



Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 14, 2021  
8:30am

## Welcome to Zumbro Lutheran Church

In traditional Lutheran liturgy, and in keeping with the solemnity of Lent, we “bury our alleluias.” We also withhold the granting of forgiveness (absolution) until the Maundy Thursday service of Holy Week. In place of the absolution, we include a well-known Bible verse from 1 John 1:9. Since our sermon theme for Lent is “Love without Limits,” we want to emphasize the never-ending love and forgiveness of God which comes to us in Jesus.

Luke is generally referred to as the most universal gospel. Throughout Jesus’ ministry in Galilee and also on the way to Jerusalem, he makes room for a wide assortment of people. There is room for Gentiles and Jews, Pharisees and tax collectors, women and men, and a lot of other people too. That means there is room for you!

In this week’s gospel, a father shows extravagant love to a son who’s left home and gotten lost. Undoubtedly, family dynamics got upset and there were a variety of issues that complicated things.

PRELUDE

LORD, WHOSE LOVE IN HUMBLE SERVICE

ARR. PAUL MANZ

ANDREA ROBERTSON, OBOE; KRISTY GIERE, FLUTE; RALPH SCHORNACK, PIANO

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

**C: Amen.**

L: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*silence for reflection and self-examination*

L: Fountain of living water,

**C: pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

L: Beloved, if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

**C: Amen.**

HYMN

JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS

**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,  
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***

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Loving Father,

**C: There are many ways we wander away from you and get lost. We're sorry for these times. Don't give up on us, and help us not to give up on each other. Call us home to you. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

4 *all*

Lord, you have searched me and known me; you  
 know when I sit, when I rise. You know my thoughts, you  
 know my heart, you know the ways of my life. You  
 know the sound of my voice, you know the words of my  
 tongue; you hold me close, you guide my ways, you  
 know the ways of my life.

*songleaders*

Where can I go to leave your spir - it? Where can I fall that  
 you aren't near? If I say, The dark - ness will  
 hide me, your bright light sets me free.

*Coda*

life. You know the ways of my life. You  
 know the ways of my life.

*2nd time to Coda*

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

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

L: The Gospel of the Lord,

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*all*

My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord, my  
spir-it sings for joy in God my Sav-ior. You look with fa-vor up - on your ser-vant,  
bless-ed is my name. You have done great things for me, ho - ly is your  
name. You send your mer-cy to those who fear you through ev - 'ry age.  
You have shown the strength of your arm, you have scorned the thoughts of the proud,  
you cast down the might - y, you have lift - ed the low - ly, ho - ly is your  
name. You have filled the hun-gry with good things, you have left the rich with emp ty  
hands, you have come to the help of your peo-ple, ho - ly is your name.  
You have kept your prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom-ise that you made to our  
fore-bears; to A - bra'm and Sar - ah and their chil - dren for - ev - er.  
ho - ly is your name. Ho - ly is your name. Ho - ly is your name.

HYMN

OUR FATHER, WE HAVE WANDERED

**Our Father, we have wandered  
and hidden from your face;  
in foolishness have squandered  
your legacy of grace.  
But now, in exile dwelling,  
we rise with fear and shame,  
as, distant but compelling,  
we hear you call our name.**

**And now at length discerning  
the evil that we do,  
behold us, Lord, returning  
with hope and trust to you.  
In haste you come to meet us  
and home rejoicing bring,  
in gladness there to greet us  
with calf and robe and ring.**

**O Lord of all the living,  
both banished and restored,  
compassionate, forgiving,  
and ever-caring Lord,  
grant now that our transgressing,  
our faithlessness may cease.  
Stretch out your hand in blessing,  
in pardon, and in peace.**

APOSTLES' CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Relying on the promises of God, let us pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*After each spoken petition*  
songleaders *all*

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

*After final petition*  
songleaders *all*

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord. A - men.

## LORD'S PRAYER

L: Lord, remember us when you come into your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

## BLESSING

L: 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.

**C: Amen.**



HYMN

LAMB OF GOD

**Your only Son, no sin to hide,  
But You have sent Him from Your side  
To walk upon this guilty sod  
And to become the Lamb of God. Refrain**

Refrain

**O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,  
I love the holy Lamb of God.  
Oh, wash me in His precious blood,  
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

**Your gift of love we crucified.  
We laughed and scorned Him as He died.  
The humble King we named a fraud  
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. Refrain**

**I was so lost, I should have died,  
But You have brought me to Your side  
To be led by Your staff and rod  
And to be called a lamb of God. Refrain**

“Lamb of God”

By Twila Paris

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SENDING

L: People of Zumbro, what is our mission?

**C: Our journey of faith leads us to build bridges of understanding and peace, to reach out with compassion, and to share the hope of Jesus. Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

LAMB OF GOD  
ENSEMBLE MUSICIANS

TWILA PARIS

## Prayers for Healing:

David Newman    Marge Breuer    Norm Waage    Ryder LeBaugh  
Marion Alborn    Nira Flaten

## SYMPATHY TO:

Mary Hansen and Marcia Mahlman on the death of their father Gordon Christianson  
The family of Penny Oas  
Andrea Nei on the death of her grandfather Earl Koch and cousin Case Clare  
Dave Dunn on the death of his sister Pat

## THIS MORNING'S RADIO BROADCAST IS IN HONOR OF:

Del Schoonover, given by wife, Carol.

## WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

**PROCLAIMER**-Pastor Vern Christopherson; **WORSHIP ASSISTANT**-Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner;  
**LECTOR**-Ruth Johnson; **STORYTIME**-Jen Gruendler; **ORGAN AND PIANO**-Ralph Schornack;  
**GUITAR**-Bob Giere; **FLUTE**-Kristy Giere; **OBOE**-Andrea Robertson; **SONGLEADERS**-Sam Simataa, Brenda Wichmann; **HANDBELL SEXTET**-Dorothy Bacon, Pam Hammond, Leah Holmes, Andy Larson, Chad Larson, Melanie Tschida; Kristy Giere, director

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## GIVING TO ZUMBRO

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1. Go to [zumbrolutheran.org/give](http://zumbrolutheran.org/give)
2. Mail a check to Zumbro Lutheran Church
3. Text "ZUMBRO" TO 73256 and follow the link
4. Scan QR code at right and follow the prompts.



Our journey of faith leads us to build bridges of understanding and peace to reach out with compassion, and to share the hope of Jesus.

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