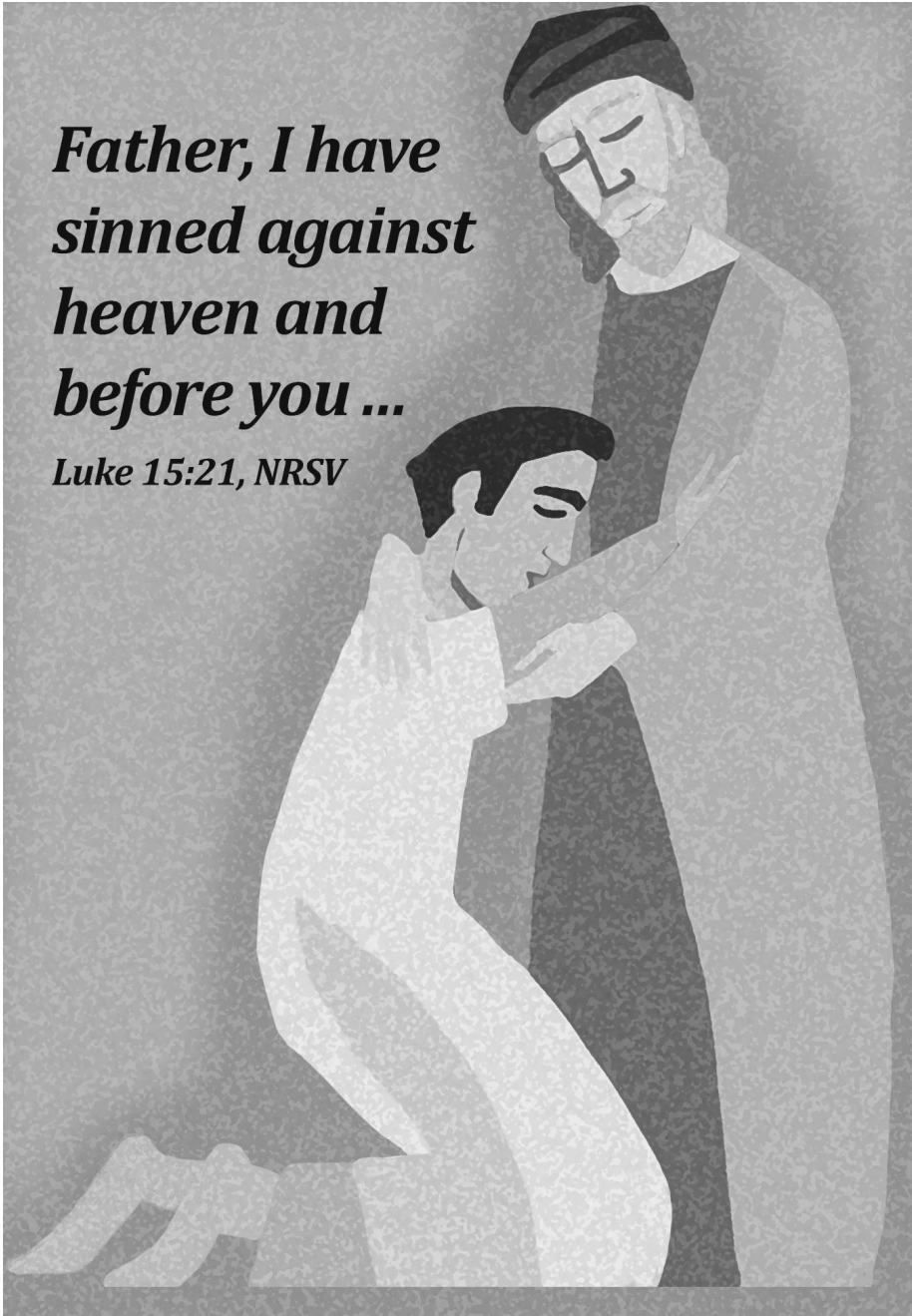


Elim Lutheran Church
Wednesday, March 30, 2022
A Lenten Service of Word and Prayer

*Father, I have
sinned against
heaven and
before you ...*

Luke 15:21, NRSV



Welcome to Elim Lutheran Church

- 1) Accessible restrooms and an AED are located by the exit near the parking lot. An all-gender restroom is in the Sanctuary Balcony.
- 2) Elim belongs to the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). To learn more, visit <https://www.spselca.net/>



GREETING

Pastor: The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

OPENING PRAYER

Reader: O God,

All: rich in mercy, full of kindness, out of your great love,
you raise us up from sin and death
and make us alive together with Christ.

