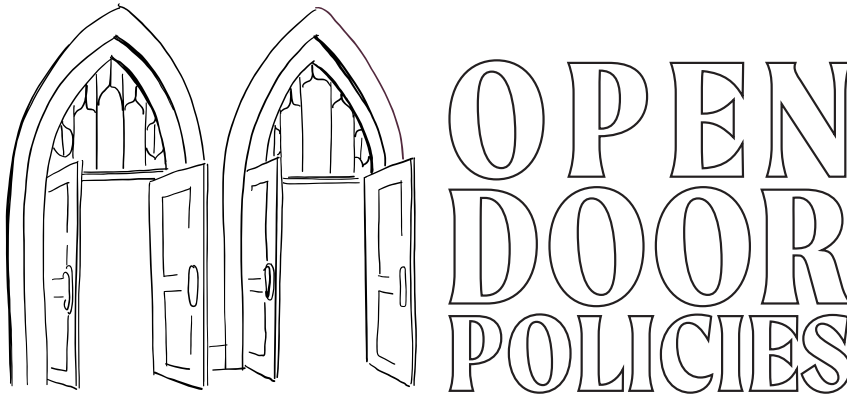


# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

## *Grace Instead of Condemnation*



### ***God's Surprising Strategy for Getting Sinners Back Home***

Atonement Lutheran Church:

*“Boldly and Joyfully Sharing the Good News of Jesus’ Love and Forgiveness.”*

9121 Old Harford Rd + Parkville, MD 21234

(410)-668-3886

## **March 30, 2025 – 9:30am**

## WELCOME!

We are glad that you have joined us today! Our service is printed for you in its entirety in this worship folder. If you need anything, please speak to an usher at the entrance to the sanctuary. A few helpful notes about worship at Atonement:

- **During the Service** the congregation reads the **bold portions marked with a “C”**.
- **Restrooms** are located near the entry to the sanctuary.
- **Infants Room** – If you have a young child or nursing infant and are in need of an infant-room, you will find it to the far right as you enter the sanctuary.
- **The Guest Registry** is found on the wall to the left as you enter the sanctuary. We would appreciate a record of your visit! You may also indicate in the registry if you would like to stay in touch.
- **Foundations Class** – If you are interested in learning more about what we teach and believe, please ask the usher or the pastor about our no-obligation Foundations Class which covers the basic teachings of our biblical faith.
- **Prayer before worship** – Heavenly Father, I have come to worship you. Draw near to me in your gracious Word, and assure me of your loving kindness. Curb my wandering thoughts, that with undivided attention I may hear your voice and sing your praise. Amen.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Angie Carne

Music

Bruce Gerlach

Usher

Mark Fostervold

Streaming

Ellen Cammarata

Greeter

Scott Schweitzer

Sermon Lector

Dan Meister

Liturgist

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## + Service of The Word +

*This service offers the congregation a form of worship that focuses on the proclamation of God's Word. Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.*

### OPENING HYMN

### 223 – As We Begin Another Week



1 As we be - gin an - oth - er week, In Je - sus'  
2 Your gen - tle bless - ings, Lord, out - pour On all our  
3 In ev - 'ry sea - son, ev - 'ry place, May we re -  
4 And keep with an - gels in your rest The end - less



name your grace we seek. God, grant that through these  
la - bors ev - er - more. Our hearts with your good  
call your Word of grace Un - til, when life's brief  
Sab - bath of the blest. Grant this to us through



sev - en days No e - vil may be - fall our ways.  
Spir - it fill That we may glad - ly do your will.  
day is past, We reach e - ter - nal joy at last  
Christ, your Son, Who reigns with you up - on your throne.

Text: Martin Wandersleben, 1608–68, abr.; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.

Tune: HERR JESU CHRIST, MEINS (LM) *As hymnodus sacer*, Leipzig, 1625, alt.

*Stand*

**L** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

- L We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.
- C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**
- L God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.
- C **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- L Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your mercies are new every morning; and 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 heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Be Seated*

## + The Word +

### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 12:1-6

*God's grace turns the fear of our condemnation into the joy of our salvation.*

<sup>12:1</sup> In that day you will say:

“I will praise you, LORD.

Although you were angry with me,  
your anger has turned away  
and you have comforted me.

<sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust and not be afraid.

The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense;  
he has become my salvation.”

<sup>3</sup> With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.

<sup>4</sup> In that day you will say:

“Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;  
make known among the nations what he has done,  
and proclaim that his name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup> Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things;  
let this be known to all the world.

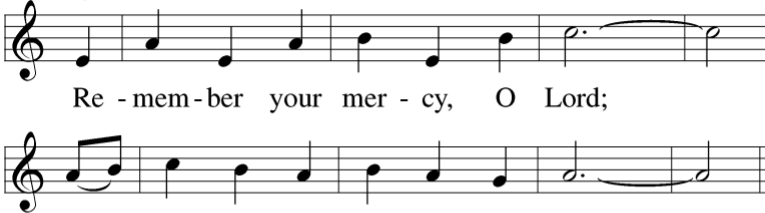
<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,  
for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

# Psalm 32

*Refrain*



Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;  
re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

*Psalm tone* \*



Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,\*  
whose sins are covered.

When I kept silent, your hand was heavy upon me;\*  
my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you\*  
and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"\*  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin. ***Refrain***

You are my hiding place;\*  
you will protect me from trouble.

Many are the woes of the wicked,\*  
but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds those who trust in  
him.

