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**Lenten Midweek 6**

**A Lenten Journey with Joseph**

“He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5

**AS WE GATHER**

Are you the type of person who has a plan for the day, the week, and the foreseeable future? Goals are made, tasks are determined, and time is set aside, all so things go “according to plan.” But what happens when things don’t go as we anticipate? What happens when a wrench is thrown in—when we realize the plans will not come to fruition? When Joseph was a young boy, we do not know what his plans were for his life ahead. We can be confident they did not include being sold into slavery by his brothers, his father believing him dead, spending time in an Egyptian prison after being falsely accused of a crime, being Pharaoh’s right-hand man over the land of Egypt, and saving the area lands from famine with food stored from a dream the Lord gave Pharoah. But they were part of the Lord’s plans in and through him. Though we will not follow the same plan as Joseph in our lives, whether our minor or major things go according to our plans, we take heart that God still has a plan for our lives. That plan begins, ends, and is found through Christ alone and in His cross to which we follow in this Lenten time and each day.

**HYMN** *“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”* (*LSB* 435)

**INVOCATION**

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

**People: Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Psalm 105:1–6*

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

**People: and come to the cross of Christ on Calvary.**

Leader: 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!

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

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

**People: Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His presence continually!**

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

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

**CONFESSION** *Psalm 105:1–6, adapted*

Leader: 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.

**People: 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.**

**CONTINUED SENTENCES** *Psalm 105:16–22*

Leader: When He summoned a famine on the land and broke all supply of bread,

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

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

**People: until what he had said came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him.**

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

**People: he made him lord of his house and ruler of all his possessions,**

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

**ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

**PRAYER**

Leader: 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.

**People: Amen.**

**READING** Isaiah 55:1-13

Leader: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**READING** 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Leader: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN** *“Glory Be to Jesus”* (*LSB* 433)

**SERMON READING** Genesis 45:1-15

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON *“God DOES Have a Plan”***

**OFFERING**

# THE APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD’S PRAYER

**CLOSING PRAYER** *Luther’s Evening Prayer*

**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**

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

**People: and come to the cross of Christ on Calvary.**

**BENEDICTION**

Leader: The Lord Almighty bless us and direct our days and our deeds in His peace.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** *“Go to Dark Gethsemane”* (*LSB* 436)

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**All are welcome …**

**… Christ is honored.**