

Historic Lessons for the ✠ 4th Sunday in Lent *Laetare*

Old Testament

Isaiah 49:8-13 NIV This is what the LORD says: "In the time of My favor I will answer you, and in the day of Salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances, 9 to say to the captives, 'Come out,' and to those in darkness, 'Be free!' "They will feed beside the roads and find pasture on every barren hill. 10 They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat upon them. He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water. 11 I will turn all My mountains into roads, and My highways will be raised up. 12 See, they will come from afar - some from the north, some from the west, some from the region of Aswan." 13 Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth; burst into song, O mountains! For the LORD comforts His people and will have compassion on His afflicted ones.

Epistle

Galatians 4:21-31 Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. 23 His son by the slave woman was born in the ordinary way; but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a promise. 24 These things may be taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. 25 Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. 27 For it is written: "Be glad, O barren woman, who bears no children; break forth and cry aloud, you who have no labor pains; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband." 28 Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 At that time the

son born in the ordinary way persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. 30 But what does the Scripture say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son." 31 Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

Historic Gospel



John 6:1-15 Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), 2 and a great crowd of people followed Him because they saw the miraculous signs He had performed on the sick. 3 Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with His disciples. 4 The Jewish Passover Feast was near. 5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" 6 He asked this only to test him, for He already had in mind what He was going to do. 7 Philip answered Him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" 8 Another of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, 9 "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" 10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. 11 Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. 12 When they had all had enough to eat, He said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." 13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. 14 After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." 15 Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make Him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by Himself.

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Lent 4 *Laetare* Sunday *Jesus Feeds 5-10 Thousand*

3-Year-C Gospel (Sermon)

Luke 15:1-3,11-32 Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear Him. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This Man welcomes sinners and eats with them." 3 Then Jesus told them this Parable: ... 11 "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. 13 "Not 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. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17 "When 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! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' 20 So 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

 OSL Lakeland, FL  ELS

Rejoice! Jesus, Bread of Life
March 31st, 2019 ✠ 9:30 am

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. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For 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. 26 So 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. 29 But 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. 30 But 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. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

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Phone: (863) 859-3400 ~ Web: www.OSLlakeland.org

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM

✧ Rev. Andrew R. Burmeister 863-430-5859 ✧ Organ: A.R. Burmeister

March 31st, 2019 ✧ Lent-4 Rejoice! Jesus, the Bread of Life

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER: If you are new to the area or our worship and have never communed with us before, please speak with the pastor before the service. If you are not currently a member of an ELS or WELS congregation, we ask that you please **wait to take Communion until you can speak with our pastor.** Out of Christian love and consideration to you the guest, we want you to have the opportunity to learn what our church teaches about the Bible and Sacraments before you unite with us in taking Holy Communion. Thank you for your understanding. LORD's blessings to you.

ORDER OF WORSHIP On the silver liturgy sheets or in red TLH Hymnal p.15

Suggested Hymn	TLH# (#v)	...First Line
Opening Hymn	296 (4v)	Speak, O LORD, Thy Servant Hearth
Gloria Hymn Verse	158 (6v)	<i>Sing v.1 Glory Be to Jesus, Who in bitter</i> ↗
Psalm 91	Ps. 51 "3v"	<i>Be Merciful, O LORD FOR WE HAVE SINNED</i> ↗
Hymn of the Day	320 (7v)	LORD Jesus Think on Me And Purge Away
Offertory Verse	158 (6v)	<i>Sing v.4 Abel's blood for vengeance ...</i> →
Distribution Hymn	316 (5v)	O Living Bread from Heaven
Closing Hymn	54 (3v)	Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays after the 4th Sunday in Lent

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Deut.9:1-29	Deut.10:1-22	Deu.11:1-32	Deu28:1-14	Deu28:15-68	Deu.34:1-12
Luke23:26-56	Matt. 26:1-35	Matt26:36-75	Matt27:1-38	Matt.27:39-66	Mark14:1-31

PROPERs for LAETARE SUNDAY ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ 4th SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 31ST

INTROIT Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad with her, all you who love her. Rejoice with her, all you who mourn for her. I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD." ...from Psalm 122

COLLECT Grant, we beseech You, Almighty God, that we who deserve to be punished for our evil deeds, may be mercifully relieved by the comfort of Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our LORD, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one True God, now and forever, C: ♪ A - - men.

GRADUAL C: I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the LORD. Peace be within your walls, and prosperity within your palaces. ...also from Psalm 122

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: (printed on the outside back page of the bulletin)

O.T. Isaiah 49:8-13 (God's) People will never hunger or thirst.
 Epi. Galatians 4:21-31 Hagar & Sarah represent two different covenants.
 Gos. John 6:1-15 Jesus feeds 5000 men (plus women & children).

