

As we heard last week, Jesus invites us to repent. While we are so quick to point out what others have to repent from, Jesus reminds us that we, too, have some repenting to do. This week, Jesus invites us out of our shame.

So often we think that what we have done, or the qualifiers that the world would prescribe to us, would disqualify us from the goodness of God's grace and mercy. But, with Jesus, that is not the case. Jesus invites us to examine our own shame, and the shame we may prescribe to others, and experience the fullness of God's grace and mercy.

Greeting – The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you

Announcements

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.
Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.
We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.**

**We speak in ways that silence others.
We are silent when we should speak up.
We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.
For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.**

Amen.
Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through † Jesus
Christ.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

#798 vs. 1,2,4,5

Prayer of the Day

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Children's Message

Psalm 22:23-31

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before

God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel according to Saint John 4:7-15

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)^[a] ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir,^[b] you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir,^[c] give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ

Sermon

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN

To set the scene for this Gospel text, right before this in John 14:15 it tells us that Jesus has been on a long journey, he's gone through Samaria, he is tired, and he comes to Jacob's well, and takes a seat by the well.

It was about noon.

That little fact is rather important in the grand scheme of this story.

Noon would have been the hottest time of the day. This woman, of Samaria, came to the well at this time because she assumed that no one else would be there at this time, because quite frankly it made no sense to carry one's water jugs with the temperatures what they would have been. So, it was on purpose that she comes to the well at noon. She hoped that nobody would be there.

Why? Because she carried much shame with her. Imagine the surprise when she, a Samaritan woman, encounters Jesus, a Jewish man.

Immediately we are introduced to a couple of different levels of inherent shame that she is bringing to the well with her. She is a woman and Jesus is a man. She is a Samaritan and he is Jewish. And she knows they shouldn't be talking! Jesus asks for a drink and her response is, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria.

She expected, with the inherent levels of shame at play, that he would shun her and tell her that she has no place at this well while he is there. Because of what society has told her she assumes that this Jewish man would not give her the time of day, and it is true, Jesus had every right, and perhaps even the expectation, to cast her aside.

But he doesn't. Instead Jesus gives her the time and a place to be simply who she is. Furthermore, he engages in conversation with her. Because he hasn't cast her aside, shunned her, told her that she can't be there talking with him, Jesus invites her out of her shame and gives her time and a place.

But the story does not stop there! This encounter continues!

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” ¹⁷ The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’ ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”

They have now exposed even more levels of shame this woman is feeling. Likely this is the shame that she brought with her to the well, at noon, when no one else was there, in the first place. People likely knew her. They likely knew her story. They were most certainly aware of all that Jesus discloses to her. And she didn’t want to encounter that. She certainly wasn’t expecting to encounter the Messiah either.

But she does. And the Messiah gives her time and a place.

And the conversation continues! Not being turned away she remains and dwells in the presence of the Messiah.

¹⁹ The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you^[1] say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” ²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” ²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Having given her the time and a place he now discloses to her that he is the one she is waiting for. He is the Messiah. The one who is speaking to her.

And then the disciples show up. They were ASTONISHED that he would be speaking to this woman full of shame. Never mind the societal levels of shame that she is a woman...of Samaria, but she has had 5 husbands and the one she is with now is NOT her husband. They cannot believe it.

Meanwhile, having been invited OUT of her shame and given time and a place to dwell in the presence of the Messiah she drops everything that she has and runs back to the city. So again, she has come to the well for a reason. To get water. She drops it and runs back to the city. She had also come to the well, at noon, for a reason. Because the very people who are IN THE CITY THAT SHE IS RUNNING BACK TO wouldn’t have been there. Because of her shame, she didn’t want to see them.

BUT, because the Messiah invited her OUT of her shame, she cannot wait to tell the very people she didn’t want to see all about this JEWISH man that she has encountered.

This woman left everything that she had brought with her to retrieve her water and RAN to the city freed of shame and tells of the goodness of God’s grace and mercy and the very people she wanted to avoid, who knew her story, LISTENED TO HER!

People of God, what is that shame that you are carrying with you today? What is that shame that you hope no one would ever find out about? What is that shame that you could never imagine the Messiah disclosing to you?

It is that shame that the Messiah invites you out of and into the goodness of God’s grace and mercy.

It is that shame that the Messiah casts aside instead of casting you aside.

It is that shame that the Messiah invites YOU out of to run to the very people that know everything that you want to keep hidden, to share what you know of the goodness of God’s grace and mercy.

Thanks be to God. AMEN

Mission Offering – Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Endowment Fund Appeal

Hymn of the Day

“Stay With Us”

Apostle's Creed

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved (*We pray especially for Peyton, Matt, David, Clarice, Steve, Kathy, Val, Jacob, Cherri, Keith and JoJo, Bob and Joanne, Frank and Heather, Bob and Sonja, Bill and Betty, Tom and Kay, Sherm and Mary, Peggy, John, Dan and Sharon*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We turn to you for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others (*especially Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, whom we commemorate today*). Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

Amen.

Words of Institution

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

Communion #471 & #474 vs. 1,2

Prayer

Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

Amen.

Dismissal

Jesus invites us into the world! Go in peace!

Okay! We will! Thanks be to God!

And all of Good Shepherd said...

AMEN!

Sending Song "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" #335 vs. 1,4

Blessing

Beloved,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

Your Generosity in Action:



Each year the Good Shepherd Endowment meets to decide where their disbursements for the year will be directed. This year \$650 went to LCGS Outreach efforts; \$650 to youth scholarships; \$870 LCGS Property Needs. YOUR support of the Endowment makes this possible!

THANK YOU!!

Monthly Financials to date:	Total Revenue	Total Expenses	Difference
	\$16,774	\$12,165	\$4,609
	2023: \$23,547	2023: \$27,224	



Get your Easter lily order in by Wednesday of THIS week!

Join us for
LCGS Lent Cook-Off 2024
 Wednesday Evenings in Lent at 5:00 pm

2/21 - Soups	Bring your entry each week based off of the category for the week. There will be weekly voting for favorite dish that will be recognized in worship. Then, at the end of Lent a grand champ will be announced! Come enjoy a wonderful time of fellowship!
2/28 - Chili	
3/6 - Tator Tot Hot Dish	
3/13 - Pasta	
3/20 - Desserts	

**GOOD FRIDAY QUILT RAFFLE QUILTS
 ON DISPLAY IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

\$10/ticket or 3 for \$20



Pieced, quilted and donated by Betty Davey
 60" x 80" (#1)



Pieced and tied by LCGS Quilters
 50" x 64" (#2)



Pieced and tied by LCGS Quilters
 59" x 59" (#3)

Call the church office if you would like to purchase a ticket.

**GOOD SHEPHERD ~ GOOD FRIDAY
 FISH FRY**

**MARCH 29
 4- 6 PM**

FISH, POTATOES,
 GREEN BEANS, COLE
 SLAW, DINNER ROLLS,
 DESSERT
 FREE WILL DONATION

MAG & CHEESE AND
 CHICKEN NUGGETS
 KIDS MEAL

QUILT RAFFLE

SPONSORED BY: LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD ENDOWMENT