



MIDWEEK OF LENT 3

MARCH 23, 2022

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***SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH***

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## MIDWEEK OF LENT 3

“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.

### Opening Hymn

“Drawn to the Cross”

#560

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|--|--|
| 1 Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast<br>blessed<br>With healing gifts for souls distressed,<br>To find in Thee my life, my rest,<br>Christ crucified, I come. | 3 Wash me and take away each stain;<br>Let nothing of my sin remain.<br>For cleansing, though it be through pain,<br>Christ crucified, I come. |
| 2 Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,<br>Thy grace abused, my misspent years;<br>Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,<br>Christ crucified, I come.           | 4 And then for work to do for Thee,<br>Which shall so sweet a service be<br>That angels well might envy me,<br>Christ crucified, I come.       |

Text: Genevieve M. Irons, 1855–1928

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

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

**P** The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.

**C** It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

**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 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?

**C** The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

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

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

**P** 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.

**C** 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.

- P** Teach me Your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.
- C** Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.
- P** I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD;
- C** be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

### Confession and Absolution

*Psalm 130:1–7, adapted*

- P** 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!
- C** If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.
- P** 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.
- C** 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.
- P** We have sinned against others and against You in thought, word, and deed.
- C** 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.
- P** I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope;
- C** my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning.
- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

## † WORD †

### Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

### *We are seated*

**Old Testament Reading** † Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams † *Genesis 41:1-16; 37-46*

- L** The Old Testament reading continues the narrative of Joseph from Genesis, chapter 41.

After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile, and behold, there came up out of the Nile seven cows attractive and plump, and they fed in the reed grass. And behold, seven other cows, ugly and thin, came up out of the Nile after them, and stood by the other cows on the bank

of the Nile. And the ugly, thin cows ate up the seven attractive, plump cows. And Pharaoh awoke. And he fell asleep and dreamed a second time. And behold, seven ears of grain, plump and good, were growing on one stalk. And behold, after them sprouted seven ears, thin and blighted by the east wind. And the thin ears swallowed up the seven plump, full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and behold, it was a dream. So in the morning his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was none who could interpret them to Pharaoh.

Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "I remember my offenses today. When Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put me and the chief baker in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, we dreamed on the same night, he and I, each having a dream with its own interpretation. A young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. When we told him, he interpreted our dreams to us, giving an interpretation to each man according to his dream. And as he interpreted to us, so it came about. I was restored to my office, and the baker was hanged."

Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the pit. And when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it." Joseph answered Pharaoh, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?" Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you." And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck. And he made him ride in his second chariot. And they called out before him, "Bow the knee!" Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt. Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt." And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphenath-paneah. And he gave him in marriage Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara priest of On. So Joseph went out over the land of Egypt. Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**Holy Gospel:**

✠ Jesus Is Mocked ✠

*Luke 22:63-23:1*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-second chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>63</sup>Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. <sup>64</sup>They also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?" <sup>65</sup>And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him. <sup>66</sup>When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, <sup>67</sup>"If you are the Christ, tell us." But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, <sup>68</sup>and if I ask you, you will not answer. <sup>69</sup>But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

<sup>70</sup>So they all said, “Are you the Son of God, then?” And he said to them, “You say that I am.” <sup>71</sup>Then they said, “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.” <sup>1</sup>Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Confession of Faith

*Apostles' Creed*

**C** 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

*We are seated*

### Sermon Hymn

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

#543 sts. 1-3

1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O  
my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this  
That caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for  
my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

2 When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down  
Beneath God’s righteous frown,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for  
my soul,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will  
sing;  
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb,  
Who is the great I AM,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I  
will sing,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

*Text: A General Selection of Hymns and Spiritual  
Songs, 1811, Lynchburg, alt.  
Text: Public domain*

### Sermon

*Stand*

### Prayer of the Church

*Lamentations 3:26, adapted*

**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. For those worshipping with us at home, we continue to pray God’s blessing and look forward to us all being together again here in God’s house.*

### Lord’s Prayer

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**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.

### Closing Sentences

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

**P** In this Lenten season, we journey with Joseph

**C** and come to the cross of Christ on Calvary.

**P** The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.

**C** It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

**P** I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope.

**C** For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.

### Benediction

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

**C** Amen.

### Closing Hymn

"Now the Light Has Gone Away"

#887

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Now the light has gone away;<br>Father, listen while I pray,<br>Asking Thee to watch and keep<br>And to send me quiet sleep. | O bring me and all I love<br>To Thy happy home above.  |
| 2 | Jesus, Savior, wash away<br>All that has been wrong today;<br>Help me ev'ry day to be<br>Good and gentle, more like Thee.    | 4 Now my evening praise I give;<br>Thou didst die that I might live.<br>All my blessings come from Thee;<br>Oh, how good Thou art to me! |
| 3 | Let my near and dear ones be<br>Always near and dear to Thee;  | 5 Thou, my best and kindest Friend,<br>Thou wilt love me to the end.<br>Let me love Thee more and more,<br>Always better than before.    |

*Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79, alt.*

*Text: Public domain*

### Postlude

"Variations on Now the Light Has Gone Away"

