



SIXTH WEDNESDAY
in
LENT

Ascension Lutheran Church
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"
Lenten Midweek Four – April 9, 2025

LENTEN MIDWEEK SIX

Welcome to all who are attending our service today. We are glad you are with us! To all guests and visitors, we especially extend our hands of friendship. May God bless the worship time for each one of you. Please come again!

+ PREPARATION +

“THE GOOD NEWS OF A SAVIOR WHO BRINGS GOOD FROM EVIL”

AS WE GATHER: One of the most popular and lasting musicals of the past decades has been *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Originally written in 1968 as a fifteen-minute-long pop cantata for a performance at the Colet Court School in London, *Joseph* has grown in length and popularity. It has been presented in theaters around the world, from London’s West End to Broadway and beyond, launching the lasting careers of collaborators Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. What has endeared the musical to thousands of performers and audience members is its colorful characters, catchy music, and the themes of forgiveness and new beginnings that shine through the presentation. The story of Joseph is one in which the handiwork of God to bring good out of evil is clearly evident. The original story of Joseph from the book of Genesis is a clear preview of the Passion story, how Jesus brings good out of evil for our sakes, for us to learn from in this Lenten season.

“Lamb of God”

LSB 550

- 1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God. Refrain

**Refrain O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

2 Your Gift of love they crucified,
They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud,
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. **(refrain)**

3 I was so lost, I should have died,
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod,
And to be called a lamb of God. **(refrain)**

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INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

PSALM (Cantor - odd verses, Congregation - even)

Psalm 143



¹Hear my prayer, O LORD;
give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*

In your faithfulness answer me, in your | righteousness!

²**Enter not into judgment with your | servant,***
for no one living is righteous be- | fore you.

³For the enemy has pursued my soul;
he has crushed my life | to the ground;*

he has made me sit in darkness like | those long dead.

⁴**Therefore my spirit faints with- | in me;***
my heart within me | is appalled.

⁵I remember the days of old;
I meditate on all that | you have done;*

I ponder the work | of your hands.

⁶I stretch out my | hands to you;*
my soul thirsts for you like a | parched land.

⁷Answer me quickly, O LORD!
My | spirit fails!*
Hide not your face from me,
lest I be like those who go down | to the pit.

⁸Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love,
for in | you I trust.*
Make me know the way I should go,
for to you I lift | up my soul.

⁹Deliver me from my enemies, | O LORD!*
I have fled to you for | refuge!

¹⁰Teach me to do your will,
for you | are my God!*
Let your good Spirit lead me
on | level ground!

¹¹For your name's sake, O LORD, pre- | serve my life!*
In your righteousness bring my soul out of | trouble!

¹²And in your steadfast love you will cut off my | enemies,*
and you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul,
for I am your | servant.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- [A]** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- [C]** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
- [A]** Let us reflect on these questions as suggested by Martin Luther:
Do you believe that you are a sinner?
- [C]** **Yes, I believe it; I am a sinner.**
- [A]** How do you know this?
- [C]** **From the Ten Commandments; these I have not kept.**
- [A]** Are you sorry for your sins?

- C** Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.
- A** What have you deserved of God by your sins?
- C** His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation.
- A** Do you hope to be saved?
- C** Yes, such is my hope.
- A** In whom do you trust?
- C** In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.
- A** What has Christ done for you that you should trust in Him?
- C** He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.
- A** What does Christ give you in the Sacrament?
- C** His true Body and Blood for the assurance of my forgiveness.
- A** What do you owe Christ for all this?
- C** Such love demands my love, my life, my all.
- A** Let us pray and confess:
- C** Heavenly Father, I look at myself, and I am ashamed. I am full of sin. My thinking, desiring, speaking, and doing are all tainted. And much of my uncleanness is not even known to me, but is visible only to Your all-seeing eye. O Lord, hide Your face from my sin. Look not at me in my sinfulness. Cover me with my Savior's righteousness. So clothed let me go forth with full assurance of my forgiveness, and then, strong in His strength, live a new life of holy service to You and my fellow man. Amen.
- A** Rejoice! I declare to You that because of Jesus' work on the cross and His promise given in His Word, Your sins are forgiven and You are made right with God. Give thanks and go forth in His name, full of His peace and joy because of the free and precious gift He has given You.
- C** Amen.

