

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 31, 2019



Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church Canada

322 East Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario N2H 1Z5 (519)742-5812 www.holycrosskitchener.org

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:30 & 11:00 am - Divine Services

9:45 am - Sunday School and Bible Classes for All Ages

12:15 pm - Nacho Average Sunday Youth Event

2:00 pm - Nuer Language Service

Call to Worship Bells

Words of Welcome

Hymn

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

LSB# 686

Invocation, Confession & Forgiveness of Sins

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

Pastor Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

Pastor That we may receive the blessing of Christ's forgiveness, let us draw near to God, confessing the brokenness of our sin and receiving the fullness of our Father's mercy. Together, we pray:

People **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;

People **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Pastor In Holy Baptism, almighty God, our merciful Father has declared you to be His children and has gathered you into His family, the Church, in which He daily and richly forgives all your sins and the sins of all believers. This new life is yours today! As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People **Amen!**

Pastor Steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

People **Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

Song of Praise

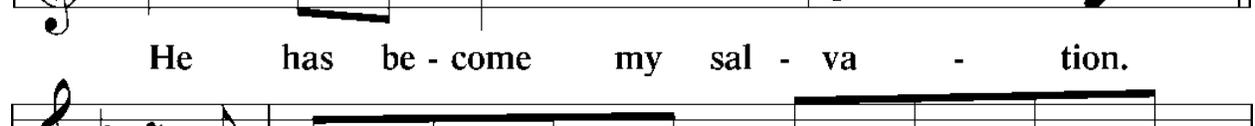
Refrain



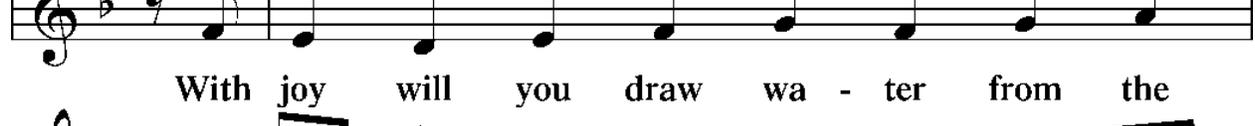
☐ The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



With joy will you draw wa - ter from the



wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that



day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,

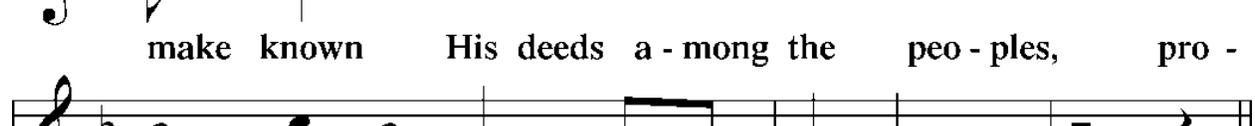


make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -

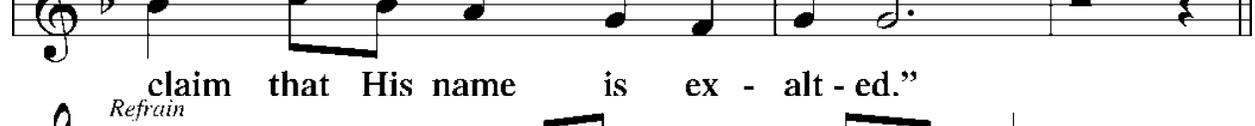


claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."

Refrain



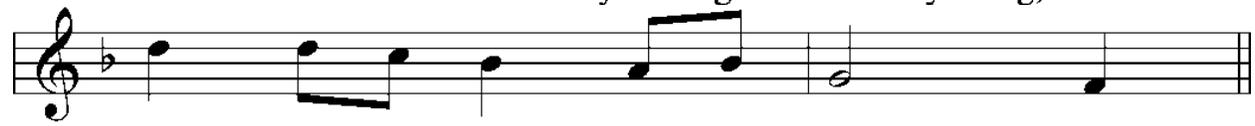
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done



glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the



earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -

hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the
 Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.
Refrain
 The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
 He has be - come my sal - va - tion.
 Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will
 be for - ev - er. A - men.
Refrain
 The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
 He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 12:1-6

¹You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me." ²"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. ⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

Pastor This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Pastor This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

(11:00 ~ Andrew Dolson, soloist)

“When God Ran”
by Benny Hester, John Parenti

Holy Gospel: St. Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

People **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: . . .