3-Year Gospel Luke 15:1-3,11-32 (Sermon) "A TRIP TO THE LOST & FOUND"

#158 GLORIA: 1. Glory be to Jesus, - Who in bitter pains Poured for me the Life-Blood - From His sacred Veins!

NEW Psalm 51 BE MERCIFUL O LORD FOR WE HAVE SINNED; BE MERCIFUL O LORD FOR WE HAVE SINNED

Ref: Be merciful O LORD for we have sinned; Be merciful O LORD for we have sinned.

Verse 1. ♪ Have mercy on me, God, in Your compassion, blot out my offence. Oh wash me more and more from my guilt and my sorrow, and cleanse me from all my sin.

Refrain C: ♪ Be merciful O- LORD, for we have sinned... (←Repeat)

2. ♪ My offences, truly I know them. And my sins are always before me; Against You, alone have I sinned, O LORD, what is evil in Your sight I have done. ♪ **Refrain...**

3. ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, put Your steadfast Spirit in my soul. Cast me not away from Your presence, Oh LORD, and take not Your Spirit from me. ♪ **Refrain...**

4. ♪ Give back to me the joy of Your salvation, let Your willing Spirit bear me up. And I shall teach Your way to the ones who have wandered, and bring them all home to Your side.

Ref: ♪ Be merciful O LORD for we have sinned; Be merciful O LORD for we have sinned.

**OFFERTORY: 4. Abel's blood for vengeance - Pleaded to the skies;
But the Blood of Jesus - For our pardon cries. (A-men.)**

PRAYER REQUESTS: (Member or Relation) Pray for...

Dee Kurczewski (David)	Dee - rehabbing. David working & helping Mom
Jon & Andrea Sawyer	Jon doing schooling. Andrea hoping to return to Geico
Vivian Temple (Tom)	Vivian is at home recovering. Tom is helping her
John Weber (Orpha) PTL	John had (successful) aneurism surgery. Recovering
James Vanesky & Delores Platt	Jim had a procedure on his L5 lumbar
Wendt family (Steve, Ethel & kin)	Comfort for family. Preparing to move also
Frances (Barb Wolken's sister)	PTL. Frances had surgery. Recovering well

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
Greeters	Mary Lou Knigge	Orpha & John Weber
Treaters S/W	Sun: Pot. / Wed: Joan & Mq	Sun: / Wed: .

Statistics	Last week	Year To Date / Avg.
Sun. / Wed. Attendance (L.S.)	36 / (-) 17	29 / 22
Bible Class Attendance: Sun.Wed.	10, 11	10, 10
Sunday Offering (Needed) & YTD	\$,+(1.3K)	YTD \$,.(16.6K)

Calendar of Events		
Today, March 31th	8:30 am	BibleStudy Key Symbols: Light & Dark.
Laetare ☺ Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Worship (WITH Communion)
4th Sunday in Lent	10:45 ff...	"FFF" = Food, Fun & Fellowship ... Stay!
Band Final Concert	1:45,2:30	Concert at FSC Branscomb Auditorium
Wednesday 4/3	430,515,6	Lent-4Wed. Vespers ; 5:15 Soup; 6 Bible St.
Next Sunday 4/7	8:30 am	BibleStudy Key Symbols: "Seven" 77777
Judica ☩ Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Worship (WITH Communion)
5th Sunday in Lent	10:45 ff...	"FFF" = Food, Fun & Fellowship ... Stay!
LL Chorale Concert	3:00 pm	Concert at First Presbyterian Church LL

Elders: Tom Temple 213-4622; John Weber 853-5458; Don Wienke 815-8892

✧ (Vivian placed) Sign-up sheet for **Easter Mums** this year. Please sign up in the hall.

Sunday 4/3 Lent-5/C Judica (W/ LS p.15) 39 (158.1 Ps.51) 367 158.5 306 371

Lent4/C LAETARE Luke 15:1-3,11-32 *“(A TRIP TO) LOST & FOUND”* 03.31.19 OSL

A MAN HAD TWO SONS. You know the story. It's familiar. The older son inherits the land, the younger inherits enough money to go off and buy land somewhere else. The older son is dutiful, a “good son,” a “religious son,” who does everything his father asks. The younger son is impulsive, independent, headstrong. He gets in trouble.

MORE “RE-”S It's a Parable of **REpentance** and **REjoicing**. Jesus told this Parable to the people who were grumbling about the company He kept. He had the audacity to sit at table with “sinners,” you know, the **losers**, the **riff-raff**, **tax collectors**, street walkers. Not the types you see in the synagogue or in the Temple, except perhaps lurking in the dark corners in back unable to lift their eyes to heaven. Not the respectable pillars of the community, religious leaders, moral spokesmen. Sinners. Dirty, despicable sinners. Jesus ate with them. **The religious hated Him for it.**

He told them a Parable. A riff of **three Parables**, actually – a lost sheep, a lost coin, a lost son. The first two set up the third. In the Parable of the lost sheep, a shepherd leaves ninety-nine sheep in the wilderness to seek and save one lost sheep, and upon return there is rejoicing and a party. A woman loses a coin and turns the whole house upside down looking for it, and when she finds it, there is rejoicing and a party. The pattern is set. Something is lost, the lost is sought, found and returned, and there is rejoicing and a party.

