

About the Fourth Sunday in Lent
Theme: The Joy of Salvation
– *highlighting the Scriptures for the week* –

Israel's song is forever new – the LORD remains forever her strength and joyful song. (Isaiah) His wrath has been turned away and His salvation is a bottomless well of joy. In the day of her deliverance she sings of the glorious things He has done to save. Nevertheless, the message of the cross does have results in daily living. (2 Corinthians) Those who have been reconciled to Christ in His death and resurrection ought also to be reconciled to one another. So it is also among us. Though the Lord Jesus was criticized for His contact with sinners, He is the very embodiment of the Father's love. (Luke) Seeking out His wayward son, the Father bestows on him His royal robe and ring. He assures His faithful Son of His continuing love. His Fatherly heart is big enough for faithful sons and wayward sons. So we may rejoice in His never-ending love, the very wells of salvation which bring us joy and hope.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Use the schedule below in your personal devotion. The first three readings are the lessons read today; the last three will be read next Sunday. The Wednesday reading is the psalmody for the week. Each day you may want to pray that Psalm or the prayer printed in our service folder today, followed by the suggested reading and your personal requests and Thanksgivings to our Heavenly Father.

Sunday	Isaiah 12:1-6 What is the antidote to worry and fear? What is the content of the church's song? How is the LORD's saving work made known among the nations? How is His Name proclaimed? How is the Holy One present among His people? Why therefore does the church sing? What does this mean?
Monday	2 Corinthians 5:16-21 What is one part of the destiny of every human being? Why does Paul commend his person to his readers? What is the result of Christ having died for all? What difference does this make in our daily living? Why? What does this mean for us today?
Tuesday	Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 What bothered the Pharisees about what Jesus did? Who are the characters in the parable of the lost son? How did the younger son show that he despised the father's house? Where did he end up? What happened when he came to his senses? What was his planned solution to his dilemma? How did the Father change his plans? How did the older brother react to the Father's love? How did the Father respond to the older brother? What does this parable show about God? About sinners? About how to respond to restored sinners? About the Father's House?
Wednesday	Psalms 32 In what three ways does the LORD remove sin? What cover up does the sinful soul engage in? What happens to the body and emotions as a result? What happens when the cover up stops and we confess our sins? What confidence and consolation result from prayer? When do you need a hiding place? Where can you find one? How is this done? Where can we find competent instruction, teaching, and counsel? Why is the sinful heart often like a dumb animal? What is the predicament of the wicked? What promise belongs to the faithful? How therefore can we find joy even in affliction?
Thursday	Isaiah 43:16-21 How did the LORD make a path through the mighty waters for His people Israel? What happened to the army that threatened their destruction? What therefore is He able to do for His people in any tribulation? Why do even the wild animals praise Him? What has the LORD done for you lately? What does this mean?
Friday	Philippians 3:8-14 What new "bookkeeping procedure" do the baptized faithful follow? What's the most important thing in life? What are some of the outstanding assets of your life? When and how have you been given the righteousness that comes through faith in Christ? How is it that we become like Christ in His death? What goal remains ahead? What is the key thing in making progress toward this goal? How is this done?
Saturday	Luke 20:9-20 What happened when the vineyard owner sent His servants to collect the rent? What happened when He sent His Son? Who is the owner of the "vineyard" tended by Israel? Who is His Son? What did Jesus predict would happen to His Kingdom? How did the people respond? How did Jesus identify Himself to them? How did Jesus appeal to them? How does He appeal to us? What does this mean?