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**Lenten Midweek 2**

**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**

It is difficult to stay silent when injustice is taking place around us. It is even more difficult to stay silent when injustice is being done to us. As we continue in our “Lenten Journey with Joseph,” we witness injustice done to Joseph himself. Sold into slavery, sent away, staged death—there is little he could have said to change the will of his brothers. What does the Lord have to say, though? Would He remain silent while injustice took place? We learn more through this week’s account, and through it all, we continue to learn of the One who, even in perceived silence, continues His resounding response of redemption.

**HYMN** *“O Christ, You Walked the Road”* (*LSB* 424)

**INVOCATION**

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

**People: Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Psalm 29:1–11*

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, amid injustice and abuse, brings to question the perceived silence of God amid trials. We, too, in our experiences, seek God’s voice and presence for our peace and hope. Even when not heard, we with the psalmist are affirmed in the ever-present voice of our Lord:

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**People: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over many waters.

**People: The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**People: He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

**People: The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in His temple all cry, “Glory!”

**People: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.**

Leader: May the Lord give strength to His people! May the Lord bless His people with peace!

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Psalm 29:4; 32:3–5*

Leader: We come before the Lord not in silence, but in confession of our sins, awaiting His voice of forgiveness.

**People: For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.**

Leader: For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to You,

**People: and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,”**

Leader: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

 Most merciful God,

**People: we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. His voice is full of forgiveness. 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**

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, as we journey with Joseph together in this Lenten season, help us to hear Your voice through Your Word of life that You may guide, direct, and bless us in our earthly journeys, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**READING** Isaiah 58:1-9

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**READING** Matthew 26:57-68

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** *“Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens”* (*LSB* 589)

**SERMON READING** Genesis 37:12-36

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON *“A Wondrous Silence”***

**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

*(after each petition):* Leader: We pray to You, Lord.

 **People: Lord, hear our 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** *Psalm 29:4*

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

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

Leader: Even in silence, Your deeds are wondrous and mighty, and Your Word speaks to us.

**People: The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

**BENEDICTION**

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

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** *“Abide with Me”* (*LSB* 878)

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**