A MAN HAD TWO SONS The younger son couldn't wait for his father to die. He said, *“Father, give me the share of the property that's coming to me.”* In other words, *“Dad, you're worth more to me dead than alive, and since you seem in pretty good shape and not ready to check out any time soon, just sign over the inheritance check now and let me hit the road.”* In short, *“Dad, Drop Dead.”* And the father did (sort of). He signed over the inheritance, gave the farm to the older brother, and kicked back into retirement.

IN A HEARTBEAT The young son almost **immediately** packs his things and heads off to a far country, far away from his father, his brother, his home. And far from home and family and community, the young man did what so many young men do. **He wasted his inheritance.** We don't know how. *“Reckless living,”* it says. No details provided. Wine? Women? Gambling? Who knows? Does it matter? No money. Inheritance gone. That's all that matters.

TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE... A famine broke out in the far country. Problems always pile up, don't they? You lose your job, the kids get sick, the car breaks down. The young man had no money, no food, he's broke and homeless. He gets a **job slopping hogs**, which is about as rock bottom as it gets for a **Jewish boy**. Pigs were unclean, remember. And you know you've hit bottom when pig food starts to look good. But even that was not available.

REALITY BITES Hungry, broke, lost, smelling like pigs, *“He came to himself.” “My father's hired servants are better off than this. They have food, a roof over their heads. I'm going to go home to my father and say,*

‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I'm no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as a hired hand.’” And back home he goes.

REHEARSAL He probably rehearsed his little speech on the road. *“Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you...”* He probably wondered, Would his father accept him? Or would he turn his back on his son? There were no guarantees on this young man's road of repentance. No assurances of success for his plan. He just went to the only place he knew: Home.

REPENTANCE= That's what repentance is. Returning home, where you belong. Run away. Then, you stink. You're broke. You're hungry. You're alone. You want to be home again. In Dad's house, where you belong.

DAD RUNS When he was still far off, a little speck on the horizon, his father saw him. He'd been watching, looking down that road every day for his son. He recognized his walk. He had compassion. He ran down the road – something **no respectable middle eastern father would have done** – and ran up to him, this boy stinking of pigs, and he embraced him and kissed his filthy cheeks. And the boy can barely get his little speech out. He only makes it halfway through: *“Father, I've sinned against heaven and before you...”* while his father nearly smothers him in his arms and is calling out to the servants for the finest robe (remember Joseph?) and the family ring and shoes for his blistered feet. And he's ordering servants around to kill the calf and call the musicians and gather the people for a party. **My son, my son, my son.** He was dead and he's alive again; he was lost and he's found. And the music started and the wine flowed and the party began.

NO DEAL There are no deals in the Arms of our Heavenly Father. And any confession we make, is made in the **embrace of His forgiveness.** We don't earn our way home, we're received, welcomed home.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT(?) This Parable really is **first about Jesus Himself**, the Son who left His royal Throne, the Home of His Father, emptied Himself of all the perks and privileges of being the only Son of the Father, took on our human Flesh and humbled Himself in the lost-ness of **our death. He didn't squander the inheritance, we did.** We all did. We all do. You do. Jesus came to the pigpen of our Sin, our mess, our muck and mire. He was Baptized into it. He was Crucified in the midst of it. He was buried in it. And having Risen from the dead, He goes back home to the Father to be received at the Right Hand, wearing the royal robe and the signet ring of the Son with a Eucharistic feast thrown in His honor.

& U 2 The Parable is about you too. You the penitent. You Baptized into the Son. You in Christ embraced by the Father. You clothed in Christ and forgiven, called to be a child of God. You are that prodigal son, lost and found, dead and alive. God's Son found you, claimed you, redeemed you, raised you, clothed you, forgave you. Because of Jesus the Father loves you and embraces you and welcomes you. You **don't** reek of your sins, you **smell of Christ.** You're not soiled with the mess you've made, you're washed with the Blood of the Lamb and clothed with the robe of His righteousness.

WHAT ABOUT ME (DAD)? Then there's the older brother. He's not at the party but out in the field, doing his work. He hears the sounds of celebration, the music, the singing, the dancing. He smells the roasted meat. He comes near to the house and asks a servant. "Hey, what's going on?" And the servant tells him, "Your brother has returned, and your father is throwing a party for him. He's safe and sound."

