



**Year C, Fourth Sunday in Lent,
March 30, 2025**

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32

*2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3,
11b-32*

Saints of God, here we are midway in our Lenten journey. What a wonderful thing to find that the Psalm for today celebrates forgiveness!

*"Happy is the one whose transgression **is forgiven**, whose sin **is covered**. Happy is the one to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity and, in whose spirit, there is no deceit." Psalm 32:1-2*

The verbs **is forgiven** and **is covered**, in Psalm 32:1 are both translated as present perfect passive participle. The word *IS* expresses the meaning of "always now," like "God is love," 1 John 4:8.

FORGIVEN and *COVERED*, in the perfect tense, means they are complete, with nothing to add or subtract, as James reminds us, "...so that you may be complete and whole, **lacking in nothing**." James 1:4b

As passive participles, *IS FORGIVEN* and *IS COVERED* describes the soul condition of the "happy one, mentioned in this glorious psalm as the receiver, rather than the doer. He or she obtains or accepts *by* or *from* someone other than themselves.

Imagine standing under a waterfall. You feel the cleansing, reviving power of water pouring over your only body because you are standing there. We are totally forgiven, **BY** God who forgives our transgressions. We are completely covered **BY** the God who protects our souls from guile. It is...pure gift!

***Lenten Blessings,
Rev. Julia***