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**Lenten Midweek 3**

**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**

“And lead us not into temptation.” We pray this petition every time we pray the prayer our Lord taught us. Temptation around us is real, constant, and a continual danger to our lives on earth and our lives of faith. Joseph, already treated unfairly and residing in a distant land among the Egyptians, was not exempt to facing temptation. His reward for standing faithful and firm? More unfair treatment. Yet even amid imprisonment, he would remain faithful to the Lord, as his hope was kept in Him. As we face temptation each day, we also pray for the same steadfastness, knowing through it all that Jesus is the perfect fulfillment of faithfulness taking on, and perfectly resisting, every temptation for us.

**HYMN** *“I Lay My Sins on Jesus”* (*LSB* 606)

**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, with temptations and unfair accusations even amid faithfulness, calls us to seek the Lord for strength and steadfastness. We respond with the psalmist:  
  
O Lord, I call upon You; hasten to me! Give ear to my voice when I call to You!

**People: Let my prayer be counted as incense before You, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!**

Leader: Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!

**People: Do not let my heart incline to any evil, to busy myself with wicked deeds in company with men who work iniquity, and let me not eat of their delicacies!**

Leader: Let a righteous man strike me—it is a kindness; let him rebuke me—it is oil for my head; let my head not refuse it. Yet my prayer is continually against their evil deeds.

**People: When their judges are thrown over the cliff, then they shall hear my words, for they are pleasant.**

Leader: As when one plows and breaks up the earth, so shall our bones be scattered at the mouth of Sheol.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *1 Peter 5:8-11*

Leader: As the devil “prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour,” we confess we have not resisted the temptations we so often face.

**People: We have sinned against You and against others in our thoughts, our words, and our actions.**

Leader: We have not loved You with our whole heart.

**People: We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

Leader: In our fallings and because of our failings,

**People: 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: Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.  
  
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. To Him be the dominion forever and ever.

**People: Amen.**

**PRAYER**

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, as we journey with Joseph together in this Lenten season, help us to recognize the temptations around us, the snares of the evil one, and the strength You have come to bring. Point us in repentant faith to Your carrying of our sins upon Yourself to the cross, that we may rejoice in Your forgiveness and by faith remain steadfast all our days, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**READING** Isaiah 53:1-12

Leader: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**READING** John 1:29-34

Leader: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

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

**SERMON READING** Genesis 39:1-21

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON *“A Miracle of Miracles”***

**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: Lead us not into temptation,

**People: but deliver us from evil.**

**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** *Isaiah 53:12b*

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

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

Leader: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**People: Christ bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.**

**BENEDICTION**

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

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** *“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”* (*LSB* 919)

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**All are welcome …**

**… Christ is honored.**