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**Ash**

**Wednesday**

**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**

*Genesis* means “the origin or beginning of something.” The meaning of this word certainly holds true with Scripture, as the Book of Genesis takes us all the way back to the beginning of how everything came to be. From the stars, skies, seas, creatures, plants, and trees, to the crown of the Lord’s creation with humanity and soon after their fall into sin, we get a clear origin of who we are, why the world is the way it is now, and what the Lord has promised to do to redeem it and His people. From the very first promise of a Savior, a new beginning, which would come through Jesus Christ, was established.

Along the way through the Old Testament, and here in the Book of Genesis, we get a foreshadowing of our Savior’s redemptive work through the people the Lord would use to fulfill His mission and purposes. Throughout this Lenten time, we will journey with Joseph in Genesis, and through his experiences we will be brought to the cross of Christ. We will see how like Joseph, Jesus will be rejected, abused, yet also ultimately raised up. Like Joseph providing food for the nations, Jesus provides nourishment for those spiritually starving. Like Joseph forgiving his brothers, Jesus will bring forgiveness and reconciliation for the world. But unlike Joseph, Jesus will do all things perfectly in His journey to the cross carrying the sins of the world.

As we begin tonight with “The Genesis of Joseph,” we learn of God remembering Rachel as Joseph’s life began. Even as we with ashes remember that we are dust, and to dust we shall return, we are affirmed in hope that God has remembered us in Jesus, His one and only Son.

**PSALM 51**

**+ PREPARATION +**

**INVOCATION**

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

**People: Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Psalm 77:1–6a*

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

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

Leader: Joseph’s journey begins with God remembering his mother, Rachel. Our journey also has begun with God remembering us. Amid our sinful and fallen state, as dust we are and to dust we shall return, we come before the Lord with the words of the Psalmist:
I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, and He will hear me.

**People: In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted.**

Leader: When I remember God, I moan; when I meditate, my spirit faints.

**People: You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak.**

Leader: I consider the days of old, the years long ago.

**People: I said, “Let me remember my song in the night; let me meditate in my heart.”**

**CONFESSION**

Leader: We are dust, and to dust we shall return. But our God is faithful and just, and He remembers us. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

 Most merciful God,

**People: we confess to You that we have broken Your commandments by our own thoughts, words, and deeds. We have failed to be the people You have called us to be. We have not loved our brothers and sisters as we ought. So often we fail to remember Your promises, Your presence, and Your perfect plan. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, and give us the healing power of Your love that we may walk again in Your ways and live to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

 *The congregation is invited forward to receive ashes placed in the sign of the cross upon their forehead. These words, first spoken by God to Adam, will be spoken as the ashes are imposed:*

Leaders: You are dust, and to dust you shall return.

**IMPOSITION HYMN** *“Chief of Sinners Though I Be”* (*LSB* 611)

**ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and has remembered us and remembered His promises. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Joel 2:12-19

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN** *“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”* (*LSB* 423)

**SERMON READING** Genesis 30:22-24

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON *“The Genesis of Joseph”***

# THE NICENE CREED *(LSB*,back inside cover)

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD’S PRAYER

*(after each petition):* Leader: Lord, in Your mercy,

 **People: remember us, O God.**

**OFFERING**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing”* (*LSB* 421)

### BENEDICTION

**HYMN** *“Not All the Blood of Beasts”* (*LSB* 431)

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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[www.faithlutheran-tn.org](http://www.faithlutheran-tn.org), March 2, 2022

 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**