



MIDWEEK OF LENT 5

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SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Are you the type of person who has a plan for the day, the week, and the foreseeable future? Goals are made, tasks are determined, and time is set aside, all so things go “according to plan.” But what happens when things don’t go as we anticipate? What happens when a wrench is thrown in—when we realize the plans will not come to fruition? When Joseph was a young boy, we do not know what his plans were for his life ahead. We can be confident they did not include being sold into slavery by his brothers, his father believing him dead, spending time in an Egyptian prison after being falsely accused of a crime, being Pharaoh’s right-hand man over the land of Egypt, and saving the area lands from famine with food stored from a dream the Lord gave Pharaoh. But they were part of the Lord’s plans in and through him. Though we will not follow the same plan as Joseph in our lives, whether our minor or major things go according to our plans, we take heart that God still has a plan for our lives. That plan begins, ends, and is found through Christ alone and in His cross to which we follow in this Lenten time and each day.

Opening Hymn

“Glory Be to Jesus”

#433

1 Glory be to Jesus,
Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood
From His sacred veins!

4 Abel’s blood for vengeance
Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus
For our pardon cries.

2 Grace and life eternal
In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion,
Infinitely kind!

5 Oft as earth exulting
Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing
Make their glad reply.

3 Blest through endless ages
Be the precious stream
Which from endless torment
Did the world redeem!

6 Lift we, then, our voices,
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood!

Text: Italian, c. 18th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 105:1–6; Psalm 105:16–22

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

C and come to the cross of Christ on Calvary.

P Our journey with Joseph draws to a close as he reveals his identity to his brothers in Egypt. Through many events of injustice, unfairness, silence, waiting, and ultimately being raised up in the land, God had a plan. We respond with the psalmist: Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!

C Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wondrous works!

P Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

C Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His presence continually!

- P** Remember the wondrous works that He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He uttered,
C **O offspring of Abraham, His servant, children of Jacob, His chosen ones!**
P When He summoned a famine on the land and broke all supply of bread,
C **He had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave.**
P His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron;
C **until what he had said came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him.**
P The king sent and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free;
C **he made him lord of his house and ruler of all his possessions,**
P to bind his princes at his pleasure and to teach his elders wisdom.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 105:1–6, adapted

- P** As we come before the Lord, in Lenten reflection and in humble faith, we bring before Him our sins and sorrows, our faults and failings.
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
P God’s plan for Joseph’s life was nourishment and land for God’s people, forgiveness and reconciliation for his brothers, and a foreshadowing of the One who would fulfill the perfect plan of redemption for us and for this world. Though our plans change, God’s perfect plan ends in victory. God’s plan is our Savior. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son 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, we are reminded that amid interruptions, injustices, inequity, and iniquity, Your plan for Your people is perfect and infallible, even to Your sacrificial death on the cross. Grant us the eyes to see You lead, the hearts to trust Your Word, and the faith to cling to Your promises of present and eternal plans 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

✠ Joseph Provides for His Brothers and Family ✠

Genesis 45:1-15

- L** The Old Testament reading continues the narrative of Joseph from Genesis, chapter forty-five:

¹Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, “Make everyone go out from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³And Joseph said

to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. ⁴So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. ¹⁰You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' ¹²And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel:

✠ The Crucifixion ✠

Luke 23:26-43

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?" ³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

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

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

#435

1 Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain,
Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain
Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide,
Opened when our Savior died.

2 Come in poverty and meanness,
Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness,
From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white;
Ye shall walk with God in light.

3 Come in sorrow and contrition,
Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission,
Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
They that drink shall thirst no more.

4 They that drink shall live forever;
'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never
Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died,
Sealed when He was glorified.

*Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.
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. 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

Psalm 29:4

P In this Lenten season, we journey with Joseph

C and come to the cross of Christ on Calvary.

P Even in silence, Your deeds are wondrous and mighty, and Your Word speaks to us.

C The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

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

"Now Rest beneath Night’s Shadow"

#880 sts. 1-2 & 4

1 Now rest beneath night’s shadow
The woodland, field, and meadow;
The world in slumber lies.
But you, my heart, awaking
And prayer and music making,
Let praise to your Creator rise.

Dispelling all our sadness,
Shines down on us in warmest light.

2 The radiant sun has vanished,
Its golden rays are banished
From dark’ning skies of night;
But Christ, the Sun of gladness,

4 Lord Jesus, since You love me,
Now spread Your wings above me
And shield me from alarm.
Though Satan would devour me,
Let angel guards sing o’er me:
This child of God shall meet no harm.

*Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
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Postlude

"Now Rest beneath Night’s Shadow"

J. S. Bach



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