



March 23, 2022

The Fourth Wednesday in Lent

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

As We Gather

Genesis 41

Opening Hymn

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

- ♪ My song is love unknown, My Savior’s love to me, Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be. Oh, who am I
That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
- ♪ He came from His blest throne Salvation to bestow; But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know. But, oh, my friend,
My friend indeed, Who at my need His life did spend!
- ♪ Sometimes they strew His way And His sweet praises sing; Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King. Then “Crucify!”
Is all their breath, And for His death They thirst and cry.
- ♪ Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite? He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight. Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these Themselves displease And ’gainst Him rise.
- ♪ They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away; A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay. Yet cheerful He
To suff’ring goes That He His foes From thence might free.
- ♪ In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have; In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave. What may I say?
Heav’n was His home But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.
- ♪ Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine! Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine. This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise I all my days Could gladly spend!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 430 -Text: Samuel Crossman c.1624-83; Tune: John N. Ireland 1879-1902

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Invocation

In this Lenten season, we journey with Joseph of Genesis

And come to the cross of Christ on Calvary.

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

Amen.

Matthew 28:19b

Confession and Absolution

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!

If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.

Psalm 130:1-4

As we cry to the Lord, and as He hears our voices, we come in confession of our sins and iniquities. We confess that we have not always waited in faith.

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.

We have sinned against others and against You in thought, word, and deed.

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.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to take upon Himself the sins of the world, to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Psalmody

Psalm 130:5-8

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

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.

Old Testament Reading

Lamentations 3:19-26

¹⁹Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall!

²⁰My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me.

²¹But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;

²³they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

²⁴“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

The Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

The Epistle

Romans 5:1–11

⁸Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Gradual Hymn

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

- ♪ Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.
- ♪ Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
- ♪ Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore; They that drink shall thirst no more.
- ♪ They that drink shall live forever; ’Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when He was glorified.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 435 -Text: James Montgomery 1771-1854
Tune: Ludwig M. Lindeman 1812-87, setting: Lutheran Book of Worship 1978; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Holy Gospel

Luke 22:63–23:16

⁶³Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. ⁶⁴They also blindfolded him and kept asking him, “Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?” ⁶⁵And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him.

⁶⁶When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, ⁶⁷“If you are the Christ, tell us.” But he said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, ⁶⁸and if I ask you, you will not answer. ⁶⁹But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.” ⁷⁰So they all

said, “Are you the Son of God, then?” And he said to them, “You say that I am.” ⁷¹Then they said, “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.”

¹Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. ²And they began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.” ³And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” ⁴Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no guilt in this man.” ⁵But they were urgent, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.”

⁶When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. ⁹So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. ¹⁰The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. ¹²And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other. ¹³Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, ¹⁴and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. ¹⁵Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. ¹⁶I will therefore punish and release him.”

The Hymn

“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 winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

♪ Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart And all is darkened in this 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.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 752-Text: Catharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel 1697-1752, tr. Jane L. Borthwick 1813-97
Tune: Jean Sibelius 1865-1957, setting: The Hymnbook 1955; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Proclamation of the Word

“Waiting!”

Genesis 40:23

Apostles' Creed *Please Stand*

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer

Benediction

In this Lenten season, we journey with Joseph of Genesis

And come to the cross of Christ on Calvary.

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

It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. *Lamentations 3:25-26*

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

Amen.

Closing Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

- ♪ Alas! And did my Savior bleed, And did my sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?
- ♪ Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond degree!
- ♪ Well might the sun in darkness hide And shut his glories in
When God, the mighty maker, died For His own creatures' sin.
- ♪ Thus might I hide my blushing face While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt mine eyes to tears.
- ♪ But drops of grief can ne'er repay The debt of love I owe;

Here, Lord, I give myself away: 'Tis all that I can do.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 437 -Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748;

Tune: Hugh Wilson 1764-1824, setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Postlude

Door Offering *You may place your offering in the plate at the door as you leave.*