



MIDWEEK OF LENT 2

MARCH 16, 2022

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040

Pastor John Moeller

www.stpauloaklawn.org

Director of Music Ruth Sievers

MIDWEEK OF LENT 2

“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 that through it all, Jesus has already taken on and faithfully resisted every temptation for us.

Opening Hymn

“Christ, the Life of All the Living”

#420 sts. 1-2 & 7

1 Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy suff’rings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,
O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver
From the bonds of sin forever.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

*Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–81;
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.*

Text: Public domain

Stand

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 141:1–8

P In this Lenten season, we continue our journey with Joseph

C and come to the cross of Christ on Calvary.

P Joseph’s journey, with temptations and unfair accusations even amid faithfulness, calls us to seek the Lord for strength and steadfastness as he did. We respond with the psalmist: O LORD, I call upon You; hasten to me! Give ear to my voice when I call to You!

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

P Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!

C 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!

P 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.

- C** When their judges are thrown over the cliff, then they shall hear my words, for they are pleasant.
- P** As when one plows and breaks up the earth, so shall our bones be scattered at the mouth of Sheol.
- C** But my eyes are toward you, O God, my Lord; in you I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless!

Confession and Absolution

1 Peter 5:8–11

- P** 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.
- C** We have sinned against You and against others in our thoughts, our words, and our actions.
- P** We have not loved You with our whole heart.
- C** We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
- P** In our fallings and because of our failings,
- C** 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.
- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

† WORD †

Prayer of the Day

We are seated

Old Testament

† Joseph and Potiphar’s Wife †

Genesis 39:1-21

- P** We continue our “*Journey with Joseph*” in Genesis chapter 39:

¹Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. ²The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. ³His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. ⁴So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. ⁵From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had the LORD blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field. ⁶So he left all that he had in Joseph’s charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. ⁷And after a time his master’s wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, “Lie with me.” ⁸But he refused and said to his master’s wife, “Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. ⁹He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?” ¹⁰And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her. ¹¹But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there

in the house, ¹²she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house.

¹³And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house, ¹⁴she called to the men of her household and said to them, "See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. ¹⁵And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house." ¹⁶Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home, ¹⁷and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me. ¹⁸But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house."

¹⁹As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, "This is the way your servant treated me," his anger was kindled. ²⁰And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison. ²¹But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel:

✠ Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives ✠

Luke 22:39-62

³⁹And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." ⁴¹And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, ⁴²saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." ⁴³And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. ⁴⁴And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. ⁴⁵And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

⁴⁷While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" ⁴⁹And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" ⁵⁰And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him.

⁵²Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? ⁵³When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

⁵⁴Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. ⁵⁶Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." ⁵⁷But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." ⁵⁸And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." ⁵⁹And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean." ⁶⁰But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." ⁶²And he went out and wept bitterly.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Sermon Hymn

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

#436 sts. 1-3

- 1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter’s pow’r;
Your Redeemer’s conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.
- 2 Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!

- 3 Calv’ry’s mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God’s own sacrifice complete.
“It is finished!” hear Him cry;
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offerings—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Those worshipping at home may continue to mail or drop off offerings at the church office, and on-line giving always available on our website for everyone.*

Catechism

P In the Lord’s Prayer, we pray in the Sixth Petition:

C **And lead us not into temptation.**

P What does this mean?

C **God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.**

P We also pray in the Seventh Petition:

C **But deliver us from evil.**

P What does this mean?

C **We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.**

P We pray these, and all petitions together, in the prayer our Lord has taught us:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven...**

Closing Prayer

Luther’s Evening Prayer

P We pray together Luther’s Evening Prayer,

C **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.**

Benediction

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

We are seated

Closing Hymn

"Abide, O Dearest Jesus"

#919

1 Abide, O dearest Jesus,
Among us with Your grace
That Satan may not harm us
Nor we to sin give place.

2 Abide, O dear Redeemer,
Among us with Your Word,
And thus now and hereafter
True peace and joy afford.

3 Abide with heav'nly brightness
Among us, precious Light;
Your truth direct and keep us
From error's gloomy night.

4 Abide with richest blessings
Among us, bounteous Lord;
Let us in grace and wisdom
Grow daily through Your Word.

5 Abide with Your protection
Among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us
And overcome at length.

6 Abide, O faithful Savior,
Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us
To reach our home above.

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588–1632; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Text: Public domain

Postlude

If you would like to help with the situation in Ukraine, one excellent resource for information and assistance with the direction of your gifts is our Lutheran church – Missouri Synod.
Visit their website at LCMS.ORG.



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Pianist: Diane Johannes

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