

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 31, 2019

Worship Focus

Repent Is a Good Word because God is... Reckless



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THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Morning Praise

Christian Worship Page 45

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OPENING HYMN

379 - Amazing Grace—How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound—
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me;
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years,
That saved a wretch like me! I
His Word my hope se - cures, He
I have al - read - y come; 'Tis
Bright shin - ing as the sun, We've
once was lost but now am found,
will my shield and now por - tion be
grace has brought me safe - thus far,
no less days to sing God's praise
Was blind but now I see,
As long as life en - dures,
And grace will lead me home,
Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, st. 1-3, abr.; John P. Rees, 19th century, st. 4.
Tune: NEW BRITAIN (CM) *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1829, alt.

INVOCATION AND PRAYER

M: O Lord, o - pen my lips.



C: And my mouth shall de-clare your praise.



M: Has-ten to save me, O God.



C: O Lord, come quick-ly to help me.



M: (Lent) Behold the _____ Lamb of God: let us wor-ship him.

OH, COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD

Venite



C: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of



our sal - va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanks-giv - ing,



let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a



great God and a great king a-bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are



in his hand; the heights of the hills are al - so his. The sea is his, for he
made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come, let us worship and
bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er. For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

THE WORD

LESSON 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The cross is foolish, even reckless – just ask the world around you. But for those who believe, the cross is the power of God.

¹CORINTHIANS 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

²⁰Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²²Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength.

LESSON Isaiah 12:1-6

God saves! God's anger turns to comfort! Listen to the words of this "First Song of Isaiah" and you discover God's reckless love.

The congregation is invited to sing the refrains. The choir will sing the verses.

Refrain



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and
not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

*Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
from the springs of salvation
and on that day you shall say,
"Give thanks to the Lord
and call upon God's name." Refrain*

*Make his deeds known among the peoples;
see that they remember that his name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord,
for he has done great things
and this is known in all the world. Refrain*

*Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion;
ring out your joy,
for the great one in the midst of you
is the Holy One of Israel. Refrain x2*

GOSPEL Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

"Prodigal" means to spend "freely and recklessly". Who is the most prodigal in this story? Is it not the father whose love is "reckless"?

LUKE 15:1 Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear him.
²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³Then Jesus told them this parable:

There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

¹³Not 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. ¹⁴After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.’ ²⁰So 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 around him and kissed him.

²¹“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²²“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. ²³Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷“Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

²⁸“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹But 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. ³⁰But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

³¹“My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ ”

HYMN OF THE DAY

304 - Jesus Sinners Does Receive



1 Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive; Oh, may all this
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet his words, rich
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray Are not by the
 4 Come, O sin - ners, one and all, Come, ac - cept his
 5 I, a sin - ner, come to you With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
 Lord for - sak - en; Wea - ry souls who lost their way
 in - vi - ta - tion. Come, o - bey his gra - cious call;
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, show me mer - cy, too;



And from God and heav - en wan - der. Here is hope
 Here their ills have per - fect heal - ing Who with hum -
 Are by Christ, the shep - herd, tak - en In his arms
 Come and take his free sal - va - tion! Firm - ly in
 Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words



for all who grieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 ble hearts be - lieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 that they may live— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 these words be - lieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 my soul re - ceive— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

6 Oh, how blest it is to know,
 Were as scarlet my transgression,
 It shall be as white as snow
 By your blood and bitter passion,
 For these words I do believe—
 Jesus sinners does receive.

7 Jesus sinners does receive.
 Even I have been forgiven.
 And when I this earth must leave,
 I shall find an open heaven.
 Dying, still to him I cleave—
 Jesus sinners does receive.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756, abr.; tr. composite.
 Tune: MEINEN JESUM LASS ICH NICHT (78 78 77) *Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch*, Darmstadt,
 1699, alt.

SERMON – Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Capture a Prodigal Moment

1. the weariness of a prodigal past
2. the confidence of a prodigal present
3. the joy of a prodigal future

RESPONSE TO THE WORD



C: We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you,



Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing. To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,



cherubim and seraphim, sing in end-less praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of



heav'n - ly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.



The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of



proph - ets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.



Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you:



Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and on - ly Son,



and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide. You, Christ, are the King of



glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther. When you became man to



set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a vir - gin. You overcame the



sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.



You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Fa - ther.



We believe that you will come to be our judge.



Come then, Lord, and help your peo - ple, bought with the price of



your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory ev - er - last - ing.

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER and GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

C **Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.**

M Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

C **By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.**

M Let us pray for those who carry burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and lonely, those torn by conflict in relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

C **Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.**

M Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

C **Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

SERMON HYMN

387 - Drawn to the Cross



1 Drawn to the cross, which you have blessed With heal - ing
2 How well you know my griefs and fears, Your grace a -
3 Wash me and take a - way each stain; Let noth - ing
4 To pledge my la - bor will - ing - ly, Which shall so

gifts for souls dis - tressed, To find in you my
bused, my mis - spent years; So now to you with
of my sin re - main. For cleans - ing through your
sweet a ser - vice be That an - gels well might

life, my rest, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.
con - trite tears, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.
cross and pain, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.
en - vy me, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.

Text: Genevieve M. Irons, 1855-1928, alt.
Tune: JUST AS I AM (888 6) Joseph Barnby, 1838-96.

PRAYER AND BLESSING

M O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.



M: Let us praise the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C: A - - men.

CLOSING HYMN

446 - I am Trusting You, Lord Jesus



1	I	am	trust - ing	you,	Lord	Je - sus,	Trust -
2	I	am	trust - ing	you	for	par - don;	At
3	I	am	trust - ing	you	for	cleans - ing	In
4	I	am	trust - ing	you	to	guide me;	You
5	I	am	trust - ing	you	for	pow - er;	You



ing	on - ly	you,	Trust - ing	you	for		
your	feet	I	bow,	For	your	grace	and
the	crim - son	flood,	Trust - ing	you	who		
a - lone	shall	lead,	Ev - 'ry	day	and		
can	nev - er	fail,	Words	which	you	your -	



full	sal - va - tion,	Free	and	true.	
ten - der	mer - cy	Trust - ing	now.		
made	me	ho - ly	By	your	blood.
hour	sup - ply - ing	All	my	need.	
self	shall	give me	Must	pre - vail.	

6 I am trusting you, Lord Jesus;
 Never let me fall,
 I am trusting you forever
 And for all.