

## **Crushed – Our Condemnation**

*The Fourth Sunday in Lent*

## **Worship Series: CRUSHED**

When someone is devastated or defeated or despondent we speak of him being "crushed." It could be due to some agonizing loss or unrealized dreams. It could be due to carrying a crushingly heavy load of guilt over some past mistake. In a broken world, it is simply a matter of time before we feel crushed. This is why we need Lent. The word Lent comes from an Old English word for Spring: "lengten," when the days grow longer. For 1400 years the Church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a time of repentance and renewal. Believers humbly acknowledge that sin is the ultimate source of all the crushing moments in life. Our sin even crushed Christ. Yet, on Easter Sunday, Jesus took up his life again. Our Savior crushed both death and the serpent's head. Yes, Lent is a solemn season. But it is also a season of great hope. With the psalmist we say, "The Lord saves those who are crushed in spirit."

### **Today's Theme: Our Condemnation Crushed by God's Grace**

We assume people get what they deserve. We assume what goes around comes around. We assume God helps those who help themselves. And all those assumptions must be crushed. God does not operate on the principle of merit but of grace. Like gravity, grace is a constant force at work in how God deals with us and how he wants us to deal with others. No one is beyond the reach of God's grace. God never turns it off. When the weight of our sin makes us fearful of God's condemnation, he reveals his grace yet again.

### ***Communion***

We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. Scripture tells us that we need to examine ourselves before we receive the Lord's Supper so that we do not take it in a harmful manner. (1 Cor. 11:27-29) For help in preparation see pages 293-295 in the front of the hymnal.

Visitors: Because we do not want you to receive the Lord's Supper in a harmful manner we ask that you do not come forward for the Lord's Supper today if you are not members of a WELS or ELS church. The pastor will be happy to share with you the Biblical basis for this practice.

### **Serving in Worship**

**Pastor**

Mark A. Haefner

**Organist/Pianist**

## Hymn: 916 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

- 1 Today your mercy calls us  
to wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass,  
whatever we have been,  
however long from mercy  
our hearts have turned away,  
your precious blood can wash us  
and make us clean today.
- 2 Today your gate is open,  
and all who enter in  
shall find a Father's welcome  
and pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten,  
a present joy be giv'n,  
a future grace be promised,  
a glorious crown in heav'n.
- 3 Today our Father calls us,  
his Holy Spirit waits;  
his blessèd angels gather  
around the heav'nly gates.  
No question will be asked us  
how often we have come;  
although we oft have wandered,  
it is our Father's home.
- 4 O all-embracing Mercy,  
O ever-open Door,  
what should we do without you  
when heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us,  
to drive us to despair,  
we know one gate is open,  
one ear will hear our prayer.

*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **Confession**

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

**Amen.**

### **Lord, Have Mercy**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## Glory to God in the Highest

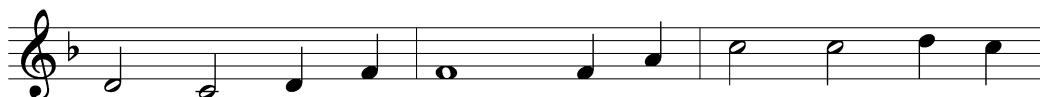
*Tune: BEACH SPRING*



1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en, peace to those he loves so  
2 On - ly Son of God the Fa - ther, Lamb who takes our sin a -



well. On the earth let all his peo - ple speak his  
way, now with him in tri - umph seat - ed— for your



grace, his won - ders tell: Lord, we praise you for your  
mer - cy, Lord, we pray: Je - sus Christ, most high and



glo - ry, might - y Fa - ther, heav - en's King; hear our  
ho - ly, Sav - ior, you are God a - lone in the



joy - ful ad - o - ra - tion and ac - cept the thanks we bring.  
glo - ry of the Fa - ther with the Spir - it, Three in One!

Text: Michael A. Perry, Text: © 1982 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 713578

## THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, you receive us as your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Isaiah 12*

In that day you will say:

“I will praise you, O LORD.

Although you were angry with me,  
your anger has turned away  
and you have comforted me.

<sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust and not be afraid.

The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song;  
he has become my salvation.”

<sup>3</sup> With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.

<sup>4</sup> In that day you will say:

“Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;  
make known among the nations what he has done,  
and proclaim that his name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup> Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things;  
let this be known to all the world.

<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,  
for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading**

*Romans 8:1–10*

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

<sup>5</sup> Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup> The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; <sup>7</sup> the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup> Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

The Word of the Lord.

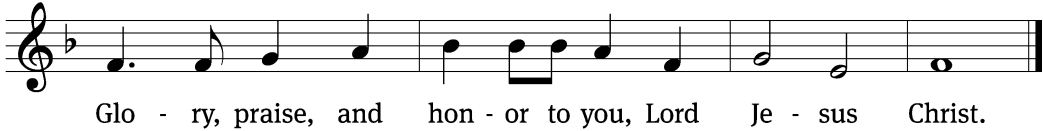
**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

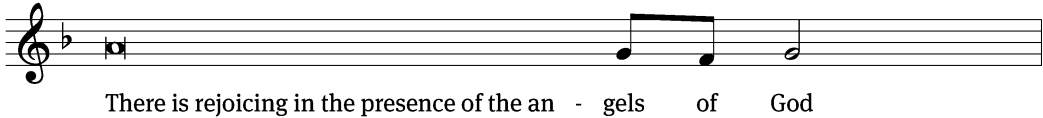
**Gospel Acclamation** *Luke 15:10*



*Refrain*



*Tone*



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**Gospel**

*Luke 15:1–3,11–32*

Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering round to hear him. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners, and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> Then Jesus told them this parable:

<sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup> “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. <sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no-one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> “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! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.’ <sup>20</sup> 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.

