

Third Sunday of Lent

March 7, 2021

Theme: Through the parable of the lost sheep and coin, and the parable of the lost son, Jesus showed how repentance is about returning what was lost and repairing damaged relationships.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.
Amen.

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

A time for silence

Eternal God our creator, **in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us with your everlasting love, and forgive us all our offenses, cleanse us from proud thoughts, and remove empty desires. Draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God whose love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God Jesus died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God ☩ forgives us all our sins. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

Shout to the Lord

**My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like you.
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength;
let ev'ry breath, all that I am never cease to worship you.**

**Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands; forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.**

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: **Forgiving God, You long for your lost children to return to you. Lead us homeward on the path of repentance, that we might be restored to you and to your community in Christ our Lord. Amen**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Kanon in G

Sothilander

Ray Irwin:cello; Lonnie Timney:cello

FIRST READING:

Psalm 119:167-176

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

GOSPEL:

Luke 15:1-32

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 15th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The reading concludes: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

SERMON HYMN

Softly and Tenderly

#608

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.

See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

REFRAIN: "Come home, (Come home,) come home! (come home!)

You who are weary, come home."

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? REFRAIN

Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!

Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. REFRAIN

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Merciful God, **Hear our prayer**

You hear all your children's prayers and gather the lost into your loving arms. Teach us to put our trust in you, and in our Lord and savior Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray...

LORD'S PRAYER

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 glory, forever and ever. 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.**

SENDING HYMN

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

#335

**Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.**

**REFRAIN: In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.**

**Near the cross, a trembling soul, I love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. REFRAIN**

**Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. REFRAIN**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, stay safe and be safe. Share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE