



**Grace Lutheran Church Redcliffe**  
**Service Order For 27<sup>th</sup> March,**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**



**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

*Almighty God,  
we justly suffer for our evil deeds,  
but we ask you to relieve us  
by the comfort of your kindness.  
We ask this through your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
Amen.*

**OPENING SENTENCE: Luke 15:24**

*"For this son of mine was dead and is alive again;  
he was lost and is found."*

**"For this son of mine was dead and is alive again;  
he was lost and is found."**

**INVOCATION**

*In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.*

**LHS 851: Amazing Grace (click [here](#))**

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toil, and snares I have already come:  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

## **CONFESSION**

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,  
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins, and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.*

## **INTROIT: Psalm 32**

<sup>1</sup> Blessed is the one  
whose transgressions are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered.

<sup>2</sup> Blessed is the one  
whose sin the LORD does not count against them  
and in whose spirit is no deceit.

**I said, 'I will confess my sins to the Lord'.**

<sup>3</sup> When I kept silent,  
my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> For day and night  
your hand was heavy on me;  
my strength was sapped  
as in the heat of summer.<sup>[b]</sup>

**I said, 'I will confess my sins to the Lord'.**

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you  
and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, 'I will confess  
my transgressions to the LORD.'

And you forgave  
the guilt of my sin.

**I said, 'I will confess my sins to the Lord'.**

<sup>6</sup>Therefore let all the faithful pray to you  
while you may be found;  
surely the rising of the mighty waters  
will not reach them.

<sup>7</sup>You are my hiding-place;  
you will protect me from trouble  
and surround me with songs of deliverance.

**I said, 'I will confess my sins to the Lord'.**

<sup>8</sup>I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

<sup>9</sup>Do not be like the horse or the mule,  
which have no understanding  
but must be controlled by bit and bridle  
or they will not come to you.

<sup>10</sup>Many are the woes of the wicked,  
but the LORD's unfailing love  
surrounds the one who trusts in him.

**I said, 'I will confess my sins to the Lord'.**

<sup>11</sup>Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous;  
sing, all you who are upright in heart!

**I said, 'I will confess my sins to the Lord'.**

**Glory to the Father  
and the Son  
and the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now,  
and will be forever.  
Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Let us pray for faith in Jesus our Saviour  
[silence]*

*Loving Father, when we were captive  
in the darkness of sin and death, your Son rescued us  
and brought us back to you.*

*Teach us to trust in him and to live as your people.*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.*

**Amen.**

## **BIBLE READING**

**FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12** The passover at Gilgal, in the promised land

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.' So the place has been called Gilgal<sup>[a]</sup> to this day. <sup>10</sup> On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. <sup>11</sup> The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. <sup>12</sup> The manna stopped the day after<sup>[b]</sup> they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan.

*After the reading*

*This is the Word of the LORD.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21** In Christ the new has come

<sup>16</sup> So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:<sup>[a]</sup> the old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin<sup>[b]</sup> for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God

*After the reading*

*This is the Word of the LORD.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**LENTEN VERSE: PHILLIPIANS 2:8**

**Christ humbled Himself,  
and became obedient unto death,  
even death on a cross.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32** The parable of the lost son

*Before the reading*

**Glory be to You, O LORD.**

<sup>15</sup> Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering round to hear Jesus. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, 'This man welcomes sinners, and eats with them.' <sup>3</sup> Then Jesus told them this parable: <sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: 'There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, "Father, give me my share of the estate." So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> '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. <sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> '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! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants." <sup>20</sup> So 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 round him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> 'The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." <sup>22</sup> '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. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup> 'Meanwhile, the elder son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> "Your brother has come," he replied, "and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound." <sup>28</sup> 'The elder brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> But 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. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!" <sup>31</sup> "'My son," the father said, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

*After the reading*

*This is the gospel of the LORD.*

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

*Thank you, Lord Jesus,  
for loving and accepting us sinners.  
Help us to trust and serve you.*

**Amen.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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, dead, and 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**

**Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling (click [here](#))**

**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.**

**Come home, come home, you who are weary, come home;  
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling for you to come home!**

**O 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.**

**Come home, come home, you who are weary, come home;  
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling for you to come home!**

## **SERMON**

**At this point you may wish to Listen to Sermon, or Read and Discuss the Sermon  
The Sermon online may be different to the manuscript.  
For LCA Worship Resources (click [here](#))**