SALUTATION

A The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

COLLECT

A Let us pray.

O Lord, You gave the Law so that even in our sin we might know Your will for our lives, and You gave us Your only Son to cleanse our lives of sin. For His sake, forgive us and renew us so that we may serve You faithfully; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ THE WORD +

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21 (ESV)

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:28-39 (ESV)

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For those whom He foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified. ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For Your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 26:47-56 (ESV)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁷ While He was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the Man; seize Him.” ⁴⁹ And he came up to Jesus at once and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” And he kissed Him. ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.

⁵¹And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁵²Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³Do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once send Me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?" ⁵⁵At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture Me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. ⁵⁶But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left Him and fled.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

"When I Behold Jesus Christ"

LSB 542

- 1 When I behold Jesus Christ,
True God who died for me,
I wonder much at His love
As He hung on the tree. Refrain

Refrain **What kind of love is this?**
What kind of love is this?
You showed Your love, Jesus, there
To me on Calvary.
What kind of love is this?
What kind of love is this?
You showed Your love, Jesus, there
To me on Calvary.

- 2 For me You gave all Your love,
For me You suffered pain;
I find no words, nothing can
Your selflessness explain. **(refrain)**
- 3 You had no sin, holy Lord,
But You were tortured, tried;
On Golgotha there for all
My sins You bled and died. **(refrain)**

4 What love is this? Greater love
No one has ever known.
My life with God— this I owe
To You, and You alone. **(refrain)**

"When I Behold Jesus Christ", Text (sts. 1, ref, 2–3): tr. Hartmut Schoenherr, with Jim and Aurelia Keefer;
(sts. 1, ref, 2–3): Almaz Belhu; (st. 4): Joseph Herl, 1959, Text (sts. 1, ref, 2–3): © 1970 Ethiopian Evangelical
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SERMON
"THE GOOD NEWS OF A SAVIOR
WHO BRINGS GOOD FROM EVIL"

Pr. Jim Sprengle

Genesis 50:15-21

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

"Lord, Listen To Your Children"

Lord, listen to Your children praying;
Lord, send Your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to Your children praying;
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. **(repeat)**

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PRAYER

(following each petition):

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

RESPONSIVE LITANY

- P** Hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C** Let our cry come to You.
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, as we draw near to the end of this Lenten
season, we pray that the words we have heard would abide in
our hearts as we abide in You.
- C** You, O Lord, have the words of eternal life.
- P** Grant us peace this night

- C** with hearts that are restful, because they have found their rest in You.
- P** Send us back tomorrow to our daily lives and duties, refreshed and restored,
- C** with greater understanding in our minds, greater love within our hearts, and a firmer grip upon Your hand.
- P** Lord, we lift up to You our friends and loved ones who are not with us at this time.
- C** Bless them, O Lord, and keep them safe.
- P** Hear us, O Lord, as we silently bring You our private petitions.

Silent prayer

- P** Trusting in Your mercy, we pray as Your Son taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

- C** 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.

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 Lord bless you, defend you from all evil, and bring you to everlasting life.

C Amen.

“Abide with Me”

LSB 878

- 1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
- 2 I need Thy presence ev’ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter’s pow’r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.
- 4 Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day;
Earth’s joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.
- 6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav’n’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

“Abide with Me”, Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt., Text: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Ascension Lutheran Church

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Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

Our Mission Statement:

~Go and Share Jesus Christ~

Our Vision Statement:

“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission.”

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God’s witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God— the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God’s Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

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