

Hymn, God Will Take Care of You Grey Hymn Book #56

Purple note request by Joan West

Please stand.

Nicene Creed page 84

Prayer

Sharing of the Peace.

You may be seated.

Offering

Please stand.

Offertory, Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful page 86

Prayer..... page 87

The Great Thanksgiving page 88

The Lord's Prayer page 91

You may be seated.

MINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pre Communion, Lamb of God page 92

Communion Hymns, Grey Hymn Book #s 258, 266, 284

Please stand.

Post Communion, Thank the Lord page 92

Prayer page 94

Benediction page 95

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn, Rise Up, O Saints of God! LBW #383, v. 1-4

Postlude

Pastor: Rev. Steve Bang

Organist: Sandy Damn

Usher: Jan & Julie Reimann

Acolyte: Paris Reimann

Lectionary: Denise Holst

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

7 p.m. Youth Group

Tuesday, March 8

7 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday, March 9

9 a.m. WOW quilting; noon pizza party with Joan West, hostess; Easter program by Shirley Schutter

6 p.m. Soup Supper @ Sion

7:15 p.m. Lenten Worship @ Sion

Fourth Sunday in Lent

11 a.m., March 6, 2016

West Prairie Lutheran Church, LCMC

Prelude

Pastoral Greeting

Please stand if you are able.

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 77

Opening Hymn, Oh, Worship the King LBW #548, v. 1-4

Kyrie page 78

Hymn of Praise, This is the Feast page 81

Prayer of the Day

All: **God of all mercy, by Your power to heal and to forgive, graciously cleanse us from all sin and make us strong; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

You may be seated.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 12:1-6

Thanksgiving Expressed

Then you will say on that day, "I will give thanks to You, O LORD; for although You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation."

Therefore you will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation. And in that day you will say, "Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name. Make known His deeds among the peoples; make *them* remember that His name is exalted."

Praise the LORD in song, for He has done excellent things; let this be known throughout the earth. Cry aloud and shout for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Psalm 32 (responsively)

Blessedness of Forgiveness and of Trust in God.

L: How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,

C: whose sin is covered!

L: How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity,

C: and in whose spirit there is no deceit!

L: When I kept silent *about my sin*, my body wasted away

C: through my groaning all day long.

L: For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;

C: My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. Selah.

L: I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide;

C: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah.

L: Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found;

C: surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him.

L: You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble;

C: You surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah.

L: I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go;

C: I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

L: Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check,

C: otherwise they will not come near to you.

L: Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

C: but he who trusts in the LORD, lovingkindness shall surround him.

L: Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones;

C: and shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

SECOND LESSON: II Corinthians 5:16-21

Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Please stand.

Alleluia page 83

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Response: *Glory to You, O Lord* page 83

Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him. Both the Pharisees and the scribes *began* to grumble, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

So He told them this parable, saying,

And He said, "A man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them. And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving *anything* to him. But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men."' So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion *for him*, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. And he summoned one of the servants and *began* inquiring what these things could be. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and *began* pleading with him. But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and *yet* you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends; but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.' And he said to him, 'Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and *has begun* to live, and *was* lost and has been found.'"

Response: *Praise to You, O Christ* page 83
You may be seated.

SERMON: Pastor Steve Bang

"The Parable of the Loving Father" Luke 15:11-24

Next Sunday, March 13

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:15 a.m. Fellowship

11 a.m. Worship Service

7 p.m. Youth Group

NO Confirmation Class this week

Congregational Meeting following the worship service today.

West Prairie Caring Committee—Thank you for the thoughts and prayers while I was hospitalized. I also appreciated the visit from Pastor Bang. Things are slowly getting back to normal at home. Thank you again for your kindness. Mandy Carlson

Don't forget the Painting Class at Creative Spirits, downtown Forest City, on Sunday, March 20 from 10 to 4 p.m. Reservations can be to Jill Holland or online at Creative Spirits. Fee is \$35.00

Choice Dollars designation at Thrivent ends March 31!

Prayer List—Mandy Carlson, Carver Moffat, Sam White, Shirley Hanson, Kylie Holst, Marlas Reimann, Barb Miller, Angela Haugen, Marlys Haugen, Mike Haack, Roger Peterson, Dale Zingg, Dorothy Kall, Ben Charlson, Monte Branstad, Blanche Durby, Eldora Reil. All prayer requests can be submitted to: www.westprairiechurch.com/prayer; leave message on church answering system @641-567-3733; or called in to Pastor Steve @ 641-590-7894.

SERMON NOTES

“The Parable of the Loving Father” - Luke 15:11-24

1. Although our gospel lesson is often called the parable of the prodigal son, the key figure in the parable is the _____.
2. We worship a God who regrets our _____.
3. God is a loving Father who will let you walk away from _____ with Him if you desire, but it breaks his Fatherly heart if you do.
4. The whole time the prodigal son was away, he was still a son but he had left the presence and favor of his father. _____ can do that, too.
5. God loves you so much that He allows you to make you own choices, even though He knows what the _____ will be.
6. We worship a God who _____ toward you when you return.
7. The prodigal son finally reached his P.O.T.D. = the Point of Total _____.
8. God is slow to anger but He is quick to _____.
9. We worship a God who restores you when you _____.
10. The prodigal never deserved to be a son - it was all by _____!
11. If you have wandered from God and are willing to repent of your sin and return to Him, He has a message for you: “I’ll treat you as if you never _____!”
12. To parents of prodigals: (a) God understands your _____. (b) Don’t jump in the _____ to rescue them. (c) Let them know the _____ is open. (d) Receive them when they _____.