

*The choir sings the verse. The congregation repeats the last phrase as printed below.*

1. Lord Jesus, you came to heal all blindness: Lord, have mercy.
2. Christ Jesus, you see what we cannot see: Christ, have mercy.
3. Lord Jesus, you bring light to the world: Lord, have mercy.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.** *(spoken)*

*All sing the refrain once more.*



Re - mem-ber your love and your faith-ful-ness, O Lord.



Re - mem-ber your peo-ple and have mer-cy on us, Lord.

*The service continues with the Prayer of the Day.*

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## Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

*Our mission is to honor God as we help people Grow in the Gospel and Go with the Gospel*

**Welcome!** We thank God that you have joined us at worship today. Please sign our guest book near the double door entrance. Restrooms are in the basement near the double stairs.

Today we gather together in the very presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We humbly acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of all of our worship.

4th Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2010

*The repentant sinner rejoices at being found in the loving embrace of the Father's full, free, and "foolish" forgiveness.*

**Special Music:** *Forgiveness is a Miracle of Love*  
Monday choir, after prayer of the day; *More Precious Than Silver* Kaitlyn Kuchenbecker, Musical Offering

**Service:** Remember Your Love (service folder), Word and Sacrament Service (p. 29)

**Hymns:** Gathering Rite, 304, 310, 748

**Communion** is a part of worship today. Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith we practice close communion. All WELS members are welcome to commune with us. Visitors, please speak with the pastor or an elder before communing.

**Prayer of the Day:** *Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**Sermon:** [Luke 15:1-3,11b-32](#) **A Father's Love**  
1. For the son who ran 2. For the Son who stayed

**First Lesson:** [Judges 10:6-16](#)

Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD. They served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and the gods of Aram, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites and the gods of the Philistines. And because the Israelites forsook the LORD and no longer served him, he became angry with them. He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and the Ammonites, who

that year shattered and crushed them. For eighteen years they oppressed all the Israelites on the east side of the Jordan in Gilead, the land of the Amorites. The Ammonites also crossed the Jordan to fight against Judah, Benjamin and the house of Ephraim; and Israel was in great distress. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD, "We have sinned against you, forsaking our God and serving the Baals."

The LORD replied, "When the Egyptians, the Amorites, the Ammonites, the Philistines, the Sidonians, the Amalekites and the Maonites oppressed you and you cried to me for help, did I not save you from their hands? But you have forsaken me and served other gods, so I will no longer save you. Go and cry out to the gods you have chosen. Let them save you when you are in trouble!"

But the Israelites said to the LORD, "We have sinned. Do with us whatever you think best, but please rescue us now." Then they got rid of the foreign gods among them and served the LORD. And he could bear Israel's misery no longer.

**Psalm of the Day:** [Psalm 115](#) (p. 55 CWS)

**Second Lesson:** [James 4:7-10](#)

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

**Gospel:** [Luke 15:1-3,11b-32](#)

Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Then Jesus told them this parable: There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his

property between them.

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

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! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' 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.

The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

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. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

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

'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 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.' "

**Worship:** 307 (259, 48) **Lent:** 208 (165, 43)

**Bible Study:** 195 (46, 50, 50, 17, 16, 3, 9) **Youth:** 17

Sunday 10:00 am Pancake/Porky breakfast, gym

	10:00 am Band
	10:00 am. Sunday School
	7:00 pm <i>Theology of the Cross</i> Study
Monday	7:00 am Bible Study, church
	7:00 pm Youth Group
Tuesday	9:30 am Naomi Circle, Oak Street Café
	2:00 pm Bible Class, church
	6:00 pm Monday Choir
	7:00 pm Bread of Life Women's Study
Wed.	11:00 am Lenten Worship
	12:00 pm Soup Supper
	4:45 pm Confirmation class
	4:45 pm Bible History grades 3-4
	5:30 pm Bible History, grades 1-2
	6:30 pm Soup Supper
	7:30 pm Lenten Worship.
	8:15 pm Choir
Friday	MLHS Music Fest
Saturday	Academic Fair at MLHS
Sunday	8:00 am Bible Class, commons
	8:00 am Bible Class, church
	9:00 am Worship, Examination Sunday
	10:00 am Sunday School

**Pancake/Porky** Join us in the gym after worship for the breakfast served by the Youth Group.

**Band** meets today after worship and on March 28.

**Theology of the Cross** Bible Study will begin this evening at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss the first chapter. Discussion guides are available in the church basement. We will not meet next Sunday.

**Naomi Circle**, our group for widows and friends, will meet Monday at 9:30 a.m. at the Oak Street Café. If you need a ride, contact Paula Ott.

**Bread of Life** women's Bible study will meet Tuesday at 7:00 pm. We will make pizza, bring a pan.

**We Preach Christ Crucified** is the theme of our midweek Lenten worship this year. Join us Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. or 7:30 p.m.

**Soup Supper** If you would like to help by serving, making soup, or making bars, please sign up on the sheets in the basement. If you have any questions, please contact Paula Ott (864-2348).

**Thrivent Grant Challenge** is over. Thanks to all who participated. The school will receive \$3820.

## GATHERING RITE: REMEMBER YOUR LOVE

*The opening hymns and songs of Christian worship mean to "gather" individual Christians into a worshiping assembly. What the traditional service does with hymns, canticles, and opening liturgy, this Lenten gathering rite does with contemporary song and responses.*

### ENTRANCE SONG

*The choir introduces the refrain. The congregation repeats the refrain and sings it again as indicated.*



As watchmen who wait upon the daylight, wait for the Lord.

I trust in your kindness and redemption and your faithful word. **Refrain**

Before all the mountains were begotten and earth took shape even then, O Lord, you were our refuge throughout ev'ry age. **Refrain**

*Psalms 130*

STAND

### INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.** (*spoken*)

### CONFESSION - LORD, HAVE MERCY - ABSOLUTION

M: As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christ's love, let us confess our sin and ask the Lord for pardon and strength:

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**