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**Lenten Midweek 5**

**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**

A guilty, heavy conscience can wreak havoc on a person and on a soul. As King David was inspired to write in a psalm, hearkening back to his time of sinful indiscretions bottled up inside, he says, “When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long” (Psalm 32:3). It is what a guilty, unclean conscience can do. One can only imagine the state of most of Joseph’s brothers, who for nearly twenty years kept to themselves the treatment of their brother and the secrets and lies kept from their father, Jacob. Through this Genesis account and throughout Scripture, we are reminded again what can cleanse a conscience and give peace to a soul. Through repentance, confession, forgiveness, and the grace of God, we are affirmed through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, and a clean conscience and new life is had.

**HYMN** *“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”* (*LSB* 609, vs. 1-4)

**INVOCATION**

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

**People: Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Psalm 51:1-9*

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 in Genesis came full circle when his brothers journeyed to Egypt in need of food as a famine struck the land. With their sinful actions from decades prior left unresolved, they and their consciences bowed down before their brother Joseph. We, too, know what a guilty conscience feels like, yet we also are given the knowledge of where to bring our sin and shame. We respond with the psalmist:
Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**People: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**

Leader: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**People: Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.**

Leader: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**People: Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

Leader: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**People: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have broken rejoice.**

Leader: Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities..

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *1 John 1:8-9*

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Leader: That we may have a conscience at peace, let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People: Most merciful God, 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.**

Leader: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: Amen.**

**CONTINUING SENTENCES** *Psalm 51:10–12*

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

**People: Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**

Leader: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

**People: and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

**PRAYER**

Leader: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, as we journey with Joseph together in this Lenten season, we, like Joseph’s brothers, carry consciences that are heavy and burdened by our sins. At Your invitation and command, we know we can bring before You all our faults and failings and be assured of Your grace and forgiveness through Your completed work as our one and only Savior from sin. Strengthen us and preserve us to walk faithfully with You in humble repentance this season and always, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**READING** 1 John 1:1-10

Leader: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**READING** Matthew 11:27-30

Leader: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN** *“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”* (*LSB* 609, vs. 5-7)

**SERMON READING** Genesis 42:6-24

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON *“Chased by a Dirty Conscience”***

**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: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

 **People: and renew a right spirit within me.**

**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** *1 John 1:8-9*

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

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

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**BENEDICTION**

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

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** *“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”* (*LSB* 422)

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**