

LENTEN MIDWEEK 2
LENTEN THEME: A Lenten Journey with Joseph
TONIGHT'S THEME: Miracle of Miracles
March 16, 2022

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 141:1–7*

L: In this Lenten season, we journey with Joseph in Genesis
C: and come to the cross of Christ on Calvary.

L: Joseph's journey, with temptations and unfair accusations even amid faithfulness, calls us
to seek the Lord for strength and steadfastness. We respond with the psalmist:

O LORD, I call upon You; hasten to me! Give ear to my voice when I call to You!

C: Let my prayer be counted as incense before You, and the lifting up of my hands as the
evening sacrifice!

L: Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!

C: Do not let my heart incline to any evil, to busy myself with wicked deeds in company with
men who work iniquity, and let me not eat of their delicacies!

L: Let a righteous man strike me—it is a kindness; let him rebuke me—it is oil for my head;
let my head not refuse it. Yet my prayer is continually against their evil deeds.

C: When their judges are thrown over the cliff, then they shall hear my words, for they are
pleasant.

L: As when one plows and breaks up the earth, so shall our bones be scattered at the mouth
of Sheol.

CONFESSION *1 Peter 5:8–11*

L: As the devil "prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour," we confess
we have not resisted the temptations we so often face.

C: We have sinned against You and against others in our thoughts, our words, and our
actions.

**L: We have not loved You with our whole heart.
C: We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**L: In our fallings and because of our failings,
C: we justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GRACE

L: Isaiah speaks the truth to all of us when he says:

**C: All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6).**

L: O Lord, You have told us to “resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

C: And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

L: Family of God, because the Lord has laid the iniquity of us all upon Jesus, you ARE restored, confirmed, strengthened and established!

**C: Let it be to us as God has spoken;
In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE “In Christ Alone” (video)

PRAYER

**L: Let us pray.
Lord Jesus Christ, as we journey with Joseph together in this Lenten season, help us to recognize the temptations around us, the snares of the evil one, and the strength You have come to bring. Point us in repentant faith to Your carrying of our sins upon Yourself to the cross, that we may rejoice in Your forgiveness and by faith remain steadfast all our days, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.**

SERMON READING *Genesis 39:1–21*

L: The Reading serving as the focus for today’s message, from Genesis, the thirty-ninth chapter:

Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had the LORD blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field.

So he left all that he had in Joseph’s charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. And after a time his master’s wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, “Lie with me.” But he refused and said to his master’s wife, “Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge.

He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?” And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.

But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, she caught him by his garment, saying, “Lie with me.” But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house. And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house, she called to the men of her household and said to them, “See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house.” Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home, and she told him the same story, saying, “The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me. But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house.”

As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, “This is the way your servant treated me,” his anger was kindled.

And Joseph’s master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison. But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE *Psalm 141:8–10*

**L: My eyes are toward You, O GOD, my Lord;
in You I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless!**

**C: Keep me from the trap that they have laid for me
and from the snares of evildoers!**

L: Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I pass by safely.

**C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

HYMN No. 606 **“I Lay My Sins on Jesus”**

SERMON **“A Miracle of Miracles”** **Genesis 39:1-21**
Seminarian Nathan Nelson

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, protector and defender against all we need fear, sustain and equip us to stand firm against our evil foe in trials and temptations. As You strengthened Joseph to stand firm in doing what was right, so also enliven our faith and strengthen us to withstand the assaults of the devil. Lead us not into temptation,

C: but deliver us from evil.

L: God of all peace and presence, there are times when we, sinful as we are, stand innocent among others yet face unfair consequences. In Your Son alone, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we see Him in perfection, doing nothing wrong, and being given into the hands of sinful men. In this Lenten season, continue to draw us closer to Him. Help us to see Your love for this world through Him, and the perfect life and sacrificial death given for us and the sins of this world. Lead us not into temptation,

C: but deliver us from evil.

L: God of all comfort and hope, temptations surround us and are also within us. When our bodies and minds struggle and fail, we are tempted to doubt Your love, presence, and care. Be with all those who suffer in any capacity, [*including the people of Ukraine*]; and our dear brother in Christ, Don Drouin Sr. Grant them sustained faith to hold to Your promises and victory for them even amid trial. Lead us not into temptation,

C: but deliver us from evil.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: We pray these, and all petitions together, in the prayer our Lord has taught us, saying:

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

Luther's Evening Prayer

L: I thank You, my heavenly Father,

C: through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

CLOSING SENTENCES *Isaiah 53:12b, adapt.*

L: In this Lenten season, we journey with Joseph in Genesis

C: and come to the cross of Christ on Calvary.

L: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

C: Christ bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

BLESSING OF THE LORD *Numbers 6:24–26*

L: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN No. 878 “Abide with Me” (vss. 1, 2 & 6)

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.

The darkness deepens;

Lord, with me abide.

When other helpers fail and comforts flee,

Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev’ry passing hour;

What but Thy grace can foil the tempter’s pow’r?

Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?

Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;

Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.

Heav’n’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;

In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

SENDING

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.