. 2 Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.'" 3 Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation. 4 And in that day you will say: "Praise the LORD, call upon His name; Declare His deeds among the peoples, Make mention that His name is exalted. 5 Sing to the LORD, For He has done excellent things; This is known in all the earth. 6 Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, For great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!"

### THE GRADUAL

P: I was glad when they said to me:

**C: Let us go into the house of the Lord.**

P: Peace be within your walls:

**C: And prosperity within your palaces.**

P: Those who trust in the Lord shall be as Mt. Zion:

**C: Which cannot be removed, but abides forever. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

P: As the mountains are round about Jerusalem:

**C: So the Lord is round about His people from this time on, even forevermore. Hallelujah!**

### The Gospel Reading

*In this parable, an earthly story with a heavenly meaning, we each see ourselves in each of the sons. The one who was lost, but now is found; and, the one who thought he was a better son than the first. Both of these examples point us to the steadfast love of our heavenly Father. We read...*

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them." 3 So He spoke this parable to them, saying: 11 "A certain man had two sons. 12 "And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. 13 "And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. 14 "But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. 15

"Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 "And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. 17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 "and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'" 20 "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. 21 "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. 23 'And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; 24 'for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. 25 "Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 "So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 "And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' 28 "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. 29 "So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. 30 'But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' 31 "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. 32 'It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.'"

**PASTOR:** Here ends the Gospel Reading.

P: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!