FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
Order of Worship – 9 AM

AS WE GATHER – “Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift; that’s why we call it the present.” This short statement speaks volumes about our new life in Christ. Yesterday is history—in Christ, all our sins have been paid for, forgiven, and cast away as far as the east is from the west. Tomorrow is a mystery—not only do we not know the day or hour of Christ’s glorious return, but we also have no guarantees about what will happen in our lives mere moments from now. Today is a gift—the present time is indeed a gift, a present, from our gracious Father. He mercifully comes running to His prodigal children and embraces us in His arms. His love picks us up and places us into the nail-scarred hands of His Son, Jesus Christ, who puts to death our old lives, which were once lived without Him, and freely gives to us our new lives, which are now fully lived in and through Him.

PRESERVICE MUSIC “El Shaddai” by John Thompson

WELCOME [Please fill out prayer request cards.]
[Means please stand; PMeans please be seated]
Call for songs of loudest praise. While the hope of endless
safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a
Bind my wandering heart to Thee; Prone to wander, Lord, I
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace! Come, my Lord, no longer
glory. Fills my heart with joy and love. Teach me
stranger; Wandering from the fold of God; He, to
feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my
tarry; Take my ransom'd soul away; Send Thine
ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.
rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.
heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.
angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.

OPENING VERSICLES & INVOCATION

P Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid;
C for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.
P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
C Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
P That we may receive the blessing of Christ's forgiveness, let us draw near to God, confessing the brokenness of our sin and receiving the fullness of our Father's mercy. Together, we pray:
C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
P I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;
C I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
P In Holy Baptism, Almighty God, our merciful Father has declared you to be His children and has gathered you into His family, the Church, in which He daily and richly forgives all your sins and the sins of all believers. This new life is yours today! As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen!
P Steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.
C Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!
INTROIT
Psalm 51:2–6; antiphon: v. 1
P Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
C and cleanse me from my sin!
P For I know my transgressions,
C and my sin is ever before me.
P Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,
C so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.
P Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
C and in sin did my mother conceive me.
P Behold, You delight in truth in the inward | being,
C and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Let us pray.
All: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning. Though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may daily receive Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and live as those You have made new; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.
P Let us share this peace with one another.
(People greet one another saying: “Peace be with you. And also with you.”)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON
Isaiah 12:1–6
(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)
L This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON
2 Corinthians 5:16–21
(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)
L This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

VERSE FOR LENT
Luke 15:22a, 24a
All: The father said to his servants, “This my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.”
HOLY GOSPEL
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.
C: Glory to You, O Lord.
   (lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)
P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.   C: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

[Prayer requests will be collected at this time.]

HYMN OF THE DAY

As Rebels, Lord, Who Foolishly Have Wandered

1 As rebels, Lord, who foolishly have wandered
2 Still we return, our contrite words rehearsing,
3 A feast of love for us You are preparing;

Far from Your love—unfed, unclean, unclothed—
Speech, that within Your warm embrace soon dies;
We who were lost, You give an honored place!

Dare we recall Your wealth so rashly squandered,
All of our guilt, our shame, our pain reversing
"Come, eat; come, drink, and be no more despairing—"

Dare hope to glean that bounty which we loathed?
As tears of joy and welcome fill Your eyes,
Here taste again the treasures of My grace.

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SERMON

"PRODIGAL LOVE"
Pastor David Vanderhyde, U-Hills

APOSTLE'S CREED
C: 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, died and was 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 there 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.

OFFERING

"Jesus Loves Me"
by William B. Bradbury
Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the

Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior.

VERSE
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 his Name;

REFRAIN

VERSE
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

VERSE
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 (sung twice)

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For the blessing of all creation, that our loving and creating Father would preserve and defend all that He has made, working all things together for the good of those who love Him, especially working in the hearts and minds of those who have wandered from His house, that through repentance and faith sinners turn to Him and take refuge in His fatherly care, let us pray to the Lord.

You are a hiding place for me!
For the blessing of the Church of Jesus, that our gracious Savior guide the hearts, minds, and ministries of all who love Him and seek to make His Gospel known, that we would be defended from our adversaries, strengthened in our discipleship, and emboldened in our witness to a lost and dying world, let us pray to the Lord.

You preserve me from trouble!
For those who struggle in heart, body, mind, and relationship, that healing would come to those for whom we pray, [including . . . ], that the Holy Spirit would bind up the brokenhearted, mend the hurting, heal the sick, strengthen the weak, and grant perfect peace to all who belong to Him, let us pray to the Lord.

You surround me with shouts of deliverance!
For these and all other prayers we bring before the Father's throne of grace, that through the intercession of His perfect Son and in the company of the eternal Spirit, we take confidence in knowing that our prayers are heard and answered by Him who knows all things and directs all things according to His gracious will, let us pray to the Lord.

You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance.

We pray all these things in the precious name of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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 forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.
Confident of our salvation, let us go forth in the name of the Lord.
The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.

Amen.
CLOSING HYMN

1. 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.

   Chorus: O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
   Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live
   O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross,
   All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

2. 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.

3. 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?

   Chorus: O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
   Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live
   O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross,
   All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
   That were a tribute far too small;
   Love so amazing, so divine,
   Demands my soul, my life, my all!

   Chorus: O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
   Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live
   O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross,
   All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

"Foundation" by Bonnie Barrett

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THE LUTHERAN HOUR MESSAGE
KOA 850 AM: Sunday @ 6:00 AM

April 7: "The Darkness Has Not Overcome It"; Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker
(John 12:37-50)