

# McCORMICK METHODIST CHURCH

March 30, 2025

10:00 AM

## Fourth Sunday in Lent

### Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude for the Fourth Sunday in Lent**

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Peggy Thomas, Pianist

### Prayer for Worship

Lay Leader and Congregation

Leader: In this Season of Lent we remind ourselves that Jesus went to the Cross to die for our sins. He suffered because he loved us. Let us pray together.

**All: Merciful God who gave us Jesus to suffer for us, you told us to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus. We're still not sure we want to go that far. We had hoped that becoming followers in this day and age would be a more rational business; we had hoped to fit our religion in the spare corners of our lives. It wasn't supposed to be an inconvenience. Yet you continue to call us, and we squirm uncomfortably. Teach us to respond gratefully to your invitation. Teach us to sacrifice — not only for others, but for you. And take what we can give right now, transforming it into an offering of our deepest selves. In your Son's name we pray and worship. Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Praise**

*The Old Rugged Cross* vs.1,3,4

UMH 504

**\*The Statement of Faith**

*The Apostles' Creed*

UMH 881

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.**

**\*Response**

*He Is Exalted*

TFWS 2070

### Prayers of the Church and The Lord's Prayer

**Anthem**

*What Wondrous Love is This*

Chancel Choir

**Scripture Lesson**

Luke 15: 7, 11-32

Lay Reader

<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>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.’”

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

**People: Thanks Be to God**

**Message:**

*Grace Undenied*

Rev. Ledwell

**\*Hymn of Dedication**

*Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed vs.1,2,4*

UMH 294

**Tithes and Offerings**

**\*Sending Forth**

Go now into the world. Go now, following the example of our Lord Jesus. May your lives reflect God’s love and grace. May your lives reflect the life and teachings of Jesus. May we continue on this Lenten journey, ever growing closer to Jesus Christ and ever growing more perfect in God’s love. Go now in God’s peace. **Amen.**

**\*Postlude**

\*Please stand if able

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