



**MORRISON
ZION
LUTHERAN**
Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to
Glorify God
as we
Gather
around the Gospel
to help people
Grow
in the **Gospel**
and
Go
with the **Gospel**

Welcome! We thank
God that you have
joined us at worship
today.

Restrooms are
located in the
basement. Hearing
loop headphones and
Large Print Hymnals
are available from an
usher.

If your children need
to leave worship,
please take them to
the basement. A TV
broadcasts the service
in the basement.

Today we gather
together in the
presence of God. He is
present among us in a
special way through
his Word and
Sacrament. We
acknowledge our sin
and rejoice in the good
news of forgiveness
through the life and
death of Christ. This is
the focus of our
worship.

March 30, 2025
4th Sunday in Lent



Grace Instead of Condemnation

We assume people get what they deserve. We assume that what goes around comes around. We assume God helps those who help themselves. Those assumptions are false. God does not operate on the principle of merit but of grace. No one is beyond the reach of God's grace. God never turns it off. At the entrance of God's open door is not a Father looking to condemn us, but a Father who has eagerly longed for our return. When we do, he takes us in his loving arms and assures us we are still his child. When the weight of our sin makes us fearful of God's condemnation, he reveals his grace yet again.

We thank the Fox Valley Lutheran High School A Cappella Choir for joining us this morning and sharing the Gospel of Jesus with us. The A Cappella Choir is a mixed (male and female) choir open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Fox Valley Lutheran (FVL) is located in Appleton, WI and one of our partners in the WELS for Christian Education. FVL's enrollment is nearing 800 students including over 30 international students. Several Morrison Zion members currently attend FVL and many of our members are alumni.

FVL A Cappella Choir

Amen, siakudumisa, Amen bawo, masithi.

Amen, we praise your name, O God. Amen, Father. Hear us.

Amen Siakudumisa

Traditional South African
S.C. Molefe
Arranged by Cameron F. LaBarr

FVL A Cappella Choir

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

Let your softness be known unto all men. The Lord is e'en at hand.

Be careful for nothing; but in all prayer and supplication let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.

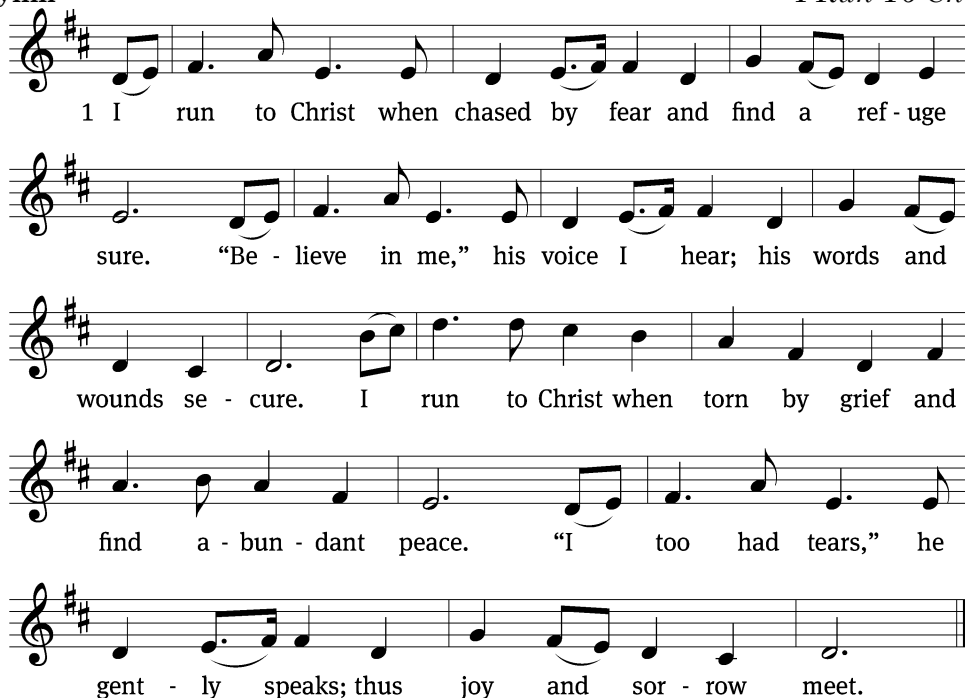
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

Rejoice in the Lord Alway

Philippians 4:4-7 (KJV)
Anonymous (mid-16th c.),

Hymn

I Run To Christ CW 333



1 I run to Christ when chased by fear and find a ref-uge
sure. "Be - lieve in me," his voice I hear; his words and
wounds se - cure. I run to Christ when torn by grief and
find a - bun - dant peace. "I too had tears," he
gent - ly speaks; thus joy and sor - row meet.

Stand

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God so loved the world that while we were yet sinners, Jesus Christ was given to die for us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God promises to heal us and forgive us. Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.

