HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

March 30, 2025 - 9:30 am

4th Sunday in Lent

GATHERING: The Spirit Calls Us Together

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Call to Worship

Gathering Song *"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"* ELW 807

Greeting

Kyrie ELW pg 147

Prayer of the Day

Special Music *"Already Home"* Chancel/MS HS Ensemble

WORD: We Hear God in Scripture & Preaching

Children's Message

Psalm 32... Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
[2]Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. [3]While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. [4]For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. [5]Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. [6]Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. [7]You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. [8]I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. [9]Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. [10]Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD. [11]Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32... 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 property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. [13] 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. [14] When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. [15] 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. [16] He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. [17] 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! [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 when 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 property 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. **Thanks be to God.**

Message Pastor Heather Grell

Hymn of the Day *“Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone”*

Prayers

Lord’s Prayer Mile Marker

Lord’s Prayer

Sharing God’s Peace

MEAL: God Feeds us with the Presence of Jesus

Offering

Special Music

Offertory	*“Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery”* *Vs 1 and Lent 4*	ELW 334
Great Thanksgiving		ELW pg 152
Words of Institution		
Communion		
Communion Songs	*“Lamb of God”* *“Build a Longer Table“*	ELW pg 154

Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

SENDING: Being Loved, God Sends Us to Love

Blessing

Sending Song *“For Everyone Born (A Human Rights’ Hymn”)*

Dismissal

Postlude

Announcements

⇒ **Food Pantry** Our next food pantry is Saturday, April 5th from 8 to 9:30 am . CLICK HERE to help. Donations are needed! We are in need of canned soup, bar soap, toilet paper and canned goods in general (fruit, veggies, tuna/chicken, pasta sauce, beans). Drop donations in the blue bin in the coat closet hallway. Thanks!

⇒ **Nursery** Our nursery in the Sunday School hallway is unlocked every Sunday morning during worship and our education hour. There is no nursery attendant, but the room is available for families to use as needed if littles need to get some wiggles out!

⇒ **Prayer Shawls** If you have someone in your life who could use some extra comfort and prayers, please feel free to take a Prayer Shawl or Prayer Square from the display in the Narthex at any time.

⇒ **Scholarships Available** The Holy Cross Endowment Board invites student members to apply for a $500 scholarship for the fall semester. Please complete the application, available by request from **endowment.board@hclchurch.com** or the church office, and return it by April 3rd.

⇒ **Youth Emergency Services Drive—**Throughout the season of Lent we will be collecting various items for Youth Emergency Services. We are collecting the following new items: Bras (not sports bras), Underwear—all sizes men and women, full size deodorant, full size body wash, chapstick, towels. See the Narthex for more details.

⇒ **Board Game Day** Join us for a day of board game fun! Bring your favorite board games and snacks/drinks to share for a fun afternoon. Saturday, April 5th at 1:00 pm. See you there!

⇒ **Centering Prayer Group** join us Wednesdays during Lent at 7:00 pm in the Outside Meeting Room.

⇒ **Easter Flowers** Help make the church beautiful for Easter! Easter flowers again this year will include lilies, hyacinth, tulips and daffodils. Flowers can be purchased for $11, orders are due by April 13th. To purchase flowers electronically Click Here or use an envelope at the usher stand and place in the offering plate.

⇒ **Lord's Prayer Milemarker** Kelsey met with all 3rd graders in March for the Lord's Prayer Faith Milemarker. The Lord's Prayer Faith Milemarker recognition will take place during worship today.

⇒ **Lenten Worship Services** Join us Wednesday's at 6:30 pm for our Lenten Worship Services of Holden Evening Prayer.

⇒ **Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt** will take place on April 13th during the Sunday School hour. Families will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a few activities before heading outside for the egg hunt! To help make this event a success, please pick up a bag of Easter egg's and return filled with candy or treats.

⇒ **Giving through Venmo** You can now support the ministries of Holy Cross via Venmo. Find us on Venmo @HolyCrossLutheran.

Calendar for Upcoming Week

Sunday, March 30
9:30 am Worship
10:40 am Sunday School/Adult Forum
10:50 am MS/HS Ensemble
11:00 am MS/HS Bells

Monday, March 31
1:00 pm Centering Prayer
6:30 pm Boy Scouts
9:00 pm CMA Meeting

Tuesday, April 1
Poling Place—General Election
7:30 pm AA Meeting

Wednesday, April 2
12:30 pm Tai Chi Class
6:00 pm Confirmation/Uke Choir
6:30 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service
7:00 pm Radical Ringers/Youth Group

Thursday, April 3
6:30 pm Carolon Bell Choir
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Friday, April 4
1:00 pm Knitting
6:00 pm Pantry Prep
7:00 pm Belles N Beaus

Saturday, April 5
8:00 am Food Pantry
1:00 pm Board Game Day

Sunday, April 6
9:30 am Worship
10:40 am Sunday School/Adult Forum
10:50 am MS/HS Ensemble
11:00 am MS/HS Bells
3:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 48012

Prayer Requests from our Church Community

Member Concerns: **Sarah Sjolie; Kelley Kennedy; Norm Firkins**; **Phyllis Beam; Donna McCoy; Jan Swanson**; **Connie Mertz.**
On-Going Member Concerns: **Edie Nabity** at Hillcrest Papillion
Friends and Relatives: **Ken Plessel**, uncle of Wes Grunke; **Anna Victor**, aunt of Jen Gitt; **Dana Zoll**, friend of Amy Odson; **Linda Spencer**; **Jimmy McCarthy**, brother of Jen Gitt; **Jeanne Kowalski**, sister of Peg Schneider; **Dave Huggins**, friend of Jim & Peg Schneider; **Mya Calendar**, daughter of Trisha Ryan; **Carol Deditz**, sister of Julie Noteman; **Larry Labens**, friend of Jerry & Kelli Joseph; **Opal Calendar**, foster granddaughter of Trisha Ryan; **Kelsey Schneider**, daughter of Jim & Peg Schneider; **Megan Smith-Sallans,** friend of Pastor Heather; **Theresa Ramelb**, friend of Jacque Petersen; **Shari Jensen,** friend of Ed Krueger; **Kenneth Lathrop**, father of Alisa Krueger; **Jan Specks,** sister of Carol Rich; **Ronda Bayer,** friend of Debbie Risinger; **Debbie Haacke**, coworker of Debbie Risinger; **Tatyana Povazhnaya**, friend of Sue Spengler; **Gaylen Grunke**, Wes Grunke's Brother; **Linda Anderson**, Barb Kay's sister; **Aaron McDonald and Family and Caregivers,** McDonald's grandson.