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**Lenten Midweek 4**

**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**

“Good things come to those who wait.” We may have heard this old adage before and maybe even tried to convince ourselves it rings true for our lives. Whether or not “good things” actually came to be in whatever situation of waiting, we are drawn today in light of Joseph to bring that phrase in the context of the Lord. Joseph was made to wait. He waited in prison while being falsely accused and seemingly forgotten. It seemed like no “good things” would come out of the situation. Yet he did not just wait in idleness and despair; he waited in faith and with hope and trust in the Lord. Good things, greater eternal things, come to us as well when the foundation of our faithful waiting is found in Jesus.

**HYMN** *“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”* (*LSB* 427)

**INVOCATION**

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

**People: Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Lamentations 3:25–26;* *Psalm 27:1–5, 11–14*

Pastor: The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.

**People: It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.**

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

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

Pastor: Joseph’s journey brought him to prison, though he had done nothing wrong, and he had to wait—wait for justice, wait to be remembered, wait for truth, wait for hope. We, too, find ourselves waiting for many things and waiting on the Lord. We respond with the psalmist:
The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**People: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

Pastor: When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

**People: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.**

Pastor: One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple.

**People: For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble; He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high upon a rock.**

Pastor: Teach me Your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

**People: Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.**

Pastor: I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! Wait for the Lord;

**People: be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Psalm 130:1–7*

Pastor: Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord! O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

**People: If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.**

Pastor: As we cry to the Lord, and as He hears our voices, we come in confession of our sins and iniquities. We confess that we have not always waited in faith.

**People: We have been impatient with others, leading us to not love our neighbors as ourselves. We have been impatient with You, leading us to doubt Your love for us, Your power, and Your presence.**

Pastor: We have sinned against others and against You in thought, word, and deed.

**People: We deserve nothing but Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.**

Pastor: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I hope;

**People: my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning.**

Pastor: For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.

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.

**People: Amen.**

**PRAYER**

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, as we journey with Joseph together in this Lenten season, help us also to wait in faithfulness and to wait for Your salvation. Amid times of impatience and feeling alone, forgotten, and forsaken, draw us to the Word and to Your Passion as we cling to Your continued presence and Your promises made and attained for us, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**READING** Lamentations 3:19-26

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**READING** Romans 5:1-11

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN** *“Be Still, My Soul”* (*LSB* 752)

**SERMON READING** Genesis 41:9-16, 25-44

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON *“Wait for the Lord”***

**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):* Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

 **People: hear our prayer as we wait for Your salvation.**

**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** *Lamentations 3:25–26; Psalm 130:5, 7*

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

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

Pastor: The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.

**People: It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.**

Pastor: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I hope.

**People: For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.**

**BENEDICTION**

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

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** *“O God, My Faithful God”* (*LSB* 696)

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Rev. Curt Hoover, [www.faithlutheran-tn.org](http://www.faithlutheran-tn.org), March 23, 2022

 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**