



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

LENTEN MIDWEEK 2

A Lenten Journey with Joseph

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AS WE GATHER

It is difficult to stay silent when injustice is taking place around us. It is even more difficult to stay silent when injustice is being done to us. As we continue in our "Lenten Journey with Joseph," we witness injustice done to Joseph himself. Sold into slavery, sent away, staged death—there is little he could have said to change the will of his brothers. What does the Lord have to say, though? Would He remain silent while injustice took place? We learn more through this week's account, and through it all, we continue to learn of the One who, even in perceived silence, continues His resounding response of redemption.

OPENING HYMN "O Christ, You Walked the Road" Sts. 1–3: *LSB* 424



1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan - d'ring feet must go.
2 No bread of earth a - lone Can fill our hun - g'ring hearts.
3 No blind - ing sign we ask, No won - der from a - bove.



You faced with us temp - ta - tion's pow'r And fought our an - cient foe.
Lord, help us seek Your liv - ing Word, The food Your grace im - parts.
Lord, help us place our trust a - lone In Your un - swerv - ing love.

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES *Psalms 29:1–11*

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

People: Amen.

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, amid injustice and abuse, brings to question the perceived silence of God amid trials. We, too, in our experiences, seek God's voice and presence for our peace and hope. Even when not heard, we with the psalmist are affirmed in the ever-present voice of our Lord:

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

People: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

Pastor: The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.

People: The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

Pastor: The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

People: He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

Pastor: The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

People: The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

Pastor: The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in His temple all cry, "Glory!"

People: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

Pastor: May the LORD give strength to His people! May the LORD bless His people with peace!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 29:4; 32:3-5*

Pastor: We come before the Lord not in silence, but in confession of our sins, awaiting His voice of forgiveness.

People: For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

Pastor: For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to You,

People: and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"

Pastor: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

HYMN "O Christ, You Walked the Road" St. 4: LSB 424

4 When lures of eas - y gain With prom - ise bright - ly shine,
Lord, help us seek Your king - dom first; Our wills with Yours a - lign.

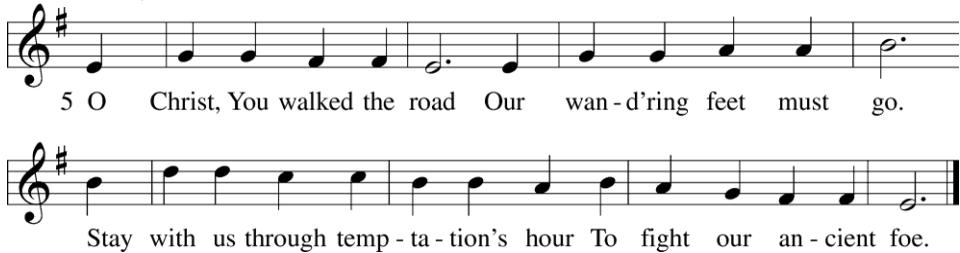
Pastor: Most merciful God,

People: 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. Amen.

Pastor: The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. His voice is full of forgiveness. 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.

People: Amen.

HYMN "O Christ, You Walked the Road" St. 5: LSB 424



5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.
Stay with us through temp-ta-tion's hour To fight our an-cient foe.

PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, as we journey with Joseph together in this Lenten season, help us to hear Your voice through Your Word of life that You may guide, direct, and bless us in our earthly journeys, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

READING *Isaiah 58:1–9* (The Lord's answer to His peoples' call)

¹Cry aloud; do not hold back;

lift up your voice like a trumpet;

declare to my people their transgression,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet they seek me daily

and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that did righteousness
and did not forsake the judgment of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments;
they delight to draw near to God.

³Why have we fasted, and you see it not?

Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?'

Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to hit with a wicked fist.

Fasting like yours this day

will not make your voice to be heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day for a person to humble himself?
Is it to bow down his head like a reed,
and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?
Will you call this a fast,
and a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover him,
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'
If you take away the yoke from your midst,
the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

READING *Matthew 26:57–68* (Christ before Caiaphas and the council)

⁵⁷Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. ⁵⁹Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" ⁶²And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" ⁶³But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." ⁶⁴Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." ⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. ⁶⁶What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." ⁶⁷Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, ⁶⁸saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary" LSB 423;



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your
love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove; Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us
hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the
Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your
From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.
grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

- 4), Through Your Word are faithful servants Used as instruments by You,
Pointing to Christ's wondrous mission: Perfect Savior, hope renewed.
As we journey now with Joseph, Through his life and lessons bless,
Seeing Jesus as fulfillment, One in whom we find our rest.

SERMON READING *Genesis 37:12–36*

Pastor: The Reading serving as the focus for today's message, from Genesis, the thirty-seventh chapter:

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." And he said to him, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring me word." So he sent him from the Valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem. And a man found him wandering in the fields. And the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said. "Tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." And the man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say,

'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. They said to one another, **People: "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams."**

Pastor: But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; cast him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand to restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore. And they took him and cast him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers,

People: "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh."

Pastor: And his brothers listened to him. Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt. When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes and returned to his brothers and said, "The boy is gone, and I, where shall I go?" Then they took Joseph's robe and slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. And they sent the robe of many colors and brought it to their father and said,

People: "This we have found; please identify whether it is your son's robe or not."

Pastor: And he identified it and said, "It is my son's robe. A fierce animal has devoured him. Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces." Then Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days. All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, "No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning." Thus his father wept for him. Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Please sign the red attendance book and pass it to your neighbor. Guests, please fill out the card found in the attendance book and put in the offering plate.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord, when we come to You in prayer, even in the silence we perceived, we are drawn to Your voice through Your Word as You hear our prayers and answer us according to Your will and ways.

HYMN

"Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ" St. 1: *LSB* 769

1 E - ter - nal Spir - it of the liv - ing Christ,
I know not how to ask or what to say;
I on - ly know my need, as deep as life,
And on - ly You can teach me how to pray.

Pastor: Ever-present Lord, as we face trials and temptations, injustices and seemingly inescapable situations, we cry out to You. Even in silence, You were with Joseph, and You are with us. In silence before His accusers, Christ went to the cross for us, and cried out for our forgiveness. Be with us in our journey through this life, that we may hear Your voice, witness Your mighty deeds, and hold firm to the faith You have given. Be with those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, that the needs of all Your people be heard and comforted with Your everlasting peace. We pray to You, Lord.

HYMN

"Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ" St. 2: *LSB* 769

2 Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;
Help me to see Your pur - pose and Your will—
Where I have failed, what I have done a - miss;
Held in for - giv - ing love, let me be still.

Pastor: Grant continued repentance in this Lenten season and always as we reflect on Christ's Passion, Your love for this world through and in Him, and the forgiveness and new life He has come to bring through His suffering and death. Keep us steadfast in the faith that amid all we face in this world, our trust and hope remain in You alone. We pray to You, Lord.

HYMN "Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ" St. 3: *LSB* 769



3 Come with the strength I lack, bring vi - sion clear
Of hu - man need; O give me eyes to see
Ful - fill - ment of my life in love out-poured,
My life in You, O Christ; Your love in me.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

CLOSING PRAYER *Luther's Evening Prayer*

People: 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*

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

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

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

People: The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Abide with Me" *LSB 878*



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,
4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.
O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.