“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in 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 into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise 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 as one of your hired servants.”’ ²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

²¹And 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 servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And 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.' ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day

When I Behold Jesus Christ *LSB #542*

Sermon

St. Luke 15:25-32

"THE SCANDAL OF GRACE"

Apostles' Creed

All **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence 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.

Parish Announcements and Gathering of Offering

Prayer of the Church

Pastor Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the blessing of all creation, that our loving and creating Father would preserve and defend all that He has made, working all things together for the good of those who love Him, especially working in the hearts and minds of those who have wandered from His house, that through repentance and faith sinners turn to Him and take refuge in His fatherly care, let us pray to the Lord.



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
 When I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O
 Lord, hear my prayer; Come and lis - ten to me. O

Pastor

For the blessing of the Church of Jesus, that our gracious Savior guide the hearts, minds, and ministries of all who love Him and seek to make His Gospel known, that we would be defended from our adversaries, strengthened in our discipleship, and emboldened in our witness to a lost and dying world, let us pray to the Lord.



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
 When I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O
 Lord, hear my prayer; Come and lis - ten to me. O

Pastor

For those who struggle in heart, body, mind, and relationship, that healing would come to those for whom we pray, [*including . . .*], that the Holy Spirit would bind up the brokenhearted, mend the hurting, heal the sick, strengthen the weak, and grant perfect peace to all who belong to Him, let us pray to the Lord.



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
 When I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O
 Lord, hear my prayer; Come and lis - ten to me. O

Pastor For these and all other prayers we bring before the Father's throne of grace, that through the intercession of His perfect Son and in the company of the eternal Spirit, we take confidence in knowing that our prayers are heard and answered by Him who knows all things and directs all things according to His gracious will, let us pray to the Lord.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
 When I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O
 Lord, hear my prayer; Come and lis - ten to me. O

Lord's Prayer

All **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

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People **Amen.**

Hymn

The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross
 The emblem of suff'ring and shame
 And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
 For a world of lost sinners was slain
 So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
 Till my trophies at last I lay down
 I will cling to the old rugged cross
 And exchange it some day for a crown

O the old rugged cross so despised by the world
 Has a wondrous attraction for me
 For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
 To bear it to dark Calvary
 So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
 Till my trophies at last I lay down
 I will cling to the old rugged cross
 And exchange it some day for a crown

In the old rugged cross stained with blood so divine
 A wondrous beauty I see
 For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
 To pardon and sanctify me
 So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
 Till my trophies at last I lay down
 I will cling to the old rugged cross
 And exchange it some day for a crown

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true
 It's shame and reproach gladly bear
 Then He'll call me some day to my home far away
 Where His glory forever I'll share
 So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
 Till my trophies at last I lay down
 I will cling to the old rugged cross
 And exchange it some day for a crown

Preacher Pastor Nolan Astley
 Officiant Pastor Roland Syens
 Organist Jennifer Massicotte
 Special Music Jennifer Massicotte & Katie Reed (11:00 piano duet)
 Acolytes Ben Clay (8:30), Hope Bindseil (11:00)

Prayer Concerns: In our prayers this morning we ask God to continue to **ble^ss our Confirmands** as they study God's word and grow in their faith, **we also remember our youth** as they venture out into new areas of service to God. We pray God to bless **our two prospective refugee families** and to grant them patience as they await decisions from the Canadian government. We remember those who have been affected by tragedy especially the thousands of people affected by the **cyclone which struck Mozambique** 2 weeks ago. May God's healing and comfort be upon all who look to Him in prayer!

Adult Bible Class will continue to study St. Luke's account of Jesus suffering, death and resurrection. Today we move from the upper room to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prays and is arrested. Grab a coffee and join the conversation at 10 am in the sanctuary.

Nacho Average Sunday – TODAY! Following the 11:00 service there will be a youth event! There will be nachos, games, and prizes!

Pastor Astley will be out of the office on Thursday and Friday of this week, attending LCC meetings in Edmonton.

Children's Lenten Activity Bulletins...Are available for ages 3-6 or 7-12. Ask an usher for a bulletin to help your kids follow the service in an activity based way.

Coming Events...

Midweek Lenten Services continue this week...

Wednesday, April 3 at 1:30 and 7:00 p.m.

Sermon on the Mount: Judge Not

We live in a very judgmental world, so Jesus' advice not to judge sounds radical to our modern ears. When we leave all judgment up to God, we free ourselves to look at one another through fresh and forgiving eyes.

Circuit Youth Event for Grades 6-12 - On **Friday, April 12** here at Holy Cross from 7-9.

There will be games, fellowship, snacks, and Bible Study. RSVP to Lenora by April 10.

