

# First Lutheran Church, Morris MN

Lenten Midweek Service: Wednesday, February 24, 2021

## Gathering

*"Forty Days of Living the Jesus Creed"*

*"Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' Mark 12: 29-31*

### Prelude

### 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.*

### Hymn: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" #324

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| 1. In the cross of Christ I glory,<br>tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.<br>All the light of sacred story<br>gathers round its head sublime.  | 2. When the woes of life o'er take me,<br>hopes deceive, and fears annoy,<br>never shall the cross forsake me;<br>lo, it glows with peace and joy.     |
| 3. When the sun of bliss is beaming,<br>light and love upon my way,<br>from the cross the radiance streaming<br>adds more luster to the day. | 4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,<br>by the cross are sanctified;<br>peace is there that knows no measure,<br>joys that through all time abide. |

*Text: John Bowring, Music: Ithamar Conkey. Public Domain*

### Opening Prayer

## Word

### Reading: Luke 15:11-32

<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.'"

**Message** "Join the Dance of Trinity as 'Eikons' of God"

**Hymn:** "Come Join the Dance of Trinity" #412

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| <p>1. Come, join the dance of Trinity,<br/>before all words begun<br/>the interweaving of the Three,<br/>the Father, Spirit, Son.<br/>The universe of space and time<br/>did not arise by chance,<br/>but as the Three, in love and hope,<br/>made room within their dance.</p> <p>3. Come, speak aloud of Trinity,<br/>as wind and tongues of flame<br/>set people free at Pentecost<br/>to tell the Savior's name.<br/>We know the yoke of sin and death,<br/>our necks have worn it smooth;<br/>go tell the world of weight and woe<br/>that we are free to move!</p> | <p>2. Come, see the face of Trinity,<br/>newborn in Bethlehem;<br/>then bloodied by a crown of thorns<br/>outside Jerusalem.<br/>The dance of Trinity is meant<br/>for human flesh and bone.<br/>when fear confines the dance in death,<br/>God rolls away the stone.</p> <p>4. Within the dance of Trinity,<br/>before all worlds begun,<br/>we sing the praises of the Three,<br/>the Father, Spirit, Son.<br/>Let voices rise and interweave,<br/>by love and hope set free,<br/>to shape in song this joy, this life;<br/>the dance of Trinity.</p> |
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**Apostles' Creed**

**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 again 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.**

## Offering/Offertory

## Prayers & Lord's Prayer

# Sending

### Hymn: "Bless Now, O God, the Journey" #326

1. Bless now, O God, the journey  
that all your people make,  
the path through noise and silence,  
the way of give and take.  
The trail is found in desert  
and winds the mountain round,  
then leads beside still waters,  
the road where faith is found.
2. Bless sojourners and pilgrims  
who share this winding way;  
your hope burns through the terrors,  
your love sustains the day.  
We yearn for holy freedom  
while often we are bound;  
together we are seeking  
the road where faith is found.
3. Divine eternal lover,  
you meet us on the road.  
We wait for lands of promise  
where milk and honey flow,  
but waiting not for places,  
you meet us all around.  
Our covenant is written  
on road, as faith is found.

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## Blessing

## Sending

## Postlude