

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 31, 2019



### *THE LESSON* Joshua 5:9-12

<sup>9</sup>Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” So the place was called Gilgal, as it is today.

<sup>10</sup>The Israelites camped in Gilgal. They celebrated Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month on the plains of

Jericho. <sup>11</sup>On the very next day after Passover, they ate food produced in the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. <sup>12</sup>The manna stopped on that next day, when they ate food produced in the land. There was no longer any manna for the Israelites. So that year they ate the crops of the land of Canaan.

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### *THE RESPONSE* Psalm 32

The one whose wrongdoing is forgiven, whose sin is covered over, is truly happy!

<sup>2</sup>**The one the LORD doesn’t consider guilty—in whose spirit there is no dishonesty—that one is truly happy!**

<sup>3</sup>When I kept quiet, my bones wore out; I was groaning all day long—every day, every night!—

<sup>4</sup>**because your hand was heavy upon me. My energy was sapped as if in a summer drought. *Selah***

<sup>5</sup>So I admitted my sin to you; I didn’t conceal my guilt. “I’ll confess my sins to the LORD,” is what I said. Then you removed the guilt of my sin. *Selah*

<sup>6</sup>**That’s why all the faithful should pray to you during troubled times, so that a great flood of water won’t reach them.**

<sup>7</sup>You are my secret hideout! You protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of rescue! *Selah*

<sup>8</sup>**I will instruct you and teach you about the direction you should go. I’ll advise you and keep my eye on you.**

<sup>9</sup>Don’t be like some senseless horse or mule, whose movement must be controlled with a bit and a bridle. Don’t be anything like that!

<sup>10</sup>**The pain of the wicked is severe, but faithful love surrounds the one who trusts the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup>You who are righteous, rejoice in the LORD and be glad!

**All you whose hearts are right, sing out in joy!**

## THE EPISTLE

### 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

<sup>16</sup>So then, from this point on we won't recognize people by human standards. Even though we used to know Christ by human standards, that isn't how we know him now. <sup>17</sup>So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!

<sup>18</sup>All of these new things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and who gave us the

ministry of reconciliation. <sup>19</sup>In other words, God was reconciling the world to himself through Christ, by not counting people's sins against them. He has trusted us with this message of reconciliation.

<sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors who represent Christ. God is negotiating with you through us. We beg you as Christ's representatives, "Be reconciled to God!" <sup>21</sup>God caused the one who didn't know sin to be sin for our sake so that through him we could become the righteousness of God.

## THE GOSPEL

### Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him. <sup>2</sup>The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup>Jesus told them this parable. . . .

<sup>10</sup>"A certain man had two sons. <sup>11</sup>The younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the inheritance.' Then the father divided his estate between them. <sup>12</sup>Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

<sup>14</sup>When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of

my father's hired hands have more than enough food, but I'm starving to death! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup>I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands.'" <sup>20</sup>So he got up and went to his father.

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>Then his son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! <sup>23</sup>Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting <sup>24</sup>because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard

music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>The servant replied, 'Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup>Then the older son was furious and didn't want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him. <sup>29</sup>He answered his father, 'Look, I've served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction.

Yet you've never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.' <sup>31</sup>Then his father said, 'Son, 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. He was lost and is found.' "

# CREATED... *for Him*



## WINE

A LITANY FOR THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished." John 19:30

**P** The Scriptures foretold of the Savior. "For my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink." (Psalm 69: 21) As he hung on the cross, he said to fulfill the Scriptures, "I thirst," and a sponge soaked in sour wine was lifted to his lips.

Christ is the Holy One  
Through whom the world was made.  
And all things serve him, Christ the Son,  
On whom our sins were laid.

**P** Jesus hungered and thirsted for our salvation. When he had tasted the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," bowed his head and died.

**C** Forgive us, Lord, when we thirst after earthly temptations. You alone satisfy our need for forgiveness and life.

## LENTEN LITANIES

"All things were created through him and for him."  
Colossians 1:16

- P** "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters . . . Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price . . ."
- C** Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant . . ." (Isaiah 55:1-3)
- P** "He took bread . . . and gave it to them saying, This is my body . . ."
- C** This cup is the new covenant in my blood."  
(Luke 22:19-20)
- P** The Lamb who was slain for us will shelter us with his presence forever.
- C** "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." (Matthew 5:6)
- P** "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore . . . For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd.
- C** And he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (Revelation 7:16-17)

Fruit of the one true Vine,  
Christ's blood for us was shed.  
With bread, his body, blood—this wine—  
Our hungry souls are fed.

### Bible Readings for the Fourth Week of Lent

Sunday	Isaiah 55:1-5
Monday	Luke 22:14-20
Tuesday	John 19:28-30
Wednesday	Psalm 42:1-5
Thursday	Psalm 104:14-15
Friday	1 Corinthians 11:23-28
Saturday	Revelation 19:6-10