?JUSTIFIED? RAGE And the older brother is **furious**. He refuses to come near the party. He wants nothing to do with it. Even when dad comes out and pleads with him, he won't. He says, "Look, I've slaved for you all these years, I've done everything you asked me, I've never gotten into trouble, never done anything wrong, never disobeyed a single command, and you never even gave me so much as a goat so I could party with my friends. But when this son of yours, who wasted everything on hookers slinks home, you throw a party for him. I'll be damned if I set foot in that party for that son of yours."

U R BOTH MINE But the father won't let him off so easily. "Son (notice that the father never disowns **either of** his sons), you're always here, always with me, everything I have is yours. But it's meet, right, and salutary that we should celebrate. Your brother, your '**dead**' brother, who was dead and is alive, who was lost and is found. We **have to celebrate**."

(PH) REST OF THE STORY? And there the story ends. We're left hanging. Will the older son go to the house or not? Will he join his younger brother to feast at the expense of his father's prodigal mercy? Or will stew in his anger and resentment outside of a party in which he has a place? Will he rejoice at his the lavish grace of a father who forgives both his sons, the good one and the bad one, who welcomes home the lost, who justifies the sinner?

WHO IS THE (TRULY) LOST? At the end of the Parable, **Which son is lost?** The commandment keeper. The "religious" son. The one who did all **the right things for all the wrong reasons**. And in the end, what keeps him out of the party? Not the father! He's begging him to come. Not his brother! **He has only himself to blame if he's excluded**.

WHO IS THIS FOR? Jesus told this Parable to the religious, who imagined that they didn't need to repent and who looked down on those who did. The ones who grumbled about the sort of company Jesus kept for dinner companions. We "**lifers**," we religious people, we who have literally grown up in the Father's house run the same risk when we begin to imagine that a place in His house is earned. That sinners need to clean up and smell nice before they are welcomed in their Father's Home.

ONLY THOSE... Only those who see themselves as sinners will rejoice in the repentance of a sinner. -- Only those who see the rebel in themselves, will join this party of rogues and Prodigals called the Church.

Jesus our Brother, the Father's Son, **went to the depths to save us**. He was lost but is found. He was dead but now Lives. And you are found and live in Him. And the Father simply **has** to celebrate. The feast is ready. **IJ'N, Amen**.

SDG

Possible Prayer of the Church 4th Sunday in Lent *Laetare* ✕ March 31, 2019

We are Your Prodigal sons and daughters, O Lord, who come pleading for Your mercy and praying for Your grace to hear the prayers of Your people and answer them in accordance with Your will. (Possible) Brief silence.

Eternal God, though Your anger was righteous, Your mercy had triumphed and rescued Your fallen people. Keep us in faith and in the covenant of our Baptism, that we may rejoice to fulfill that Baptismal vocation and serve You as ambassadors for Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Glorious Father, You established Your Church and filled it with sons and daughters from across the world, a people joined to Christ and united in doctrine and life. Keep us faithful amid dangerous and threatening times, that we may not depart from Your ways nor forsake our calling as Your children. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O merciful Lord, in every age and time You have raised up servants to do Your bidding. Continue to raise up pastors and teachers and servants of Your Word, and bless their efforts with Your success. Bless those who are considering church-work vocations, and bless those who are even now preparing for Your full-time service. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Blessed Lord, You are the hope of the hopeless, the refuge of the oppressed and the giver of peace to all in distress. Bless the poor, and open our own hearts to share with them the abundance You have given. Give employment to **those without work**, and give to all a sense of **nobility in our labors** of our hands. Fill the hungry with the good news of Your Kingdom and with the good things that are the fruits of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Almighty God, You give us more than justice and bestow upon us the riches of Your mercy. Relieve us of all jealousy and discontent, and fill our hearts with generosity and love, that we may bring to You the **tithes and offerings** of a grateful people and acknowledge You, the Giver of all good gifts. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Loving God, by the wounds of Christ we are made whole. Look with kindness upon the sick, the suffering, the troubled in mind, the grieving and the dying. Especially do we pray on behalf of **[OSL Prayer List]** and those named in our hearts. Give confidence of Your will and purpose to all who are afflicted, and help them in patience to await the day when they shall no more be troubled by the weaknesses of the flesh and shall see You face to face. Lord, in Your mercy,.

Holy Lord, though we in no way deserve Your compassion or Your kindness, we give You thanks that You welcome us into the arms of Your mercy and restore the fallen. Recall the erring, and renew to Your fellowship those absent too long from Your house, Your Word and Your table. Prepare us that we may receive faithfully this blessed supper and thereby be strengthened in body and soul. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, endless is Your mercy and eternal Your reign. You have begun in us the good work of our new lives in Christ, and You will bring them to the end prepared for us. We give You thanks for the faithful who have gone before us, and we pray You will bring us with patriarch and prophet, apostle and evangelist, into Your eternal presence forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen. Then, Lord's Supper p.24**