**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. ***Refrain*****

## SECOND LESSON

**Romans 8:1-10**

*In Christ Jesus, God has already condemned all sin. For us there is only grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>8:1</sup> Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

<sup>5</sup>Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

## VERSE OF THE DAY

**Luke 15:10**

“There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one Sinner who repents.”

*Alleluias are omitted during the season of Lent.*

*Stand*

## GOSPEL

**Luke 15:1-3,11-32**

*How does God respond to those who object to or are enraged by his grace? He responds with more grace.*

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

<sup>3</sup> Then Jesus told them this parable:

<sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup> “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. <sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>31</sup> “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> 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.’”



L The Gospel of the Lord.



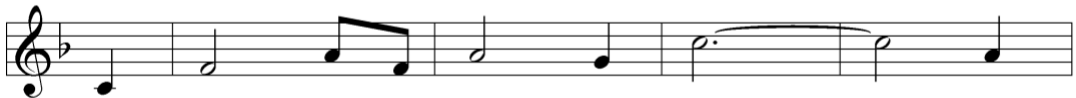
C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

*Be Seated*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** 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 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.

+ Sermon +  
Grace Instead of Condemnation



*Stand*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated 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.**

*Be Seated*

**OFFERING**

*Stand*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

**C We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

L You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

**C We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

L Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

**C Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

L Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

**C Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

L Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

L We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

**C We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

# 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 forever and ever. Amen.

## HYMN

## 739 – Baptismal Waters Cover Me

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Baptismal Waters Cover Me'. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

1 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me As  
2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, His  
3 Lord, may your wound - ed hand im - part Your  
4 From your own mouth comes forth a word; Your  
5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's

I ap - proach on bend - ed knee; My Fa - ther's mer - cy  
bod - y bro - ken there for me; I lay be - fore him  
heal - ing to my bro - ken heart; Your love a - lone can  
shep - herd speaks, but you are heard; Through him your hand now  
wound - ed hand has set me free. Held in my Fa - ther's

here I plead, For griev - ous sins of thought and deed.  
all my sin, My dark - est se - crets from with - in.  
form in me A heart that serves you joy - ful - ly.  
stretch - es out, For - giv - ing sin, de - stroy - ing doubt.  
strong em - brace, With joy I praise him for his grace.

Text: Kurt E. Reinhardt, b. 1969 © 2003 Kurt E. Reinhardt. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune, Setting: Kermit Moldenhauer, b. 1949 © 2005 Kermit Moldenhauer. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

L Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



## BLESSING

L Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



*Be Seated*



# CLOSING HYMN

# 332 – Go, My Children, with My Blessing

1 Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing,  
 2 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en,  
 3 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished,  
 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you

Nev - er a - lone. Wak - ing, sleep - ing,  
 At peace and pure. Here you learned how  
 Clos - er to me; Grow in love and  
 And give you peace; I the Lord will

I am with you; You are my own.  
 much I love you, What I can cure.  
 love by serv - ing, Joy - ful and free.  
 smile up - on you And give you peace;

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have  
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry; Here you  
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you; Here his  
 I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior,

made you mine for - ev - er. Go, my chil - dren,  
 touched him, saw his glo - ry. Go, my chil - dren,  
 ten - der com - fort stilled you. Go, my chil - dren,  
 Com - fort - er, and Broth - er. Go, my chil - dren;

with my bless - ing— You are my own.  
 sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.  
 fed and nour - ished, Joy - ful and free.  
 I will keep you And give you peace.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008. © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Tune: AR HYD Y NOS (84 84 88 84) Welsh melody, 18th century.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Birthdays

- **March 31** – Callahan Potter
- **April 6** – Renae Schweitzer
- **April 12** – Teresa Bulgrin
- **April 23** – Jacob Backes
- **April 27** – Lauren Clark
- **April 30** – June Grap

## Other Announcements

- **Hymnal/Psalter Orders** – We are hoping to submit our new hymnal/psalter orders in the beginning of April. Please sign up for what you would like personally or to donate by April 6<sup>th</sup>. Pastor will send out an email to all who wrote down an order to make sure it's right before the order is submitted.
- **LWMS Mission Dollars Ballot** – Please take a moment to fill out the ballots for where the LWMS Heritage Circuit's mission dollars should go this year and turn them in to Ellen C.
- **Grace Christian Academy (GCA) Gala** – GCA is the K-8 school owned and operated by our fellow congregation in Falls Church, VA. Their annual gala is an opportunity to support the mission of GCA. If you are interested in attending or supporting GCA in this way, you can visit [www.gcagala.com](http://www.gcagala.com).

## Mark Your Calendars

- **April 5** – Shred Day
- **April 12** – Church Clean-Up Day
- **April 19** – Easter Egg Hunt

## Volunteer Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Streaming</i>	<i>Music</i>	<i>Usher</i>	<i>Communion Assistant</i>	<i>Greeter</i>
<i>April 6</i>	Audrey S.	Ellen C.	Scott S.	Tim C.	Mary Q.
<i>April 13</i>	Mark F.	Dan M.	Gil P.		Kathy K.
<i>April 17</i>	Dan M.	Angie C.	Steve B.	Scott S.	Ellen C.

## **Let's Stay in Touch!**

**E-mail** | [pastor@atonementbaltimore.com](mailto:pastor@atonementbaltimore.com)

**Church #** | 410-668-3886

**Cell #** | 682-253-5261

**Website** | [www.AtonementBaltimore.com](http://www.AtonementBaltimore.com)