



St. George Lutheran Church

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March 30, 2025 11:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion

**Welcome! We are glad you're here! A warm welcome is extended to all!
Your presence enriches us at this time of celebration together.**

Welcome, Announcements and Sharing the Peace

Confession and Forgiveness

Dear friends, today we will hear a story of two sons – one who squandered his father's inheritance, one who resented his father's grace towards the other. While this is a story of two sons and their father, it is also a story about us and God. Sometimes we squander God's gifts. Sometimes we resent God's grace towards others. And so we confess:

Holy One,

The space between us is too great–

this agonizing expanse between you and us:

The rift we have created by demanding our share.

The distance we have put between us as we flee to a far country.

The resentment we hold when things don't seem fair.

Our refusal to join your gracious party.

Forgive each selfish request

each step away

each bitter thought

each joyless rejection.

Forgive us

and run toward us with open arms.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome us home. In Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

(Adapted from liturgies by Joanna Harader and sundaysandseasons.com)

Opening Song:

Your Grace Is Enough CCLI Song # 4477026

CCLI License # 3054064

Great is Your faithfulness O God
You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart
You lead us by still waters into mercy
And nothing can keep us apart

Chorus: (So) remember Your people
Remember Your children
Remember Your promise O God

Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me

Great is Your love and justice God of Jacob
You use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of Your salvation
And all Your people sing along *Chorus x4*

Broken Vessels

CCLI Song # 7019974 CCLI License # 3054064

All these pieces
Broken and scattered
In mercy gathered
Mended and whole
Empty handed
But not forsaken
I've been set free
I've been set free

Amazing grace
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
Oh I once was lost
But now I am found
Was blind but now I see

Oh I can see You now
Oh I can see the love in Your eyes
Laying Yourself down
Raising up the broken to life

You take our failure
You take our weakness
You set Your treasure
In jars of clay
So take this heart Lord
I'll be Your vessel
The world to see Your life in me

Youth Message

First Lesson: Joshua 5:9-12

The 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. While 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. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The 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: The Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From 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. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

L: The Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

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

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: “There was a man who had two sons. 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. 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. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 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. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 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! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” 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. 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.’ 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. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. “Now his elder son

was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 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. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 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.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord **All: Praise to You, O Christ**

Sermon

Song

Come As You Are CCLI Song # 7017790 CCLI License # 305406

Come out of sadness from wherever
you've been. Come broken-hearted let
rescue begin. Come find your mercy O
sinner come kneel
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't
heal X2

(So) Lay down your burdens lay down
your shame
All who are broken lift up your face
O wanderer come home
You're not too far
So lay down your hurt lay down your
heart. Come as you are

There's hope for the hopeless
And all those who've strayed
Come sit at the table come taste the grace
There's rest for the weary
Rest that endures
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't
cure

(So) Lay down your burdens lay down
your shame
All who are broken lift up your face
O wanderer come home
You're not too far
So lay down your hurt lay down your
heart. Come as you are

Come as you are. Fall in His arms
Come as you are
There's joy for the morning O sinner be
still
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't
heal X2

(So) Lay down your burdens lay down
your shame. All who are broken lift up
your face. O wanderer come home
You're not too far
So lay down your hurt lay down your
heart, Come as you are, Come as you are

Prayers of the Church

Offering Prayer:

God of the wilderness,

We give our offerings in gratitude,
rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.

We give our offerings in faith,
trusting that you will provide for our needs.

We give our offerings in hope,
knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world.

And with our offerings, we give ourselves;

May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen.

(Adapted from prayer by Joanna Harader)

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Holy Communion

Benediction

God sends us forth,

to be reconcilers of the broken and oppressed.

Jesus sends us to welcome everyone,

to embrace the prodigals with joy, and make a feast for all of God's people.

The Spirit sends us with arms full of healing,

and to bring hope to all we meet. Amen.

Sing:

Your Grace is Enough – See Page 2

P Go in peace, serve the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Announcements

Midweek Lenten Soup Supper: Wednesday, April 2nd at 6:15 PM

Midweek Lenten Service: Wednesday, April 2nd at 7:00 PM

Fellowship Meeting: Sunday, April 6th at 10:00 AM

Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday, April 13th at 10:00 AM

March and April Birthday Celebration: Sunday, April 27th at 10:00 AM

Special Note About Easter Egg Hunt:

We are collecting donations of individually wrapped candy for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! Please place donations in the box under the youth table by April 6th.

Sunday 3/30	9 AM Traditional Worship, 10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Contemporary Worship
Monday 3/31	
Tuesday 4/1	7:30 PM AA
Wednesday 4/1	Men's Group 8 AM / Musikgarten 10AM / Gymnastics 10:45 AM / Office Hours 8 AM – 1 PM 6:15 PM Soup Supper / 7:00 PM Lenten Service
Thursday 4/3	
Friday 4/4	Office Hours 8 AM – 1 PM
Saturday 4/5	

Prayers of Grace and Support

For Our Church Members, especially:

Isla Girard, recovering from neck injury.

Joanne Bellmard, recovering from a broken hip.

The family of Emily Olbrich, following her passing.

Cindy, John, and Jon Brach, with health concerns.

Barb Gienapp with health concerns.

Theo Evans being treated for leukemia.

Carolyn Salvatore, following cancer diagnosis and beginning treatment.

For Friends and Family of our Church Members:

Karen, Teacher friend of Gail Boyd, with brain cancer.