Golf Tournament will be held at **Rockway Golf Course on Sunday, May 26**. The cost is \$75/person and that includes 9 holes followed by dinner. For any questions, contact Alex Drung: email at drungmeister@hotmail.com or call at 416-804-8521. Sign up sheet available in the parlor.

Please Note...

Stuff The Mattress This spring the Sunday School children will be fundraising to buy mattresses for the South Sudanese orphans living in Gambela through the Children of Promise International (COPI). Keep an eye on the bulletin board for weekly updates on how many mattresses they will be able to purchase.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief Responds to Cyclone Idai Up to 2.6 million people have been affected by Cyclone Idai and are in desperate need of humanitarian aid. The Humanitarian Coalition is responding, delivering emergency food, water, shelter and providing protection to thousands of people. CLWR is responding through our partners ACT Alliance, who are on the ground in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe providing life-saving support to families affected by this crisis. Please prayerfully consider supporting CLWR and their relief efforts.

Seminary Guild Thank you to Shirley Wentzlaff for all her years of dedicated service being the Holy Cross representative of the Concordia Seminary Guild, St. Catharines. We are now actively seeking someone to be the new representative. Please prayerfully consider this important area of ministry contact Janet or Debbie in the office.

Last Week at Holy Cross...

Sunday Attendance:	90 & 171	Total 261	('18 - 362)
Sunday School:	Pupils: 31 Staff: 10	Total 41	('18 - 48)
Adult Bible Class:	Pupils: 52 Staff: 1	Total 53	('18 - 68)
Youth Bible Class:	Pupils: 4 Staff: 1	Total 5	('18 - 10)
YABS:	Pupils: 4 Staff: 2	Total 6	('18 - 8)

Memorial: In memory of **MILLIE KRAFT** to the Unified Church Budget from Bev Sanders.
To the Facility Improvement Fund from Jack & Elaine Kahl.

Weekly Calendar

Monday April 1 to Sunday April 7, 2019

Monday	ESL, <i>Historic St. Paul's</i>	10:30 a.m.
	Griefshare, <i>Panel Room</i>	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	ESL, <i>Historic St. Paul's</i>	6:30 p.m.
	Small Group Bible Study, <i>Church Library</i>	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Knotty Ladies, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i>	9:00 a.m.
	Lenten Service , <i>Church</i>	1:30 p.m.
	Junior Confirmation, <i>Panel Room</i>	6:00 p.m.
	Senior Confirmation, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i>	6:00 p.m.
	Lenten Service , <i>Church</i>	7:00 p.m.
	Board of Fellowship, <i>Kitchen</i>	8:00 p.m.
	Board of Missions, <i>Church Library</i>	8:00 p.m.
	Board of Parish Education, <i>Panel Room</i>	8:00 p.m.
Board of Worship, <i>Conference Room</i>	8:00 p.m.	
Thursday	Beginnings, <i>Downstairs</i>	9:30 a.m.
	Prayer Group, <i>Church Library</i>	9:30 a.m.
	Prime Time Bible Study, <i>Church Library</i>	12:30 p.m.
	Stephen Ministry Training, <i>Panel Room</i>	5:00 p.m.
	Board of Church Properties, <i>Church Library</i>	8:00 p.m.
	Church Choir, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i>	7:30 p.m.
Saturday	Nuer Youth & Bible Study, <i>Gym, Panel Room</i>	2:00 p.m.
Sunday	The Fifth Sunday in Lent	
	Divine Service , <i>Church</i>	8:30 a.m.
	Sunday School, <i>Downstairs</i>	9:45 a.m.
	Adult Bible Class, <i>Church</i>	9:45 a.m.
	YABS, <i>Conference Room</i>	9:45 a.m.
	Youth Bible Class, <i>Church</i>	9:45 a.m.
	Divine Service , <i>Church</i>	11:00 a.m.
Nuer Language Service , <i>Church</i>	2:00 p.m.	

Acknowledgements: **O Lord Hear My Prayer** Text and tune: © 1982 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, France, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.
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Notice of Special Meeting

Voters' Meeting

Sunday April 14, 2019

at 12:15 a.m. - immediately following late service

The purpose of this meeting will be to serve written "Notice of Motion" to amend the Constitution and Bylaws of the congregation to implement a revised governance structure. There will be no vote at this meeting; however questions will be welcome. The proposed changes will be put to a vote at the next regular Voters' Assembly meeting on May 7, 2019. The docket detailing the proposed changes will be available April 7 at the Welcome Centre.