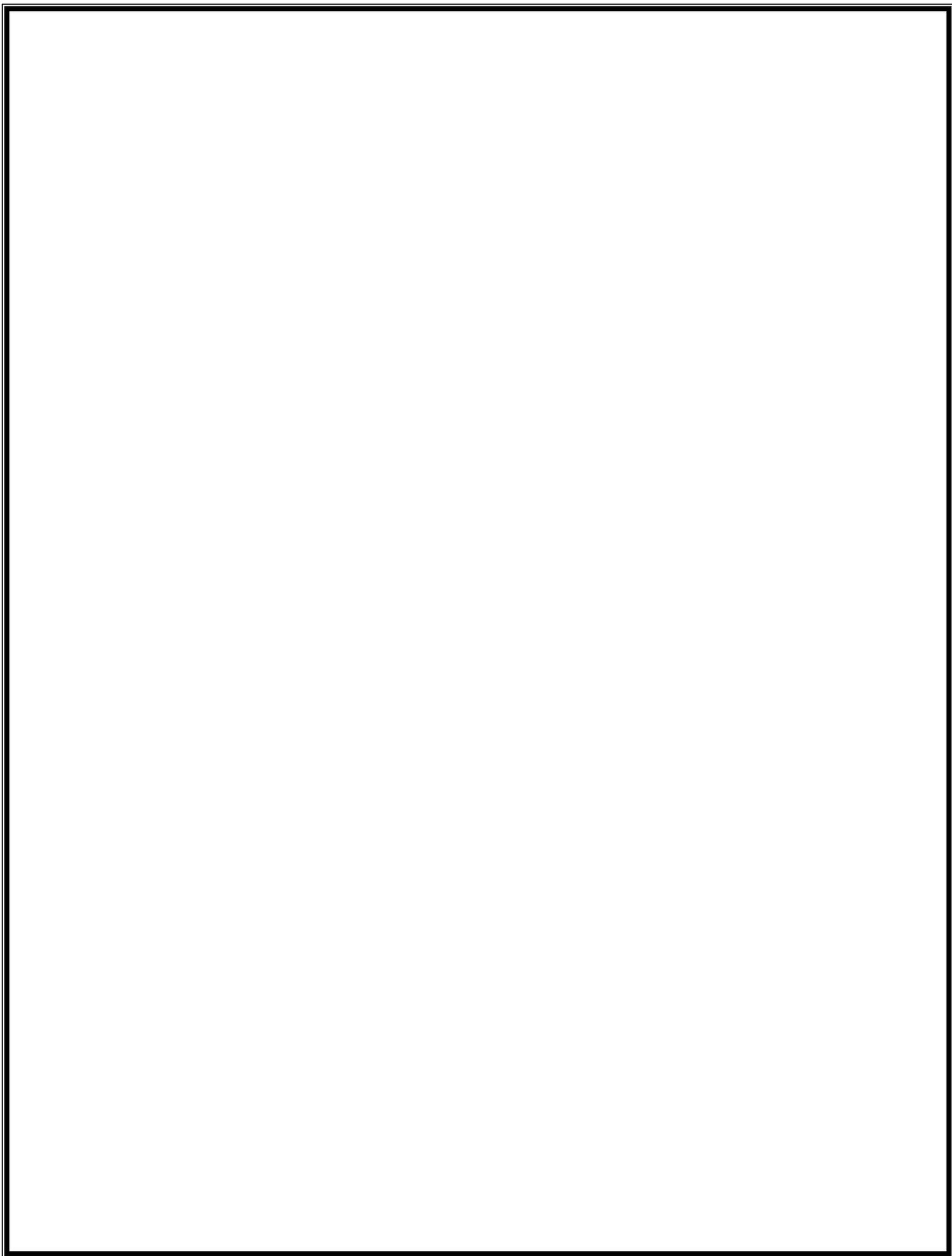


### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS

**Vocalist:** Julia Volk

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# Thrivent choice Dollars Deadline is March 31

The deadline for Thrivent clients to designate Thrivent Choice Dollars is coming up quickly on March 31.

**If you have investments or insurance with Thrivent**, you may have “Choice Dollars” to designate. There’s only a little time to designate your Choice Dollars in support of St. Paul Lutheran Church or another organization of your choice.

## HOW TO DESIGNATE YOUR CHOICE DOLLARS:

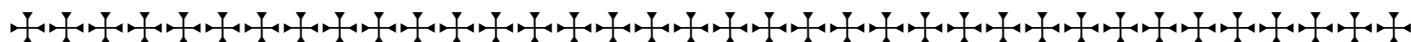
### Online:

1. Visit [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice). Click on “log in” at the top right of your screen and enter your User ID and password. (If you haven’t yet registered, click “Register Now”)
2. Click “Membership Overview”
3. Scroll down to the “Direct Choice Dollars” button.
4. Select St. Paul – Oak Lawn or the organization of your choice
5. Click the “Direct Now” button, then enter your desired amount.

### By Phone:

1. Call 800.847.4836 and when prompted, say “Thrivent Choice.”
2. Say “Choice Dollars,” then press 1 to direct Choice Dollars (a representative will assist you).

**THANK YOU!**



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](http://LCMS.ORG).