Write your word upon our hearts
and restore in us the image of your love that,
by your Spirit, our way of life may become the way of Christ,
through whom we pray. Amen.

SILENCE

OPENING SONG: STAY WITH US

Musical notation for the opening song "Stay with Us". The score is written for voice and piano. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Stay with us, O Lord Je-sus Christ, night will soon fall. Then".

stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ, light in our dark-ness.

Text: Taizé Community, based on Luke 24:29
 Music: Jacques Berthier

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Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL: LUKE 15:1-3, 11b-32

Pastor: The holy gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord

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

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

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

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

POEM

“A Short Testament”

by Anne Porter

Whatever harm I may have done
In all my life in all your wide creation
If I cannot repair it
I beg you to repair it,

And then there are all the wounded
The poor the deaf the lonely and the old
Whom I have roughly dismissed
As if I were not one of them.
Where I have wronged them by it
And cannot make amends
I ask you
To comfort them to overflowing,

And where there are lives I may have withered around me,
Or lives of strangers far or near
That I've destroyed in blind complicity,
And if I cannot find them
Or have no way to serve them,

Remember them. I beg you to remember them

When winter is over
And all your unimaginable promises

From *Living Things* by Anne Porter, published by Zoland Books, an imprint of Steerforth Press of Hanover, New Hampshire. Copyright © 2006 by Anne Porter. All rights reserved.

Please be seated.

Silence for reflection

MUSIC: DON'T BE AFRAID

Don't be a-fraid. My love is stron-ger, my love is stron-ger than your
fear. Don't be a-fraid. My love is stron-ger and
I have prom-ised, prom-ised to be al-ways near.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Don't Be Afraid". It consists of three staves of music in treble clef, 7/8 time. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics: "Don't be a-fraid. My love is stron-ger, my love is stron-ger than your". The second staff contains the second line: "fear. Don't be a-fraid. My love is stron-ger and". The third staff contains the third line: "I have prom-ised, prom-ised to be al-ways near." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949, and Graham Maule, 1958–2019

Music: DON'T BE AFRAID, John L. Bell

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Pastor: In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness
and bears the wounds of the world.
Therefore, let us be bold as we pray,
trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

WEEK 4 – FORGIVENESS - PRAYING WITH MOVEMENT

FINGER LABYRINTH



Directions

Move your finger slowly and prayerfully to each spot and pause there, praying for the people, ministry, or sacrament it represents and for any forgiveness you are moved to ask of, or to offer, in this community. Then return going backwards, thanking God for the blessings these people, ministries, and sacraments offer our community.

Prayer Stations in the Labyrinth

- 1) Pray for Elim's Leadership Team
- 2) Pray for Elim's Staff
- 3) Give thanks for the gift of Holy Communion
- 4) Pray for healing for a friend or a family member
- 5) Ask God for forgiveness
- 6) Pray for your own healing - physical or spiritual
- 7) Pray for Peace in our world

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Pastor: God of all compassion,

All: gather our prayers in your mercy

and grant to us what you know we need,
that we may walk in the life and the peace of your Spirit,
through Jesus Christ, our hope and our salvation.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

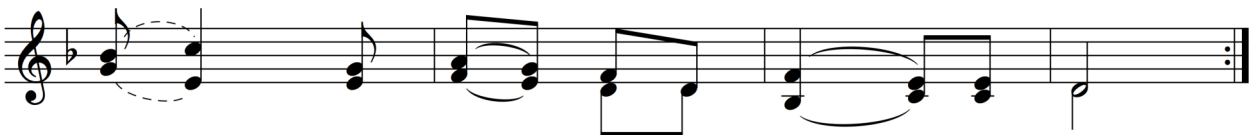
All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

SONG: IT IS GOOD TO TRUST

Ostinato Refrain



It is good to trust in the Lord our God,



trust and hope in the Lord our God.

BLESSING

Response after blessing: **Amen**

SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Next Mid-Week Service:

April 6, Week 4 - Love

Read Ahead: Gospel: John 12:1-8 Mary anoints Jesus

Elim Worship Team

The Rev. Kathryn Gulbranson, Interim Pastor Officiant
Lauren Haile Music Director
Erin Hetrick-Hohenner Office Manager (Elim Express, Announcements)
Barb Villa Bulletin Production
Richard Maxon Bookkeeper
Paul Haile, Rosemary Hart, Andy Hohenner, Kevin Prime Tech Audio/Video

**Special thanks to all our volunteers
who helped with our worship service**

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