

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Ellen Nye, (Mar. 10); Lindsay Conyers, (Mar. 11); Gilbert Hart, (Mar. 15); Carlos Klinger, (Mar. 15); Erik Boss, (Mar. 16) and Cody Loseke, (Mar. 16). Happy Birthday!

THE ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God by Betsy Wiest.

OUR LENTEN THEME this year is "*The Attributes of Lent.*" Wednesday services begin at 7:00 p.m. and will continue this Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. A Soup Supper will precede each Wednesday night service downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. This Wednesday we will focus on the sub theme: "*Faith*" and our Soup Supper will be presented by the Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group. We hope you'll come and share in these events.

LENTEN OFFERINGS this year will be applied to our Synod benevolence commitment for 2013.

CHANCEL CHOIR will be rehearsing at 7:45 p.m. on Wednesday evenings during Lent, following the worship services.

EASTER LILIES: If you would like to place a lily in the Chancel for Easter, please fill out the white insert in today's bulletin and either give it to Pastor Ralph or turn it into the church office by noon on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.

F<sup>3</sup> - for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Graders will be meeting this Thursday evening from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for food, fellowship and fun and bring a friend.

NEXT SUNDAY at the 10:30 a.m. worship service we will have two ensembles of musicians with us from Dordt College. They will share their music as part of our worship service. Come and support them with your presence as they head home after a tour.

LADIES NIGHT OUT: Join us for a "Ladies Night Out" on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. We will be meeting at *Corona Village*. If you plan to attend or have questions, e-mail Jan Nachtigal at jnachtigal2@gmail.com.

THE SUNDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month at 9:15 a.m. unless otherwise noted. We are currently studying "Bad Girls of the Bible". Please grab a cup of coffee & join us! It doesn't matter if you have previously attended or not, or read the material, ALL are welcome.

YOUR 2013 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available on the table in the north lobby area. Please pick yours up today.

HEART-TO-HEART is once again conducting its Baby Bottle Campaign. Bottles are available now on tables in of the lobby areas. Please take one, fill it up and bring it back to the church by Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds will go towards the work of *Heart-to-Heart*. If you would like to be eligible to participate in the drawing for a quilt, please place a personal check in the baby bottle with the loose change before returning it.

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO take care of recycling our pop cans? About every 8-10 weeks our box of aluminum cans needs to be taken down to the Ark for recycling. Our various youth groups (including the College Group) are diligent about recycling their emptied pop cans which are stored in a large box under the North Entrance stair case. This box needs to be emptied about 4 to 5 times a year with the proceeds going to the various Youth funds and sometimes petty cash for the Church Office. If this is something that you feel you may be able to help with, please let Pastor Ralph or the church office know @745-4222.

HOME DELIVERED MEALS' DRIVERS NEEDED: This volunteer position would be delivering meals to Laramie residents who have signed up for Home Delivered Meals. This volunteer would need to have their own transportation and be available for one hour each week. Please contact the Eppson Center for Seniors @ (307) 745-5116) for details.

-----  
**PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent:** Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8.

T  
R  
I  
N  
I  
T  
Y  
  
N  
E  
W  
S  
  
&  
  
E  
V  
E  
N  
I  
N  
G  
S



## Serving the Church

	<u>TODAY (3/10)</u>	<u>NEXT SUNDAY (3/17)</u>
<i>Lector:</i>	8:00 a.m. Bobbie Schimek	8:00 a.m. Wayne Sutherland
	10:30 a.m. Seth Nelson	10:30 a.m. Dan Gibson-Reinemer
<i>Acolyte</i>	8:00 a.m. Albert Steiner	8:00 a.m. Nick Ferris
	10:30 a.m. Gil Hart	10:30 a.m. Philip Henry
<i>Ushers</i>	8:00 a.m. Mark Rehwaldt Jennie Lawrence	8:00 a.m. Al & Bobbie Schimek
	10:30 a.m. Carol Frost Roland Kidwell	10:30 a.m. Barb Rouse Georgia Mitchell
<i>Greeters:</i>	8:00 a.m. Debbe, Lindsay & Lily Conyers	8:00 a.m. Mari & Mikayla Martinez
	10:30 a.m. Carlos & Marion Klinger	10:30 a.m. Pete & Joan Dana
<i>Nursery:</i>	8:00 a.m. Hailey Anderson	8:00 a.m. Lexi Dockter
	10:30 a.m. Tracy Kidwell	10:30 a.m. Roz Kidwell

*Stewards:* J. Lyford / T. Rittenburg

*Altar Guild:* Margo Birkholz

*Coffee Fellowship:* Krista Manton

	<u>This Week at Trinity</u>	
Sunday, Mar. 10	8:00 a.m.	Worship
	9:15 a.m.	SS / Coffee Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	Internship Committee
Monday, Mar. 11	7:00 p.m.	SHY
Wednesday, Mar. 13	10:00 a.m.	Women's Study
	6:00 p.m.	Soup Supper
	6-8 p.m.	Weds. Get-Away
	7:00 p.m.	Worship
Thursday, Mar. 14	7:45 p.m.	Chancel Choir
	6:00 p.m.	F <sup>3</sup>
	7:00 a.m.	Seekers



**He squandered his inheritance...**  
**LK.15:13**

WE ARE HAPPY to have you with us today. We hope that our worship service has meaning for you and that you will come back and worship with us again soon. For those who wish, a nursery is provided during the worship service, just off the south lobby, for children ages five and younger. Please join us for coffee in the south lobby area after the service today.

