

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.'"

**Welcome to . . .  
The Presbyterian Church of Saint David  
March 31, 2019**

**Opening Responses:**

- L> Young and old, friends and strangers  
**ALL> God welcomes us.**  
 L> Lost and bewildered, found and rejoicing  
**ALL> God welcomes us.**  
 L> This morning, this day, this night, forever  
**ALL> God welcomes us.**

**Hymn:** I come with joy 530

**Prayer:**

- L> In Jesus Christ, God came among us to save us from sin and death. On the cross, Christ freed us from bondage of guilt and judgment.  
 We come before God now, seeking grace freely given.  
**P> Grant us your grace, O God, and free us.**  
 L> When we hear and obey the voice of the world rather than turning to you for guidance. . .  
**P> Grant us your grace, O God, and free us.**  
 L> When we critically judge others without wanting to look at ourselves. . .  
**P> Grant us your grace, O God, and free us.**  
 L> When we fail to love any of your people out of prejudice and fear. . .  
**P> Grant us your grace, O God, and free us.**

*Silent Confession*

Assurance of Forgiveness:

- L> In the cross, we see God's amazing love for us.  
 We are God's children living in a confused world.  
 So in abundant grace, God answers our doubt, heals our pain, and forgives our failure.  
**ALL> In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free in grace. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**RESPONSE in Preparation for the Readings:**

L> Listen for the Word of the Lord;

**ALL> Our ears are open**

**The Word of God:** *Psalms 32*

*Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

L> This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL> Thanks be to God.**

**Reflection**

**Invitation**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving & Blessing, Prayers for Others**

**Communion**

**Prayer:** (said together)

**Receive our love and thanksgiving  
for your extravagant gift of grace to us in Christ, O God.  
May we and all people learn to live  
in the light of your forgiveness and acceptance.  
May we and all people be guided in the way of  
righteousness, truth and peace, of faith, hope and love.  
May we and all people remember that we belong to you,  
that we are your beloved children,  
that we are brothers and sisters of one another.  
So may your kingdom come and all things be made new.  
In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Hymn:** O Love that wilt not let me go 209

**Closing Responses & Blessing:** [from *A Wee Worship Book*]

L> From where we are to where you need us

**ALL> Christ be beside us.**

L> From what we are to what you can make of us

**ALL> Christ be before us.**

L> From the mouthing of generalities  
to making signs of your kingdom.

**ALL> Christ be beneath us.**

L> Through the streets of this world to the gates of heaven,

**ALL> Christ be above us.**

L> The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**ALL> Amen.**

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**Psalms 32**

<sup>1</sup>Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

<sup>2</sup>Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

<sup>3</sup>While I kept silence, my body wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup>For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

<sup>6</sup>Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;  
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

<sup>7</sup>You are a hiding place for me;  
you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup>I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

<sup>9</sup>Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
else it will not stay near you.

<sup>10</sup>Many are the torments of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

<sup>11</sup>Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

**Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him.

<sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." <sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them