

LENTEN MIDWEEK 5

LENTEN THEME: A Lenten Journey with Joseph

TONIGHT'S THEME: "God *Does* Have a Plan"

April 6, 2022

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 105:1–6*

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

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

L: Our journey with Joseph draws to a close as he reveals his identity to his brothers in Egypt. Through many events of injustice, unfairness, silence, waiting, and ultimately being raised up in the land, God had a plan. We respond with the psalmist:

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!

C: Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wondrous works!

L: Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

C: Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His presence continually!

L: Remember the wondrous works that He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He uttered,

C: O offspring of Abraham, His servant, children of Jacob, His chosen ones!

CONFESSION *Psalm 105:1–6, adapted*

L: As we come before the Lord, in Lenten reflection and in humble faith, we bring before Him our sins and sorrows, our faults and failings.

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 105:16–22*

L: When He summoned a famine on the land and broke all supply of bread,
C: He had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

L: His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron;
C: until what he had said came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him.

L: The king sent and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free;
C: he made him lord of his house and ruler of all his possessions,

L: to bind his princes at his pleasure and to teach his elders wisdom.

DECLARATION OF GRACE

L: God’s plan for Joseph’s life was nourishment and land for God’s people, forgiveness and reconciliation for his brothers, and a foreshadowing of the One who would fulfill the perfect plan of redemption for us and for this world. Though our plans change, God’s perfect plan ends in victory. God’s plan is our Savior.

Isaiah writes: “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:6–7).

Having sought the Lord in faith, God has brought pardon and peace to us through our Lord’s suffering and death. Receive now this gift of life and salvation; in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE “How Deep the Father’s Love” (Video)

PRAYER

L: Let us pray.
Lord Jesus Christ, as we journey with Joseph together in this Lenten season, we are reminded that amid interruptions, injustices, inequity, and iniquity, Your plan perfectly fulfilled for Your people is indefectible and infallible, even to Your sacrificial death on the cross. Grant us the eyes to see You lead, the hearts to trust Your Word, and the faith to cling to Your promises with present and eternal plans for us, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

GOSPEL READING *Luke 23:32-47*

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 23rd chapter.

C: Glory be to You, O Lord.

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!"

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

SERMON READING *Genesis 45:1–15*

L: Genesis 45, verses 1-15, serves as the focus for today's message.

Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, "Make everyone go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God.

He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.

There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN No. 440 "Jesus I Will Ponder Now" (vss. 1, 5 & 6)

Jesus, I will ponder now On your holy Passion;
With Your Spirit me endow For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of your suff'ring, pain, and death That I may not perish.

If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm, Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won By Your holy Passion;
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion.

Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from you, Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above Sing Your praise forever.

SERMON “That Day, and Today” Luke 23:26-43
Senior Seminarian PJ Aarsvold

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.

L: Heavenly Father, Your ways are not our ways, nor are Your thoughts our thoughts. With Your servant Joseph, we see Your plan and almighty hand through his life even amid strife and struggles. Grant that we also learn to put our trust in You, with Christ and His cross before us. Lord in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer

L: God of all peace and promise, we are reminded through Your Son that in this world we will have trouble, but to take heart as He has overcome the world. Remind us in this Lenten season and always of Your perfect plan for this world, that amid humanity’s sin and waywardness, out of love You sent Your own Son as our Savior. Draw us closer to You and to His cross in the Holy Week ahead. Lord in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer

L: God of hope and healing, many people face trials not according to their plans with bodies, minds, and spirits. For all who face surgery, for all who suffer without cure, for all who face their journeys in pain and distress, and for all who request our prayers, grant them faith through Your Spirit to find hope in Your present and eternal plans for them and for all in the world. Lord in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer

L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

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*

L: Let us close our service and end the day with 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.

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 SENTENCES

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

HYMN No. 878 "Abide with Me" (vss. 1, 4 & 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.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, 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!