

4th Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

The Season The Church's Lenten worship is muted and quiet. For centuries, the Church has omitted her most jubilant songs of praise during this season of repentance. We will omit the use of "Alleluia" and the Song of Praise to reflect the somber nature of the season. Note, however, that the Sundays are designated as Sunday in Lent, not Sundays of Lent. The Sundays themselves are not considered part of the forty days, but are islands of refreshment in our Lenten walk. They are *Islands in the Son!*

The Sunday Jesus calls us from sinful selfishness to selfless service. He calls us to lives of selfless service modeled after our Savior who came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom. *Islands in the Son: An Island filled with people ready to serve*

Hymn

Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly CW 484



1 Broth - ers, sis - ters, let us glad - ly Give to
2 By his mer - cy, by his boun - ty, By the
3 Gra - cious Lord, ac - cept our ser - vice For the



God our all, our best— Ser - vice heart - y, thor - ough,
gift of Christ, his Son, What great good - ness he has
sake of Christ, your Son; Lo, our hope a - bides now



hon - est, With a liv - ing love im - pressed.
shown us, What high mar - vels he has done!
on - ly In the right - eous - ness he won.



All our du - ty, all our striv - ing, All our
Let us to him prompt - ly, free - ly, Yield our
Bless and save us; help and guide us; Watch to



time to him be - long; Praise him, then, with true de -
bod - ies and our souls, Thank - ful that his love pro -
com - fort and re - store Till in heav'n we rest re -



vo - tion; Come be - fore him with a song.
tects us, That his wis - dom all con - trols.
joic - ing, Prais - ing you for - ev - er - more.

Text: Henry Bateman, 1802–72, alt.
Tune: NETTLETON (87 87 D) *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, Harrisburg, 1813, alt.

**Morrison Zion
Evangelical
Lutheran Church**
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran
Synod



Our mission is to
Glorify God
as we
Gather
around the **Gospel**
to help people
Grow
in the **Gospel**
and
Go
with the **Gospel**

Welcome! We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We humbly acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

Stand

M: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

Be Seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

Genesis 37:1-11

The life of Joseph illustrates Jesus' message that whoever wants to be first must be your slave. Selfishness led to Jacob's favoritism and his sons' jealousy. Selfishness led Jacob and his sons to such pride that they could not imagine God's prophecy about Joseph coming true. Their selfishness forced Joseph into the role of slave and servant, yet God in his grace would save many people in spite of their sin. Sold into slavery, and jailed unjustly, Joseph would trust in God and selflessly serve his fellow man.

37 Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan.

² This is the account of Jacob's family line.

Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. ⁴ When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

⁵ Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. ⁶ He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: ⁷ We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."

⁸ His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

⁹ Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

¹⁰ When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" ¹¹ His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind. (NIV)

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 42-43 CW

Refrain



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Psalm tone



As the deer pants for streams of water,*
so my soul pants for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.*
Where can I go and meet with God?

Why are you downcast, O my soul?*

Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God,*
for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Refrain

Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me;*
let them bring me to the place where you dwell.

Then will I go to the altar of God, my joy and my delight.*

I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Refrain Tune: Robert J. Thompson. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Second Lesson

Romans 8:1-10

Christ's life ransomed mankind because it met God's demands and set us free from the Law of sin. Now we are free to live according to the Spirit. The sinful nature wants us to live in selfishness; the Spirit sets us free to live lives of selfless service to God and neighbor. Sinners that we are, the requirements of the Law could never be fully met *by* us, but now they are fully met *in* us through the indwelling of the Spirit and Christ.

⁸ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. (NIV)

Verse of the Day

M: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Stand

Gospel

Matthew 20:17-28

Jesus revealed the plan of the Father to his disciples: the Son of God would leave his heavenly throne and selflessly give his freedom to his enemies, his body to the torturer, his life to the executioner in order that he might be our Savior. Rather than marveling at the depth of his love and self-sacrifice, the disciples argued about places of greatness in glory. Followers of Jesus drink his cup and find greatness in selflessly serving others. For our motivation and our model, Christ points back to God's plan for the Son of Man who came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.

¹⁷ Now Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took the Twelve aside and said to them, ¹⁸ "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the

chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!”

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

²¹ “What is it you want?” he asked.

She said, “Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.”

²² “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said to them. “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?”

“We can,” they answered.

²³ Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.”

²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

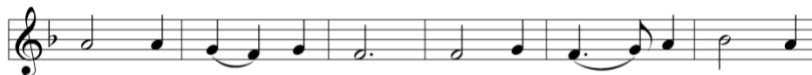
Be Seated

Hymn of the Day

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us CW 486



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us With your
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you Glad - ly,
 3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en To our
 4 Yes, the sor - row and the suf - f' rings Which on
 5 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us With your



life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the
 free - ly, of your own. With the sun - shine of your
 hum - blest char - i - ty In your own mys - te - rious
 ev - 'ry hand we view Chan - nels are for gifts and
 life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the



lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice,
 good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone
 sen - tence, "You have done it un - to me."
 of - f' rings Due by sol - emn right to you,
 lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings
 Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by
 Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That you
 Right of which we may not rob you, Debt we
 Give us faith to trust you bold - ly, Hope, to



count - less as the sand To th' un - thank - ful and the
 you, at length be - lieve That more hap - py and more
 need what we can do, Say - ing by your poor and
 may not choose but pay Lest that face of love and
 stay our souls on you; But, oh, best of all your



e - vil With your own un - spar - ing hand.
 bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.
 need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you?"
 pit - y Turn from us a - noth - er day.
 gra - ces, With your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818-89, alt.
 Tune: HYFRYDOL (87 87 D) Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87.

Sermon An Island Filled With People Ready To Serve Romans 8:1-10

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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.

M: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Benediction

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen

Be Seated

Hymn

Son of God, Eternal Savior CW 492



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior,
 2 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us,
 3 Bind us all as one to - geth - er
 4 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers,



Source of life and truth and grace, Word made
 King of love and Prince of Peace; Hush the
 In your Church's sa - cred fold, Weak and
 So may we for oth - ers live. Free - ly



flesh, whose birth a - mong us, Hon - ors
 storm of strife and pas - sion; Bid its
 health - y, poor and wealth - y, Sad and
 have your gifts been grant - ed; Free - ly



all our hu - man race, You our head,
 cru - el dis - cords cease, By your pa -
 joy - ful, young and old. Is there want
 may your ser - vants give. Yours the gold



who, throned in glo - ry, For your own will
 tient years of toil - ing, By your si - lent
 or pain or sor - row? Make us all the
 and yours the sil - ver, Yours the wealth of



ev - er plead: Fill us with your love and
 hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered thirst for
 bur - den share. Are there spir - its crushed and
 land and sea; We but stew - ards of your



pit - y; Heal our wrongs and help our need.
 plea - sure; Stem our self - ish greed for gain.
 bro - ken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.
 boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855-1932, abr., alt.
 Tune: LORD, REVIVE US (87 87 D) *The Revivalist*, Troy, NY, 1868.