



The Third Sunday in Lent – Lost Sheep, Coin, Son

March 7, 2021

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Ricercare on the Second Tone

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM*

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you created us in your image
and placed us in a well-watered garden.
In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.
When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in this font,
and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
Satisfy all who thirst,
and give us the life only you can give.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ, our living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN*

"There is a Wideness in God's Mercy"

(see end of bulletin)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

Rejoicing Father, you celebrate when one of your lost children is found because everyone has value. We are in awe that you would count us among your most prized possessions. Give us eyes to see the priceless value of every living soul, for the sake of the one who became human for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING

Psalm 119:167-176

Today's first reading is from the Psalms:

¹⁶⁷My soul keeps your decrees;

I love them exceedingly.

¹⁶⁸I keep your precepts and decrees,

for all my ways are before you.

¹⁶⁹Let my cry come before you, O LORD;

give me understanding according to your word.

¹⁷⁰Let my supplication come before you;

deliver me according to your promise.

¹⁷¹My lips will pour forth praise,

because you teach me your statutes.

¹⁷²My tongue will sing of your promise,

for all your commandments are right.

¹⁷³Let your hand be ready to help me,

for I have chosen your precepts.

¹⁷⁴I long for your salvation, O LORD,

and your law is my delight.

¹⁷⁵Let me live that I may praise you,

and let your ordinances help me.

¹⁷⁶I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek out your servant,

for I do not forget your commandments.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

NARRATIVE READING

Luke 15:1-32

Today's narrative reading is from Luke:

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ⁴Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

¹¹Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The 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. ¹³A 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. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But 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! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰So 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. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But 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. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But 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. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But 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.'"

Word of God. Word of life.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Wondrous Love”

arr. Alice Parker

Wondrous Love was recorded virtually by the Central Lutheran Church Choir. Members recorded their voices from their individual homes, which were then mixed together. In this way, the choir sings together even while being physically apart.

CREEDAL POEM

Together we express our faith in the words of Joe Davis’ creedal poem, *Grace is like an Ocean*.

Grace is like an ocean
And The Spirit hovers over the face of these waters
Yet we’re not meant to play it safe by the harbor
We are all drawn deeper and farther
Called into relationships to travel seas uncharted

Like raindrops
On our cheeks and our chests
Our tears and our sweat
Connecting our bodies, our blood
Streams of consciousness collected in
Pondering ponds, puddles, swamps, and gutters
Wandering waters so often huddled where we’re taught they don’t belong

However far from the garden—
Life grows wherever the water flows
In the cracked concrete of a city street or even in the desert heat we can still find the
budding of rose

Only our imagination limits where Holy Spirit moves
Like a flood
Breaking gates and walls
Baptizing beyond the lines of society
And our comfort zones
The raging waves make mountains, and shape diamonds cut from stone, gentle drops soak
the soil where the smallest seed becomes the tallest oak

No place too high or too low, too remote or too close
Grace explodes and unfolds
The tides are ever changing and giving rise to new hope

Remember these waters where it all begins
Where we all belong
All gathered, all called, all sent
Grace is the water in which we all swim

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

We gather our prayers using a sung response

Guided by the spirit and gathered into one, let us pray for the church, the world and all God's creation.

Lord, in your mer-cy, hear our_ prayer.

Li - sten to our cry.

Each petition concludes:
[Sung Response]

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting that you always hear our prayers.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray as our Savior taught:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

You are what God made you to be:
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor.
God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.
Amen.

CLOSING ANTHEM

“Shelter Me”

Father Michael Joncas wrote this piece as a musical response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Today marks the one year anniversary of our sheltering-in-place.

(see end of bulletin)

Jan Michael Joncas

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.
And also with you.

POSTLUDE

Meditation on “Wondrous Love”

Isaac Drewes

An asterisk () indicates that the hymn/song is from the ELCA’s new worship supplement, “All Creation Sings.”*

PREACHING Pastor Peter Nycklemoe
PRESIDING Pastor Stephanie Friesen
ASSISTING Pastor Melissa Pohlman
ORGANISTS Isaac Drewes, Cantor Mark Sedio
QUARTET Froya Olson, David Gindra, Bill Pederson, Robin Helgen
VIDEO/SOUND Mark Kieffer

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Prayer of the Day – <http://www.narrativelectionary.org>

Stanzas 1-3

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



- 1 There's a wide-ness
- 2 There is wel-come
- 3 For the love of
- 4 'Tis not all we



in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;
 for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
 God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
 owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than
 there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der -
 great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy



lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's sor - rows
 in his blood. There is grace e - nough for thou - sands
 ful - ly kind. But we make this love too nar - row
 through the fall. Make our love, O God, more faith - ful;



are more felt than up in heav'n. There is no place
 of new worlds as great as this; there is room for
 by false lim - its of our own; and we mag - ni -
 let us take you at your word, and our lives will



where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
 fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
 fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
 be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

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SHELTER ME

A Prayer-Song in the Time of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Michael Joncas



O shel-ter me, O shel-ter me:
The way a - head is dark and dif - fi - cult to see.
O shel-ter me, O shel-ter me:
All will be well if on - ly you will shel-ter me.

SHELTER ME

(text)

Shepherd and sheep, my God and I:
to fresh green fields you led my steps in days gone by.
You gave me rest by quiet springs
and filled my soul with peace your loving presence brings.

Refrain:

*O shelter me, O shelter me:
the way ahead is dark and difficult to see.
O shelter me, O shelter me:
all will be well if only you will shelter me.*

Yet now I tread a diff'rent way;
death dogs my path with stealthy steps from day to day.
I cannot find your peaceful place
but dwell in dreary darkness, longing for your face.

Refrain

I will look back in days to come
and realize your faithfulness has led me home.
Within your house I'll find my peace,
trusting that in your mercy you have sheltered me.