

Fourth Sunday in Lent
The Tomorrow River Lutheran Parish
March 30, 2025

We welcome visitors into our community! May you be blessed as you join us in Worship!

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Pastor: Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love.

Grant that we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever—the coming of your Son. We journey with joy knowing we are your own.

All: Amen. Let it be so.

*(As a spiritual discipline, ask the Holy Spirit to nudge you in offering yourself and a portion of God's many blessings God has given you for God's use in the church and world. **We pass the plate to receive your gifts.** Use the cards provided if you give online. A collection box is also available at the back of the sanctuary. To support the ministries and as a response to God's love for you, consider using electronic giving at www.trchurch.org/electronic-giving.)*

*** OPENING PRAYER**

*** HYMN**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

#733

*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Compassionate One,

**All: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you**

and your love for the world.
We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.
We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.
We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.
Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.
Amen.

Pastor: Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.
In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.

All: Amen.

BAPTISM OF Chet Daniel Kirk (8:30 am only)

Child of Avery Kirk & Chelsea Zimmerman

Gathering Hymn: *Welcome, Child of God*

Raindrops, oceans, lakes, and rivers; welcome, child of God.

Mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters; welcome, child of God.

*When the world feels wide around you, when the dark of night surrounds
you, we are here to tend and guide you. Welcome, child of God.*

Baptismal service ELW pages 227-231

Concluding Hymn: *Welcome, Child of God*

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

All: *God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace
us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your
grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever. Amen.*

WORD

*** GOSPEL**

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen
to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and
saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} "There was a man who had two
sons. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ 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! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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.' ²² 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. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² 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.'"

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

* HYMN OF THE DAY *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* #608

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of

the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen.

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Pastor: ...Lord, in your mercy ...

Congregation: Hear our prayer.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

All: 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.

BLESSING

CHURCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

Worship Service at Peace 8:30 am

Sunday School at Peace 9:00 am

Sunday School at Nelsonville 9:30 am

Worship Service at Nelsonville 10:15 am

Livestream every Sunday at 10:15 am at trchurch.org, *click on Live Stream*

THURSDAYS

Evening Candlelight Prayer Service at Nelsonville 7:00 pm

Thursday Services are online at trchurch.org, *click on Candlelight Services*

Lenten Midweek Services

April 2 at Peace, 10:30 am and 7:00 pm

April 9 at Peace, 10:30 am and 7:00 pm

Lenten Evening Schedule

Soup Supper 5:30-6:30 pm

Confirmation Class 6:30-7:00 pm

Worship Service 7:00-7:30 pm

Tomorrow River Lutheran Parish, PO Box 309, Amherst, WI 54406

Contact us at (715) 824-5615 or email trchurch@gmail.com