PRAYER REQUEST CARDS are found in the back of the pew in front of you. If you wish, please fill them out and hand them to the usher during the hymn after the sermon. PEW PADS are found at the inside end of each pew. Please fill them out, pass them down to the end, and then return them to the center.

PLEASE RECYCLE THE BULLETINS: You are encouraged to take home any part of the bulletin that you would like. **Please** recycle the pieces that you do not choose to keep by putting them at either end of the pews at the back of the church. Help us save some trees! Thanks.

*Announcements continue on the inside*



<sup>7</sup>You are my hiding-place; you preserve <sup>1</sup> me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts <sup>1</sup> of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup>"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that <sup>1</sup> you should go;  
I will guide you <sup>1</sup> with my eye.

<sup>9</sup>Do not be like horse or mule, which have no <sup>1</sup> understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,  
or else they will <sup>1</sup> not stay near you."

<sup>10</sup>Great are the tribulations <sup>1</sup> of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust <sup>1</sup> in the LORD.

<sup>11</sup>Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice <sup>1</sup> in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are <sup>1</sup> true of heart.

Glory be to the Father and <sup>1</sup> to the Son:  
and to the <sup>1</sup> Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now and e-<sup>1</sup>ver shall be:  
world without end. <sup>1</sup> Amen.

## SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16–21

*One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.*

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## \*GOSPEL: Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

Glory to you, O Lord.

*Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believed it was his obedience that earned his place in the father's home.*

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: <sup>11b</sup>"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.'"

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" #324

SERMON: "It's Precisely How God Loves Us" Pastor Rohr  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

HYMN: "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" #335

**\*APOSTLE'S CREED:**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

Let us pray.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ANTHEM: "Surely He Hath Borne Our Grief's" Evan Copley Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S TIME: "Forgiven!" Pastor Rohr

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

*By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.*

<sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup>While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup>On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup>The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

PSALM: Psalm 32

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions<sup>1</sup> are forgiven,  
and whose sin is<sup>1</sup> put away!

<sup>2</sup>Happy are they to whom the LORD im-<sup>1</sup>putes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there<sup>1</sup> is no guile!

<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones with-<sup>1</sup>ered away,  
because of my groaning<sup>1</sup> all day long.

<sup>4</sup>For your hand was heavy upon me<sup>1</sup> day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the<sup>1</sup> heat of summer.

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con-<sup>1</sup>ceal my guilt.  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."  
Then you forgave me the guilt<sup>1</sup> of my sin.

<sup>6</sup>Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers  
to you in<sup>1</sup> time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they<sup>1</sup> shall not reach them.



**\*KYRIE:**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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 mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen

**OFFERING:**

**OFFERTORY:** "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" Hassler, adapted by Bach  
arr. Labenske

**\*CONGREGATIONAL OFFERTORY:** "Create in me . . ."

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

Returning to the Lord with all our heart, let us pray for the whole people of God, the earth, and all who cry out for healing.

*\*A brief silence.*

For the church, that it may be a community of reconciliation, and welcome those lost, estranged, or alienated from their homes or communities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For those preparing for baptism at Easter, that you clothe them in the garments of salvation and welcome them to your table of celebration. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For the governments of the world, that they not squander the resources of the earth, but use them for the good of creation and all its inhabitants. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For all who run away from home or hang on to resentment or guilt; and for those broken in mind, body, or spirit that you embrace them with your compassion. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For the families and homes of this congregation, that they may be places of forgiveness, acceptance, and nurture. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*\*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for the saints. Bring us to your eternal home, that we may rejoice in the inheritance of your grace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Hear us according to your steadfast love, O God, and in your great compassion bring us to resurrection and rebirth in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*THE 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.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Silence for reflection.)*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have turned from you  
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

**We are truly sorry and humbly repent.**

**In your compassion forgive us our sins,**

**known and unknown,**

**things we have done**

**and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you,**

**and uphold us by your Spirit,**

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy,

loved us even when we were dead in sin,

and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace we have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ,

our sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit,

that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**\*GREETING:**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**



# TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

107 South 7th Street — Laramie, Wyoming 82072  
(307) 745-4222 e-mail: telc@qwestoffice.net



Pastor .....Ralph Rohr  
Congregation President ..... Roland Kidwell  
Intern ..... Seth Nelson  
Office Secretary..... Colleen Miner  
Organists ..... Dan Groathouse  
Judy Rohr  
Choir Director..... Larry Hazlett

God's Work . . .  
. . . Our Hands

Sunday, March 10, 2013 — 4th Sunday in Lent

\*Standing

### INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

*The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!*

**PRELUDE:** "Jesus, keep Me Near the Cross / In the Cross of Christ I Glory"  
Doane & Conkey; arr. Berry

### WELCOME:

\*HYMN: "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days" #319

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

In the name of the Father,  
and of the + Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

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.

