

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 30, 2025



Worship Participants

Pastor: Dr. Joel Kok ♦ Piano: Ryan Smit ♦ Guitar: Rob Haan ♦ Violin: Amie Smit
 Worship Leader: Rebecca DeVries ♦ Reader: Jeri Schelhaas
 Sound: Will Breems ♦ Video: Terry Friend ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171

Hearing Assistance

A telecoil hearing-loop system sends a signal into the sanctuary. If your hearing aid is t-coil equipped, try switching to the t-coil receiver. An FM hearing assistance system is also available for ears without hearing aids. Consult the sound operator for assistance.



Psalm 32:7,10b-11

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

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God Gathers Us

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Let us remember Jesus,
who, though rich, became poor and dwelt among us;
who was mighty indeed, healing the sick and the troubled;
who, as a teacher to his disciples, was their companion and servant.

**May we ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ
and what he has done for us.**

Let us remember Jesus,
who prayed for the forgiveness of those who rejected him
and for the perfecting of those who received him;
who loved all people and prayed for them,
even if they denied and rejected him;
who hated sin because he knew the cost of pride and selfishness,
of cruelty and hatred, both to people and to God.

**May we ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ
and what he has done for us.**

Let us remember Jesus,
who humbled himself, obedient unto the cross.
God has exalted him who has redeemed us
from the bondage of sin and given us new freedom.

**May we ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ
and what he has done for us and continues to do for us.**

*Song: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" LUYH 175:1,2,4

*God Greet Us, We Greet One Another

*Song: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" LUYH 521

God Renews Us

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we confess that we, like the younger brother,
often live out prodigal schemes and plans.
We wander from your ways, distance ourselves from you,
and squander your treasures.

Help us turn away from sin and evil and turn toward you.

and together confess our need for grace and forgiveness.

**Restored in Christ's presence,
shaped by his life,
this new community lives out
the ongoing story of God's reconciling love,
announces the new creation,
and works for a world of justice and peace.**

We grieve that the church,
which shares one Spirit, one faith, one hope,
and spans all time, place, race, and language,
has become a broken communion in a broken world.

**When we struggle
for the truth of the gospel
and for the righteousness God demands,
we pray for wisdom and courage.**

When our pride or blindness
hinders the unity of God's household,
we seek forgiveness.

**We marvel that the Lord gathers the broken pieces
to do his work
and that he blesses us still
with joy, new members,
and surprising evidences of unity.
We commit ourselves to seeking and expressing
the oneness of all who follow Jesus,
and we pray for brothers and sisters
who suffer for the faith.**

God Sends Us Out to Serve

*Benediction

May the God of love, who showed us love,
strengthen us in our love for others.
May Christ, who shared his life,
grant us grace that we might share ours.
And may the Holy Spirit dwelling in us
empower us to be Christ's ambassadors
wherever we go and to whomever we meet.
Amen.

*Closing Song: "Take Us as We Are, O God"

LUYH 862:2,4

Invitation to Giving

Offering our gifts is an important part of our response to God—connecting our worship with a life of discipleship—and is a way to participate in the ministry of Covenant CRC here in this building and around the world. Offering boxes are available, or check your bulletin announcements for more ways to give.

God Speaks to Us

Children In Worship Dismissal: “Speak, O Lord” LUYH 755:1

Children ages 3 years old through kindergarten are invited to a time of worship designed especially for young children and can gather in the fellowship hall with the helpers. Our young guests are welcome to participate in this service.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Psalm 32; Luke 15 p.869; 1623

Message: “Honest to Abba-Counselor” Pastor Joel Kok

We Respond to the Good News

*Song of Response: “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

**1. 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.**

**2. Behold the Man upon a 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 breath has brought me life. I know that it is finished.**

**3. 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.**

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Prayers for the Church and World

*We Profess Our Faith: Our World Belongs to God #39-40
The church is a gathering of forgiven sinners called to be holy.
Saved by the patient grace of God, we deal patiently with others

**By the power of your Spirit,
renew and restore us;
and help us sense your joyful embrace.**

We confess that we, like the older brother,
often resent the grace you have shown to prodigals.

**Teach us to marvel at your lavish grace,
and enable us to join the feast of celebration
you spread out before us.**

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Song: “The Lord Our God Is Good”

**Chorus: The Lord our God is good. The Lord our God is good,
full of kindness and compassion, merciful and just;
the Lord our God is good.**

**1. Who else knows our deepest pain, bears it as his own?
Finds us in our naked shame, clothes and brings us home. (to chorus)**

**2. Who takes his inheritance and gives it all away?
Welcomes guests to feast with him who never can repay. (to chorus)**

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Words of Assurance: Romans 8:15-17 p.1757

You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,
but you have received a spirit of adoption.
When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit
bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.
Amen! Thanks be to God.

Profession of Faith of Antonio Garcia & JoyLyn Vande Berg

Do you promise to love and support Antonio and JoyLyn,
to pray for them, and to encourage and sustain them
in the fellowship of believers?

We do, God helping us.

Song: “The Family of God”

**Chorus: I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God—
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
for I'm part of the family, the family of God.**

Words & Music: William & Gloria Gaither © 1970 Hanna Street Music