

✠ ORDER OF SERVICE ✠

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Hymn	612
Invocation	184
Confession & Absolution	184

SERVICE OF THE WORD

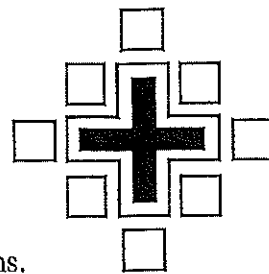
Introit	(See Insert)
Kyrie	186
Salutation and Collect	189
Old Testament	190
Gradual	(See Insert)
Epistle	190
Holy Gospel.....	190
Nicene Creed	191
Hymn of the Day ...	571
Sermon	
Offertory	192
Offering	
Prayer of the Church	193

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Holy Communion Liturgy	194
Distribution	569, 423, 636
Nunc Dimittis	199
Thanksgiving.....	200
Salutation & Benedicamus	201
Benediction.....	202
Hymn	432

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025



INTROIT *Ps. 51:2–6; antiphon: Ps. 51:1*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;*
according to your abundant mercy blot out my trans- | gressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
and cleanse me | from my sin!
For I know my trans- | gressions,*
and my sin is ever be- | fore me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight,*
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your | judgment.
Behold, I was brought forth in in- | iquity,*
and in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.
Behold, you delight in truth in the inward | being,*
and you teach me wisdom in the | secret heart.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;*
according to your abundant mercy blot out my trans- | gressions.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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 Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

GRADUAL *Heb. 12:2*

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,*
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- | ing the shame,*
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

DAILY READINGS

March 30: Gen. 41:28–57; Mark 11:20–33; 31: Gen. 42:1–34, 38; Mark 12:1–12; April 1: Gen. 43:1–28; Mark 12:13–27; 2: Gen. 44:1–18, 32–34; Mark 12:28–44; 3: Gen. 45:1–20, 24–28; Mark 13:1–23; 4: Gen. 47:1–31; Mark 13:24–37; 5: Gen. 49:29–50:7, 14–26; Mark 14:1–11.

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Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 12:1-6

- ¹ You will say in that day:
"I will give thanks to you, O LORD,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
that you might comfort me.
- ² "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."
- ³With joy you will draw water from the wells
of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day:
"Give thanks to the LORD,
call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that his name is exalted.
- ⁵ "Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done
gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.
- ⁶ Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of
Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of
Israel."

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus], ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: . . .

¹¹"There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father,

'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' ²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"