**How deep the Father's Love (click [here](#))**

**How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure,  
that He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss, the Father turns His face away,  
as wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.**

**Behold the man upon the cross, my sin upon His shoulders;  
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.**

**It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;  
His dying death has brought me life - I know that it is finished.**

**I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom;  
but I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.**

**Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer,  
but this I know with all my heart, His wounds have paid my ransom.**

Stuart Townend (1995) Thankyou Music Used under CCLI. No. 53805

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*God is our creator and our redeemer, our loving heavenly Father who patiently waits for his straying children to return home, sending his Son and Spirit to bring them back. So let's pray for the people of God and for all people according to their needs.*

Heavenly Father, thank you for making us of the earth and of your breath - for forming us in your own image and likeness as your much-loved children. Grow our love for you and our trust in you so that we may be what you made us to be.

*Lord in your mercy:*      **hear our prayer.**

Father, you hold the crucified arms of Jesus out to the world in welcoming embrace. Draw all who have lost connection with you away from the far country of unbelief and sin, and bring them home to your forgiveness and peace.

*Lord in your mercy:*      **hear our prayer.**

Father, you provide a feast of saving word and life-giving sacrament to your church. Draw your people away from fields of ingratitude and self-righteousness, and bring us home to rejoice with every saved sinner, and to be reconciled to one another with words of apology and forgiveness.

*Lord in your mercy:*      **hear our prayer.**

Father, you provide pastors and evangelists as ambassadors of Christ. Draw us to regard them from not from a human point of view, but to receive them as we would receive you. Strengthen our Bishop *Paul Smith* and District Bishop *Mark Vainikka* so that they and all pastors teach your church truly and well.

*Lord in your mercy:*      **hear our prayer.**

Father, you provide the earth as our inheritance, and the people of the earth as our brothers and sisters. Draw all people away from waste and abuse, and from jealousy and hatred. Keep the earth from upheaval and make it flourish. And restrain all wickedness and promote all goodness among its people.

*Lord in your mercy:*      **hear our prayer.**

Father, you give marriage and family as the context for our life together. Draw all families together in saving faith and thankfulness to you.

*Lord in your mercy:*      **hear our prayer.**

Father, draw those who suffer away from the wilderness of trial and bring them home to your comfort and peace. Ease the burdens of (*insert names*) and others we know personally to be in want and whom we now name silently in our hearts... (*brief silence*)

*Lord in your mercy:*      **hear our prayer.**

Holy and loving God, graciously hear our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **THE BLESSING**

*Let us bless the LORD.*

**God be praised forevermore.**

*The LORD bless us and keep us.*

*The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.*

*The LORD look upon us with favour, and give us peace.*

**Amen!**

### **GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING**

*celebrate your new life in Jesus.*

**celebrate your new life in Jesus.**



## **WORDS OF SENDING**

*Go in peace. God has reconciled us to himself.*

**In the name of Christ.**

**Amen.**

### **LHS 54: When I survey the wondrous cross (click [here](#))**

**When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**See from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down:  
did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, may all.**

Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.

## **HYMNS AND SONGS**

### **First reading: Joshua 5:9-12**

#### **LHS**

341 Jesus, lead Thou on\* G3

393 O God of Bethel, by whose hand\* (*alt tune 424*) G5

#### **AT**

153 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases

### **Second reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

#### **LHS**

65 Lord Jesus, we give thanks to Thee\* G5

164 Love divine, all loves excelling G3

227 O Spirit of the living God G5

279 He that believes and is baptized\* (*tune 106*) G3

358 Renew me, O eternal Light\* G3

779 My Lord of light who made the worlds G8

794 What wondrous love is this G5

800 May we be one GS

842 Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing G3

#### **AT**

93 Pass my love around

145 What wondrous love is this

172 May we be one

182 Christ is changing everything  
220 There'll be peace  
228 Amigos de Cristo  
254 I give you my joys and my sorrows

**Gospel: Luke 15:1-3,11b-32**

**LHS**

165 One there is, above all others\* G8  
237 Almighty God, whose only Son G5  
305 Today Thy mercy calls us\* G3  
317 Jesus sinners doth receive\* G5  
326 O how great is Thy compassion\* G3  
826 Father welcomes GS  
841 O welcome, all you noble saints of old GS  
851 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound (*see AT 131 for guitar chords*)  
852 God loved the world so that he gave G5

**AT**

4 Father welcomes  
77 God and man at table are sat down  
131 Amazing grace