### \*BLESSING:

### PARISH SHARING TIME:

\*HYMN: "Christ, the Life of All the Living" #339

### \*EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES . . . HYMN CHIME:

\*POSTLUDE: "Menuet from water Music" G. F. Handel, arr. Harrison Oxley

### UNEARNED GRACE

Reading the parable of the prodigal son is like looking at one of those pictures whose image changes depending on the angle at which we stand. From one angle, we are the resentful elder brother, from the other, the grateful younger.

Human nature often sets us tallying up our neighbors' faults and wishing to see them suitably punished. These are the times when we say, "you made your bed, now lie in it" or "he got what was coming to him." When the guilty prosper or get off scot-free, we grumble. At such times, the idea of a merciful God offends us.

Yet at other moments, we are like the younger son, realizing that we have spent everything. Like this young man, who suddenly "came to himself" (Luke 15:17), we become painfully aware that we are squandering the precious gifts God has given us. At such times, if we're fortunate, we decide like the prodigal: "I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you'" (v. 18). When we admit our faults and our recklessness and acknowledge our need, unbelievably, God always welcomes us back!

When we set ourselves up as judge, we say of Jesus dismissively, "This fellow welcomes sinners," and we wonder if we should hang out with him at all. Yet when we are the prodigal returned, we thrill to the words: "this brother of yours was dead and has



come to life; he was lost and has been found" (v. 32). Then, we count ourselves blessed that our God is a God of forgiveness and unearned grace.

So do not worry if your image wavers. Judge or penitent, through this parable God reminds us: "you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours" (v. 31).

### COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

**Sunday, March 10, 2013**

**Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society**

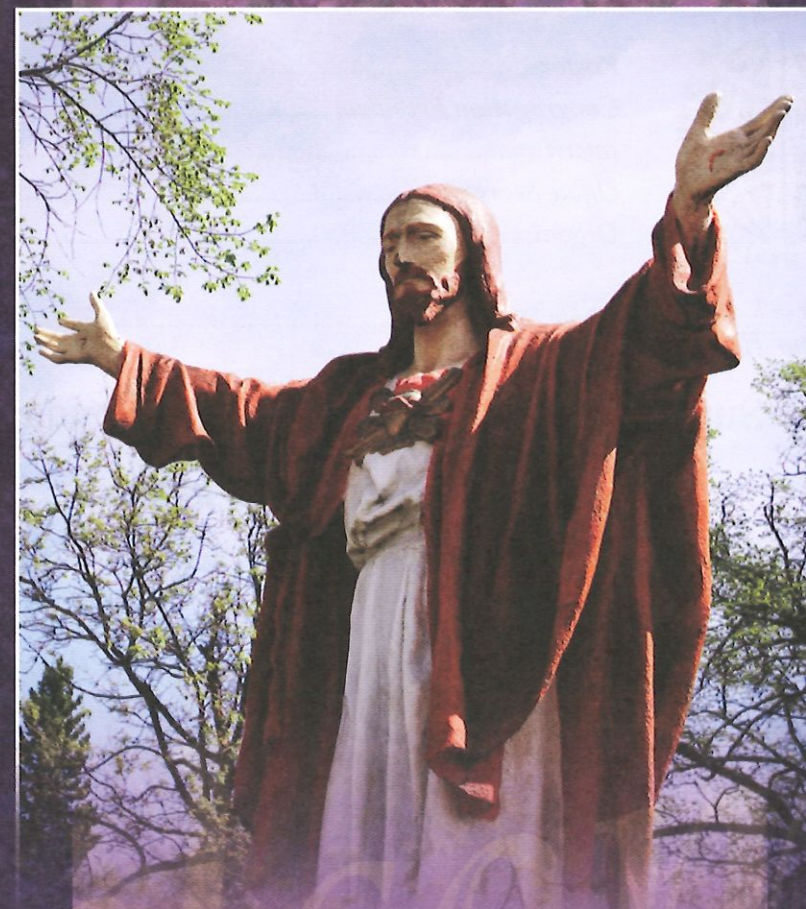
Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

**Tuesday, March 12 - Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604**

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.

**Sunday, March 17 - Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, died 461**

A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.



*This fellow  
welcomes  
sinners*