<sup>21</sup> “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

<sup>22</sup> “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. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

<sup>28</sup> “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

<sup>31</sup> “ ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘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 again; he was lost and is found.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

### **Hymn of the Day: 523 How Deep the Father’s Love for Us**

How deep the Father’s love for us,  
How vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss –  
The Father turns His face away,  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,  
My sin upon His shoulders;  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life –  
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer;  
But this I know with all my heart –  
His wounds have paid my ransom.

## **Sermon**

*Stand*

## **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,**

**and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **Prayer of the Church**

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.*

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to free us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

**We confess that without your love we are lost.**

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

**Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.**

Guard and guide those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and values as Christians.

**By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.**

Keep in your care those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, and those victimized by war and injustice. Comfort all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

**Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.**

Watch over those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

**Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.**

*Special Intercessions*

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Offering**

**Hymn: 570 God Loved the World So That He Gave**

*st. 1*

1 God loved the world so that he gave  
his only Son the lost to save  
that all who would in him believe  
should everlasting life receive.

Text: tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens- Opfer, Stettin, c. 1778, Text: Public domain

## **THE SACRAMENT**

Stand

## Preface

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

Tune: *MUNICH*



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,  
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,



your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."  
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!



Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:  
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!



in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.  
“Ho - san - na in the high - est!” our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

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## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.  
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.  
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.  
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## **Words of Institution**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## **O Christ, Lamb of God**

*Tune: WEM IN LEIDENSTAGEN*



- 1 Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, Christ, who takes a - way
- 2 Je - sus, in your mer - cy, make us pure with - in;
- 3 Let your end - less mer - cy ev - er - more in - crease;



all the world's trans - gres - sions, lis - ten as we pray:  
cleanse us by your per - fect sac - ri - fice for sin.  
com - fort us with par - don, calm us with your peace.

Text: Michael D. Schultz

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*Be seated*

## **Distribution**

### **Hymn: 654 Jesus Sinners Does Receive**

- 1 Jesus sinners does receive;  
    oh, may all this saying ponder  
who in sin's delusions live  
    and from God and heaven wander.  
Here is hope for all who grieve:  
Jesus sinners does receive.
  
- 2 We deserve but grief and shame,  
    yet his words, rich grace revealing,  
pardon, peace, and life proclaim;  
    here their ills have perfect healing  
who with humble hearts believe:  
Jesus sinners does receive.
  
- 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray  
    are not by the Lord forsaken;  
weary souls who lost their way  
    are by Christ, the Shepherd, taken  
in his arms that they may live:  
Jesus sinners does receive.
  
- 4 I, a sinner, come to you  
    with a penitent confession.  
Savior, show me mercy, too;  
    grant for all my sins remission.  
Let these words my soul relieve:  
Jesus sinners does receive.



- 5 Oh, how blest it is to know,  
were as scarlet my transgression,  
it shall be as white as snow  
by your blood and bitter passion,  
for these words I do believe:  
Jesus sinners does receive.
- 6 Now my conscience is at peace,  
from the law I stand acquitted.  
Christ has purchased my release  
and my ev'ry sin remitted.  
Naught remains my soul to grieve:  
Jesus sinners does receive.
- 7 Jesus sinners does receive,  
even I have been forgiven.  
And when I this earth must leave,  
I shall find an open heaven.  
Dying, still to him I cleave:  
Jesus sinners does receive.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756, abr., Text: Public domain

*Stand*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

## Hymn: 576 Amazing Grace

- 1    Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—  
      that saved a wretch like me!  
      I once was lost but now am found,  
      was blind but now I see.
- 2    The Lord has promised good to me,  
      his Word my hope secures;  
      he will my shield and portion be  
      as long as life endures.
- 3    Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
      I have already come;  
      'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
      and grace will lead me home.
- 4    When we've been there ten thousand years,  
      bright shining as the sun,  
      we've no less days to sing God's praise  
      than when we'd first begun.

Text (sts. 1–3): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790, Text: Public domain

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Quotations: Wartburg Project. Holy Bible: Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV)*

## **Before Communing**

Lord Jesus, you have invited me to come and receive your holy Sacrament. I believe that in the bread and wine you give me your true body and blood to eat and drink. Forgive my sins and nourish my faith through this precious meal. I long for the comfort that comes with your promises; I yearn for the assurance of your faithful love. Bless me now as I receive you by faith.

## **After Communing**

Thank you, dear Savior, for nourishing my faith with the Sacrament of your body and blood. Lift my heart with your forgiveness, renew my confidence in your grace, empower my love for others, and lead me to long for the eternal banquet of heaven.

## *NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS*

**Today:** 9:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Class, 10:30 AM Worship with Communion, 11:30 AM Fellowship and Choir Practice  
Elders Meet

**Wednesday:** 6:30 PM Lenten Worship and Fellowship

**Saturday:** 8:30 AM Men's Bible Fellowship

**Sunday:** 9:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Class, 10:30 AM Worship, 11:30 Fellowship, Voters Meeting after church  
4 PM NELHS Easter Concert

**Lenten Snacks.** All are encouraged to bring snacks for fellowship after church. We will also need people to help set up and clean up. If you have any questions about snacks or helping set up or clean up you may speak with Judy Remmers.

**Youth Involvement Fair Booth:** Thanks

## Holy Week Worship:

6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Joint Worship at Grace Seward

6:3 PM Good Friday Joint Worship at Bethel York



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Personal assisted listening devices are available.

**Given to the Lord:** Attendance: Bible Class , Worship 76, Facebook live 6, clicks 16. Audio/YouTube. Offerings: Operating: Needed 2,583.54, Given, 1,680.10, Lent: Attendance: 115, Facebook Live 4, Clicks 21. Offerings: Operating 730.00. **To God be the glory!**

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