



# Welcome to Good Shepherd

Called by God to: Grow; Serve; Love; Care and Worship

## Today's Worship

March 19, 2017

*Parables of the lost sheep, lost coin and lost son.* Finding something you thought was lost feels like a second chance, a new beginning. Today's story reminds us of the complete joy that our creator has when God is reunited with those who were once lost. Our God is a God of forgiveness and mercy. And God always welcomes back.

## Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

Hymn . . . . "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" . . . . . ELW 779

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Too often we are fooled to believe that we are worthless, damaged goods. Let us confess our sins, that we might receive forgiveness and a new point of view.

*Pause for silence and reflection*

P: Gracious and Loving God,

**C: We confess that we have not forgiven others though we long to be forgiven by you, God. We have judged others while asking not to be judged. Forgive us for not sharing grace and mercy. Forgive us for demanding so much of others while seeking forgiveness for ourselves. Help us see that all people are made in your image, forgiven and restored. Amen.**

P: God welcomes us with open arms before we even turn toward God. We are forgiven and love by God. May we forgive others with the same grace. May we love others with the same love.

**C: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day

**C: Rejoicing God, you celebrate when one of your lost children is found because no one is worthless to you. We are grateful that you count us as one of your most prized possessions. Give us eyes to see the priceless value of every living soul, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Children's Message

#### Psalm 119:167-176 (read responsively)

- <sup>167</sup> My soul keeps your decrees; I love them exceedingly.
- <sup>168</sup> **I keep your precepts and decrees, for all my ways are before you.**
- <sup>169</sup> Let my cry come before you, O Lord; give me understanding according to your word.
- <sup>170</sup> **Let my supplication come before you; deliver me according to your promise.**
- <sup>171</sup> My lips will pour forth praise, because you teach me your statutes.
- <sup>172</sup> **My tongue will sing of your promise, for all your commandments are right.**
- <sup>173</sup> Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts.
- <sup>174</sup> **I long for your salvation, O Lord, and your law is my delight.**
- <sup>175</sup> Let me live that I may praise you, and let your ordinances help me.
- <sup>176</sup> **I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek out your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.**

#### \*Announcement of Scripture Reading:

P: A reading from the book of Luke chapter 15.

**C: Praise to you, O Lord**

#### Bible Story . . . . Luke 15:1-32

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." <sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. <sup>8</sup> Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." <sup>11</sup> Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup> Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### Sermon

Hymn . . . . "You Are Mine". . . . .	ELW 581
<b>The Apostles' Creed.</b> . . . .	page 105
<b>Sharing of the Peace</b>	
<b>Offering/Loose Change Offering</b>	
<b>Offertory Response</b> . . . . "We Give Thee But Thine Own" vs 1 & 4 . . . . .	ELW 686
<b>Hymn</b> . . . . "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying". . . . .	ELW 752
<b>Prayers of the Church</b>	
<b>Hymn</b> . . . . "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" . . . . .	ELW 752
<b>Words of Institution/The Lord's Prayer</b>	
<b>Holy Communion</b>	
<b>Communion Prayer</b>	
<b>Benediction</b>	
<b>Sending Song</b> . . . . "My Life Flows On in Endless Song". . . . .	ELW 763
<b>Dismissal</b>	
P: Go in peace.	
<b>C: Serve the Lord.</b>	

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**Presiding & Preaching:** Rev. Mary Iverson     **Scripture Reader:** Brad Heggen  
**SS Teacher:** Lana Wegner     **Communion Helpers:** Bill & Andy Groskreutz, Brad Heggen

**Birthdays-Mar19-25** (If your birthday is not listed please contact the church office with mm/dd/yy.)  
19-Darin Magnuson    22-Haley Ignaszewski    Marcella Garlow    Kathy Raimann  
20-Joel Kruger        Sue Seedorf                24-Andrea Groskreutz    Brenda Rebelein  
21-Spencer Niebuhr    23-Jason Buendorf

**In memory** of Bernice Holstad's anniversary of her death which was Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> and Elmer Ziegler's anniversary of his death which is March 18<sup>th</sup> a memorial has been received towards the Choir Fund. It is given by Barb Ziegler.

**March Food Collection** - During the month of March we will collect food donations of cans of tuna. A grocery cart is parked in the sanctuary, collecting your donations, which will go to the Wells Area Food Shelf. Thank you for your February donations of paper products that also went to the Food Shelf.

**Annual Benefit Concert - *Music, Magic and Mischief*** - Benefitting Wells Area Food Shelf and USC Back Pack Program. Sunday, March 19, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. USC Auditorium, Wells Silent Auction – bidding begins at 1:00 p.m. and ends during intermission. A project of Minnesota Food Share March Campaign.

**Youth Night at the Church ~ Grades 3-6 - *Friday, March 24 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.*** - Games, devotions, snacks and a project to reach out to the older members of our church. Gather in the Good Shepherd basement Social hall (dining room) for the fun evening together. This event is FREE and you may bring one friend. Please sign up on the sheet on the church office door by Wednesday, March 22. We are going to make Easter Baskets for some of our homebound members of our church. Please

bring some Easter treats that we can add to Easter baskets.

**Fun, fun, fun at the Church ~ Grades K-2 - *Sunday, March 26 3:30-4:30 p.m.*** - We will play some fun games today, have a devotion together and a snack will be served. Gather in the Good Shepherd basement Social Hall (dining room) for this fun time together. The cost is FREE and you may bring a friend but we do ask you to sign up on the sheet on the church office door by Wednesday, March 22.