Judy, Adult student of Gail Boyd recovering from hip surgery.

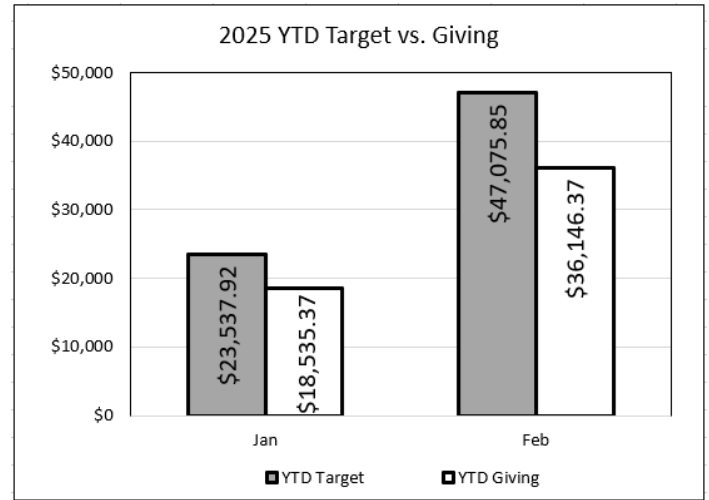
Lyla, 6 year old student of Gail Boyd who broke her arm.

Lydia, Gail's adult piano student, recovering from brain surgery.

Davian, Gail's student, for ankle surgery.
John, Gail's friend, recovering from a heart attack.
Jackie, Gail's piano student, diagnosed with throat cancer.
Kayden, Gail's student, recovering from brain surgery.
Kevin J, good friend of Keith Boyes, with lung cancer.
Matt, Amber, and Emma, family of the Pitzer's, welcoming the birth of a new baby.
Adam Tonge, Michele H.'s friend's son, for continued recovery from health concerns.
Jerry, Friend of the Gottfried's, having hip surgery.
Ross Wilson, grandson of Diane and Bob Steeh.
Carrie Weiland's sister's family in West North Carolina & all affected by the hurricane.
Brian Barry, friend of Cindy Brach, for cardiac health concerns.
Jamie and her family, Cindy and John's daughter, for health and life issues.
Raquel, friend of Cindy and John Brach, dealing with major life and family issues.
Monica, friend of Cindy and John Brach, dealing with major life and family issues.
Shiela, friend of Cindy and John Brach, dealing with major life and family issues.
Mary, friend of Martha Boyd, while she recovers from a stroke.
Keegan, 18-year-old with recurring cancer.
Juanita Fox, George's mom, for healing.
Hudson Bennett, George Fox's nephew, for healing.
Dian Kolis, friend of Linda Fox, with Parkinson's and scheduled for brain surgery.
Nick Hodgin, Jim Hartman's friend's 12-year-old son, following brain cancer surgery.
Matt B., Linda Walton's son's best friend, diagnosed with stage 4 liver disease.
Alicia Gardner, Linda Walton's niece, awaiting a liver transplant.
Ethan and his mom, Marianne, friends of Linda Walton, as they are dealing with major physical and emotional struggles.
Carol Pacheco, in hospice.
Trey Martin, cousin of Bryan Rush, in Europe in the military. Pray for his safety.
John D, friend of Bryan Rush, suffering from Diabetes Type II.
Melissa Aloffalter, Angela Martin's friend, battling an unknown medical issue.
Micah, Alia's nephew, with a chronic infection and declining health.
Theresa Knight, spouse of Michael Knight, for her battle with breast cancer.
Terry Pitt, Collene Hedden's brother-in-law, with auto-immune disease.
Sherry Dixon and family, Colleen Hedden's daughter, who's son passed unexpectedly.
Beulah & Mark who are having health and life difficulties.
For Our Community and Beyond:
Help for disaster relief in the Southeast US and Florida
Prayers for peace in Ukraine
Prayers for peace in the Middle East

February 2025 Donation Summary

February Deposits: \$17,611.00
February Target: \$23,537.92
Y-T-D Deposits: \$36,146.37
Y-T-D Target: \$47,075.85
Y-T-D Ahead/Behind Target: (\$10,929.48)



To donate through PayPal, please send money to stgeorgebrighton@gmail.com, scan the QR code, or visit stgeorgelutheran.org/donate and click the “Make a donation” button.



Community Story Slam

Busted! Caught in the Act, Close Calls, and Cracking the Case

A collaboration of Brighton-area churches will be hosting a Community Story Slam on Monday, March 31, doors open 5:30 PM, Story Slam starts at 6:30 PM at upper level of Brewery Becker, 500 W Main St., Brighton, MI 48116.

Join us for an evening of storytelling from Brighton-area pastors and leaders. The slam these will be “Busted! Caught in the Act, Close Calls, and Cracking the Case.” Amir Bagdadchi from the Moth Radio Hour will be the host. Beverages will be available for purchase. Local churches will provide free pizza.

For more information:

Rev. Scott Phillips 810-227-7411

scott@brightonpresbyterian.org



St. George is a warm, friendly, spirit-filled congregation that has been blessed throughout many years. Most Christian denominations develop a distinct emphasis of the Christian faith and practice, and this is also true for Lutherans.

The Lutheran emphasis, in a word, is God’s grace.

We emphasize the grace of God which forgives us, makes us God’s children, and empowers us to serve others. **We welcome, include, and value all people.**