



April 6, 2022

The Sixth Wednesday in Lent

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

As We Gather

Genesis 45–47

Opening 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

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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.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

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.

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.

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.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son 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 105:16–24

When he summoned a famine on the land and broke all supply of bread,

He had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron;

Until what he had said came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him.

The king sent and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free;

He made him lord of his house and ruler of all his possessions,

To bind his princes at his pleasure and to teach his elders wisdom.

Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham.

And the LORD made his people very fruitful and made them stronger than their foes.

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

Isaiah 55:1–13

¹“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live;

and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,

because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;

⁷let 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.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth,

making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

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, 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.

Amen.

The Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:11–21

¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Gradual Hymn

“Jesus Lead Thou On”

- ♪ Jesus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won; And although the way be cheerless,
We will follow calm and fearless. Guide us by Thy hand to our fatherland.
- ♪ If the way be drear, If the foe be near, Let not faithless fears o’ertake us;
Let not faith and hope forsake us; For through many a woe To our home we go.
- ♪ When we seek relief From a long-felt grief, When temptations come alluring,
Make us patient and enduring. Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.
- ♪ Jesus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won. Heav’nly leader, still direct us,
Still support, console, protect us, Till we safely stand In our fatherland.

Holy Gospel

Luke 23:32–56a

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And 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.”

³⁴And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And 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!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last. ⁴⁷Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, “Certainly this man was innocent!” ⁴⁸And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. ⁴⁹And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

⁵⁰Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, ⁵¹who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. ⁵²This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. ⁵⁴It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

The Hymn

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary” (*With Additional Verse*)

- ♪ Jesus, refuge of the weary, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above:
Often have Your eyes, offended, Gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.
- ♪ Do we pass that cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see You wounded, bleeding, See Your thorn-encircled brow?
Yet Your sinless death has brought us Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Your grace has taught us Calms the sinner's deep distress.
- ♪ Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for You;
May our eyes be ever turning To behold Your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior's side,

Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

♪ Through Your Word are faithful servants Used as instruments by You,
Pointing to Christ's wondrous mission: Perfect Savior, hope renewed.
As we journey now with Joseph, Through his life and lessons bless,
Seeing Jesus as fulfillment, One in whom we find our rest.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 423 -Text: Girolamo Savonarola 1452-98; tr. James F. Wilde 1826-96;
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Proclamation of the Word

“Our Destiny: God’s Plan”

Genesis 45:1–7

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

Amen.

Closing Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Glory Be to Jesus”

♪ Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood From His sacred veins!
♪ Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion, Infinitely kind!
♪ Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream
Which from endless torment Did the world redeem!
♪ Abel’s blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.
♪ Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.
♪ Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 433 -Text: Italian, 18th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall 1814-78; Tune: Friedrich Filitz 1804-76;
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Postlude

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

