

6th Lenten Midweek Service

Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 10:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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Hymns 752, 428, 422, 438

The Good News of a Savior Who Brings Good from Evil

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.

752 Be Still, My Soul

1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; Bear pa - tient-
2 Be still, my soul; your God will un - der - take To guide the
3 Be still, my soul; though dear - est friends de - part And all is
4 Be still, my soul; the hour is has - t'ning on When we shall

ly the cross of grief or pain; Leave to your God to or - der
fu - ture as He has the past. Your hope, your con - fi - dence let
dark - ened in this vale of tears; Then you will bet - ter know His
be for - ev - er with the Lord, When dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and

and pro - vide; In ev - 'ry change He faith - ful will re -
noth - ing shake; All now mys - te - rious shall be bright at
love, His heart, Who comes to soothe your sor - rows and your
fear are gone, Sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re -

main. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'n - ly Friend
last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
fears. Be still, my soul; your Je - sus can re - pay
stored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,

Through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be - low.
From His own full - ness all He takes a - way.
All safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

Text: Catharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel, 1697-1752; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-97, alt.; Tune: Jean Sibelius, 1865-1957, adapt.; Text and tune: Public domain.

Invocation & Psalm 143

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!
- C** **Enter not into judgment with Your servant, for no one living is righteous before You.**
- P** For 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.
- C** **Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled.**
- P** I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that You have done; I ponder the work of Your hands.
- C** **I stretch out my hands to You; my soul thirsts for You like a parched land.**
- P** Answer me quickly, O LORD! My spirit fails! Hide not Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the pit.
- C** **Let 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.**
- P** Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD! I have fled to You for refuge!
- C** **Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God! Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground!**
- P** For Your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life! In Your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!
- C** **And 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... 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.**

Salutation & Collect

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

First Reading *Genesis 50:15-21*

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.**

Prayer Response

- P** Let us pray... Lord God, as we remember the past and meditate of Your works, we give thanks that when the devil, the world, and our own sinful nature have pursued us, in Your faithfulness and righteousness You have not hidden Your face from us but have rescued us from our enemies and preserved our lives though Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, for He was not ashamed to call us His brothers and sisters but freely forgave and rescued us, and He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Second Reading *Romans 8:28-39*

- L** We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. 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. And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified.

- C** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 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? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. 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.
- L** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For Your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”
- C** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 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.
- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Verse *Psalms 98:1a, 3*

- C** Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Holy Gospel *Matthew 26:47-56*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.
- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁷While 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. ⁴⁸Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.” ⁴⁹And he came up to Jesus at once and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” And he kissed him. ⁵⁰Jesus 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.

Hymn Introduction

- L** A classic form of Christian music is the sacred oratorio. It is an extended sequence of musical pieces that includes solos, choral anthems, and hymns sung by the congregation attending the musical presentation. Among the most widely presented oratorios is “The Crucifixion,” which is a favorite Lenten choral work both in the United States and Great Britain. The composer of the music for the oratorio, Sir John Stainer, is known for his masterful musical expression. The text, by William Sparrow Simpson, uses a series of strong literary images to direct our devotion to Jesus, whose place of sacrifice for the sins of the world becomes a “cross of sorrow” and the lasting symbol of the divine sacrifice that paid the price of the sins of all mankind.
- A** William Sparrow Simpson, writer of the hymn text, had a long life—from 1860 to 1952—and a masterful career as a writer of scholarly Christian literature. Reflecting the Victorian era in which it was written, his libretto text for “The Crucifixion” uses a high standard of English language as it speaks of that divine mission that brought the very Son of God to earth to suffer and die to bring about reconciliation between God and His fallen creatures. “O mysterious condescending” and “O abandonment sublime” are not phrases we might use every day, but their strength and beauty witness to the greatness of our Lord’s sacrifice and testify to His wondrous love.

428 Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow



1 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,
 2 Here the King of all the a - ges,
 3 O mys - te - rious con - de - scend - ing!
 4 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,

Where the blood of Christ was shed,
 Throned in light ere worlds could be,
 O a - ban - don - ment sub - lime!
 Where the blood of Christ was shed,

Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,
 Robed in mor - tal flesh is dy - ing,
 Ver - y God Him - self is bear - ing
 Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,

Per - fect God on thee has bled!
 Cru - ci - fied by sin for me.
 All the suf - fer - ings of time!
 Per - fect God on thee has bled!

Text: William J. Sparrow Simpson, 1860-1952; Tune: John Stainer, 1840-1901; Text and tune: Public domain.

Sermon

422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,
That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;
Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,
Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856-1921, alt.; Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691-1758; Text and tune: Public domain.

Evening Choir "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"

Creed *Apostles' Creed*

G 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 \dagger everlasting. Amen.

Passion Reading *John 19:1-16*

¹Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ²And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." ⁷The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." ⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

¹²From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." ¹³So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." ¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus,

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Offering

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. *(After silent prayer...)* Trusting in Your mercy, we pray as Your Son taught us:

Lord's Prayer & Benediction

- 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.**
- P** The Lord bless you, defend you from all evil, and bring you to everlasting life.
- C** **Amen.**

438 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth



1 A Lamb goes un - com - plain - ing forth, The

2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend, The

3 "Yes, Fa - ther, yes, most will - ing - ly I'll

4 Lord, when Your glo - ry I shall see And

guilt of sin - ners bear - ing And, lad - en with the

Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, Whom God the Fa - ther

bear what You com - mand Me. My will con - forms to

taste Your king - dom's plea - sure, Your blood my roy - al

sins of earth, None else the bur - den shar - ing; Goes

chose to send To gain for us His fa - vor. "Go

Your de - cree, I'll do what You have asked Me." O

robe shall be, My joy be - yond all mea - sure! When

pa - tient on, grows weak and faint, To slaugh - ter led with -

forth, My Son," the Fa - ther said, "And free My chil - dren

won - drous Love, what have You done! The Fa - ther of - fers

I ap - pear be - fore Your throne, Your righ - teous - ness shall

out com - plaint, That spot - less life to of - fer, He bears the

from their dread Of guilt and con - dem - na - tion. The wrath and

up His Son, De - sir - ing our sal - va - tion. O Love, how


be my crown; With these I need not hide me. And there, in

stripes, the wounds, the lies, The mock - er - y, and

stripes are hard to bear, But by Your pas - sion

strong You are to save! You lay the One in -

gar - ments rich - ly wrought, As Your own bride shall



yet re - plies, "All this I glad - ly suf - fer."
 they will share The fruit of Your sal - va - tion."
 to the grave Who built the earth's foun - da - tion.
 we be brought To stand in joy be - side You.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Tune: Wolfgang Dachstein, c. 1487-1553; Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003644; Tune: Public domain.

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