**St. Olaf Lutheran Church**

**Sunday, March 27, 2022**

*The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!*

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of God,

who makes a way in the wilderness,

walks with us,

and guides us in our pilgrimage.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One,

**we confess that we have wandered far from you:**

**we have not trusted your promises,**

**we have ignored your prophets in our own day,**

**we have squandered our inheritance of grace,**

**we have failed to recognize you in our midst.**

**Have mercy on us!**

**Forgive us and turn us again to you.**

**Teach us to follow in your ways,**

**assure us again of your love,**

**and help us to love our neighbor.**

**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,

the Word draws near to you,

and all who call out to God shall be saved.

In Jesus, God comes to you again and again

and gathers you under wings of love.

In ☩ Jesus’ name, your sins are forgiven.

God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN** *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* **ELW 807**

P: 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.**

**\*Kyrie pg 138**

**\*Glory to God pg 139**

\***Prayer of the Day…God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12**

*By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.*

9The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.   
 10While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. 11On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. 12The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God**.

**Psalm: Psalm 32**

*Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord. (Ps. 32:11)*

1Happy are they whose transgressions **|** are forgiven,  
  and whose sin is **|** put away!  
 2**Happy are they to whom the Lord im- | putes no guilt,**  
  **and in whose spirit there | is no guile! R**  
 3While I held my tongue, my bones with- **|** ered away,  
  because of my groaning **|** all day long.  
 4**For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;**  
  **my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**  
 5Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- **|** ceal my guilt.  
  I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you forgave me the guilt **|** of my sin.  
 6**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;**  
  **when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them. R**  
 7You are my hiding-place; you preserve **|** me from trouble;  
  you surround me with shouts **|** of deliverance.  
 8**“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;**  
  **I will guide you | with my eye.**  
 9Do not be like horse or mule, which have no **|** understanding;  
  who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will **|** not stay near you.”  
 10**Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;**  
  **but mercy embraces those who trust | in the Lord.**  
 11Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice **|** in the Lord;  
  shout for joy, all who are **|** true of heart.

**Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

*One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ’s resurrection. This is Paul’s strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.*

16From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. 17So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat 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.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God**.

**\*Gospel Acclamation** *(Return to the Lord)*  **pg 142**

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to St Luke, the 15th chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

1Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] 2And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”  
 3So he told them this parable: 11b“There was a man who had two sons. 12The 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. 13A 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. 14When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout 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 to his fields to feed the pigs. 16He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 17But 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! 18I will get up 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 like one of your hired hands.” ’ 20So 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. 21Then 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 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. 23And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.  
 25“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ 28Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29But 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. 30But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ 31Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32But 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.’ ”

P: The gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon Pastor Emily Sauer**

**\*HYMN** *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* **ELW 623**

**\*Apostles Creed p. 105**

\***Prayers of Intercession**

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

**\*Peace**

**Offering:** *Please consider giving an offering for the mission and ministry at St. Olaf. We can continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ with your support and generosity. God bless you!*

**Special Music Marantha Bell Choir**

**\*Offering Prayer**

Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation.

Take and use what we offer here, come among us,

and live in our hearts this day and always,

in whose name we pray.

**Amen.**

**\*Lord’s Prayer**

**\*Blessing**

You are children of God,

anointed with the oil of gladness

and strengthened for the journey.

Almighty God,

☩ bless you this day and always.

**Amen.**

**\*Hymn** *What Wondrous Love is This* **ELW 666**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Assisting in Worship**

Presider: Pastor Emily Sauer Ed Director: Emily Wikner Organist: Jason Swedlund  
Reader: Nancy Hamilton Van Driver: Dan O’Brion Greeters: Nancy & Craig Hamilton

Ushers: Craig Hamilton, Karla Berg, Viv Nore, Terry Hansen Sound: Marc Matthes, Mark Oester, Bob Younie

**Prayers of Intercession**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You make the land to produce a harvest that sustains your entire creation. Equip farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Nourish the earth with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Heal grounds tainted by pollution or misuse. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Countries are divided and leaders often harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict (*especially*). Act quickly to bring an end to war. Anoint peacemakers trained in the art of diplomacy and foster a spirit of collaboration among political rivals. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Save those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving (*especially*). Console us with the promise that everything can become new. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Your love comes to us when a table is set and a feast is prepared. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation (*especially*). Bring an end to hunger in our community and around the world. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

The one who was dead is alive again. We give thanks for those who have died, confident that steadfast love surrounds them. Shelter them in your love until we are gathered at your heavenly banquet. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**