

LENTEN MIDWEEK 3

LENTEN THEME: A Lenten Journey with Joseph

TONIGHT'S THEME: "Wait for the Lord"

March 23, 2022

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Lamentations 3:25–26; Psalm 27:1–5, 11–14*

L: The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.

C: **It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.**

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 brought him to prison, though he had done nothing wrong, and he had to wait—wait for justice, wait to be remembered, wait for truth, wait for hope. We, too, find ourselves waiting for many things and waiting on the Lord. We respond with the psalmist:

C: **The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?**

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

L: When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

C: **Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.**

L: One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.

C: **For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble;**

He will conceal me under the cover of His tent;

He will lift me high upon a rock.

L: Teach me Your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.

C: **Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they breathe out violence.**

- L: I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD;
- C: **be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**

CONFESSION *Psalm 130:1–7, adapted*

- L: Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD! O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
- C: **If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.**
- L: As we cry to the Lord, and as He hears our voices, we come in confession of our sins and iniquities.
- L: We confess that we have not always waited in faith.
- C: **We have been impatient with others, leading us to not love our neighbors as ourselves. We have been impatient with You, leading us to doubt Your love for us, Your power, and Your presence.**
- L: We have sinned against others and against You
in thought, word, and deed.
- C: **We deserve nothing but Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.**
- L: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope;
- C: **my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning.**
- L: For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.

(Let us take a moment of silence to reflect on our need of God's Forgiveness)

DECLARATION OF GRACE

- L: Pharaoh spoke of Joseph saying, "Can we find a man like this, in whom **IS** the Spirit of God?" God ultimately answered that question by sending His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, true God and true man. Jesus like Joseph was rejected by his own. Like Joseph, Jesus faced death as the evil plots unfolded though He was innocent of any wrongdoing. Like Joseph, Jesus

was exalted to the right hand of God the Father, where He sits as ruler over all. In Him all authority and power has been given. The food Jesus gives us has broken our spiritual famine, and we are nourished with the bread of forgiveness which He freely gives us sinners. Having confessed our sins, let us find our joy in Christ and wait expectantly for the His return; in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

L: Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.

SONG OF PRAISE “O Praise the Name” (Anastasia) video

PRAYER

L: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, as we journey with Joseph together in this Lenten season, help us also to wait in faithfulness and to wait for Your salvation. Amid times of impatience and feeling alone, forgotten, and forsaken, draw us to the Word and to Your Passion as we cling to Your continued presence and Your promises made and attained for us, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SERMON READING *Genesis 41:9–16, 25–44*

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

Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, “I remember my offenses today. When Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put me and the chief baker in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, we dreamed on the same night, he and I, each having a dream with its own interpretation. A young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. When we told him, he interpreted our dreams to us, giving an interpretation to each man according to his dream.

And as he interpreted to us, so it came about. I was restored to my office, and the baker was hanged.”

Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the pit. And when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” Joseph answered Pharaoh, “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.” . . .

Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has revealed to Pharaoh what He is about to do. The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one. The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty ears blighted by the east wind are also seven years of famine. It is as I told Pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what He is about to do. There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt, but after them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt. The famine will consume the land, and the plenty will be unknown in the land by reason of the famine that will follow, for it will be very severe. And the doubling of Pharaoh’s dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about. Now therefore let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land and take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plentiful years. And let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it. That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine.”

This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?” Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you.” And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.”

Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck. And he made him ride in his second chariot. And they called out before him, “Bow the knee!” Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt. Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN No. 752 “Be Still, My Soul”

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev’ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav’nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and wind still know
His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in the vale of tears;
Then you will better know His love, His heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.

Be still, my soul; the hour is hast’ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

SERMON “Wait for the Lord” Genesis 41 Pastor Perry Schefelker

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Lamentations 3:26, adapted*

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

- L: Heavenly Father, broken by this world of sin, we are an impatient people. In our times of seeking justice, facing distress, and struggling with situations, help us to patiently hope in You and Your promises made, promises fulfilled, and promises yet to come. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer as we wait for Your salvation.**
- L: Gracious Lord, Your ways are not our ways, nor are Your thoughts our thoughts, nor Your time our time. As You were with Joseph in his time of trial and need in prison, You worked good through his waiting in faith. So also grant to us, by Your Holy Spirit, faith that holds to You at all times. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer as we wait for Your salvation.**
- L: We lift up those who cry out to You in distress and despair, especially those living or escaping the terror of the war in Ukraine. As they wait for healing, peace, and comfort, be the rock of their salvation and hope in times of need. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer as we wait for Your salvation.**
- L: Halfway through this Lenten journey, we wait to walk with Jesus in the culmination of His passion—His suffering, crucifixion, and death for the sins of the world. Grant us repentant hearts to know our need for a Savior, what You have given in Your one and only Son, and the forgiveness of sins and eternal good worked for the sake of the world through the one sacrifice needed. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer as we wait for Your salvation.**
- L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord who taught us to pray saying:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

**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

C: I thank You, my heavenly Father, 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

Lamentations 3:25–26; Psalm 130:5, 7 adapted

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

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

L: The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.

C: It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

L: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope.

C: For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.

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, 5 & 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 fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless,

His have no weight and tears no bitterness.

Where is death's sting? Where, grave thy victory?

I triumph still if Thou 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.