Silence for personal reflection

M: Jesus invites you: *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)*

C: We have come to the Lord’s house wearied by our work and burdened by our problems.

M: Isaiah said of the Savior: *“A bruised reed He will not break,” (Isaiah 42:3)* and again: *“He was bruised for our iniquities...by His wounds we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)*

C: We have come bruised by the actions of others and bruised by our repeated falls into sin.

M: Isaiah says that God the Father sent Jesus *“to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives...to comfort all who mourn.” (Isaiah 61:1-2)*

C: We come broken in spirit because we cannot pay for our wrongs, broken in heart because we long for the peace of forgiveness.

2 I run to Christ when worn by life and find my soul re -
 freshed. "Come un - to me," he calls thro' strife; fa - tigue gives
 way to rest. I run to Christ when vexed by hell and
 find a might - y arm. "The dev - il flees," the
 Scrip - tures tell; he roars but can - not harm.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Because of Jesus' atoning work, God assures us in the Bible:

C: ***"As far as the East is from the West, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."*** (Psalm 103:12)

M: He says, *"I will forgive their wickedness and I will remember their sins no more."* (Jeremiah 31:24)

C: ***"The blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin."*** (1 John 2:7)

M: Our Lord sent his Son, Jesus, to the cross for our salvation. Our God truly has compassion on us with his unending forgiveness. Jesus paid the price for your sins as he proclaimed, "It is finished." You have been released from the guilt of your sins, restored in your relationship with the Almighty and renewed to live a new and holy life unto the Lord. You are forgiven in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Thanks be to God for his mercy and love!**

3 I run to Christ when stalked by sin and find a sure es -
 cape. "De - liv - er me," I cry to him; temp - ta - tion
 yields to grace. I run to Christ when plagued by shame and
 find my one de - fense. "I bore God's wrath," he
 pleads my case— my ad - vo - cate and friend.

Text: Chris Anderson, b. 1971

Tune: Greg Habegger, b. 1973

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Be Seated

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, you receive us as your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

Lesson

Romans 8:1–10

In Christ Jesus, God has already condemned all sin. For us there is only grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

¹Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

⁵Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. (NIV)



Hymn

Reformation Song CW 877:3-4



3 In Christ a - lone we're jus - ti - fied;
4 By grace a - lone we have been saved;



his right - eous - ness is all our plea.
all that we are has come from you.



Your law's de - mands are sat - is - fied;
Hearts that were once by sin en - slaved



his per - fect work has set us free.
now by your pow'r have been made new.



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.

Text: Tim Chester, b. 1967; Bob Kauflin, b. 1955

Tune: Tim Chester, b. 1967; Bob Kauflin, b. 1955

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Lesson

Luke 15:1-3,11-32

How does God respond to those who object to or are enraged by his grace? He responds with more grace.

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³Then Jesus told them this parable:

¹¹Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

¹³“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ ²⁰So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²²“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

²⁸“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

³¹“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’” (NIV)

FVL A Cappella Choir

What God ordains is always good: His will is just and holy.
And though the path be wrought with thorns, I follow meek and lowly.
My God indeed in ev'ry need knows well how He will shield me;
To Him, then, I will yield me, to him, then, I will yield me.

What God ordains is always good: He is my Friend and Father.
He suffers naught to do me harm, tho' many storms may gather.
Now I may know both joy and woe; someday I shall see clearly
That He hath loved me dearly, that He hath loved me dearly.

What God ordains is always good: though I the cup am drinking
Which savors now of bitterness, I take it without shrinking.
For after grief God gives relief, my heart with comfort filling
And all my sorrow stilling, and all my sorrow stilling.

What God ordains is always good: this truth remains unshaken.
Tho' sorrow, need, or death be mine, I shall not be forsaken.
I fear no harm, for with His arm He shall embrace and shield me;
So to my God I yield me, so to my God I yield me.

FVL A Cappella Choir

Hark, I Hear the Harps Resounding

Hark, I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farthest shore,
As I near those swollen waters with their deep and solemn roar.

Words: F.R. Warren; Johann G. Olearius; Charles Wesley
Tune: INVITATION, from The Southern Harmony
Arranged by Craig Carnahan

Refrain: Alleluia, praise the Lamb! Alleluia, glory to the great I AM!

And my soul, though stained with sorrow, fading as the light of day,
Passes swiftly o'er those waters to the city far away. *(Refrain)*

Souls have crossed before me, saintly, to that land of perfect rest;
And I hear them singing faintly in the mansions of the blest.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lamb!
Alleluia, alleluia, glory to the great I AM! *(Refrain)*

Sermon

Luke 15:1-3,11-32

Stand

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Be Seated

Offering

Stand

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Prayer of the Church

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.

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

Closing Hymn

Amazing Grace CW 576



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— that
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1–3): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790
Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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