

bishops, priests, and deacons. Lord of compassion, **All: in your mercy hear us.**

Deacon: For those preparing for baptism and confirmation; especially Ivy, Morgan, Fiona, Cassidy, James, and Ellen, and for their teachers and sponsors. Lord of compassion, **All: in your mercy hear us.**

Deacon: For peace in our nation and in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples. Lord of compassion, **All: in your mercy hear us.**

Deacon: For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer. We pray especially for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected. Lord of compassion, **All: in your mercy hear us.**

Deacon: For those whom we have injured or offended. We name these people silently or aloud. (Silence is held) Let us pray to the Father. Lord of compassion, **All: in your mercy hear us.**

Deacon: For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God, let us pray to the Father. Lord of compassion, **All: in your mercy hear us.**

Deacon: In communion with all those who have walked in the way of holiness, we pray for the dead, especially Stephen Smith & Theresa Novak, in whose memory the altar flowers are given, and today's Mass is said. We also name our dead loved ones close to our heart today silently or aloud. (Silence is held) let us pray to the Father. Lord of compassion, **All: in your mercy hear us.**

Priest: God our Father, in your love and goodness you have taught us to come close to you in penitence with prayer, fasting and generosity; accept our Lenten discipline, and when we fall by our weakness, raise us up by your unfailing mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **All: Amen.**

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

COLLECT

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

OLD TESTAMENT

Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Psalm 32

Beati quorum

Read responsively by whole verse.

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.

- 6 *I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." **
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
 when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 *You are my hiding-place;*
*you preserve me from trouble; **
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
 I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 *Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; **
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."
- 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
 but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
- 12 *Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; **
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. 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. 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. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 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. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 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! I will get up and

go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" 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. 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.' 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. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

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

The Prayers of the People

Adapted from the Church of England

Priest: With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father. For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church. Lord of compassion, **All: in your mercy hear us.**

Deacon: For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth. We pray especially for our