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Bulletin for the 2nd Lenten Service

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PSALM: LORD, You have been favourable to Your land. You have brought Jacob back from captivity.

You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people. You have covered all their sin.

You have taken back all Your fury. You have turned away from Your fierce anger.

Restore us, O God, You who save us! Withhold Your indignation toward us!

Will You be angry with us for ever? Will You prolong Your anger through all generations?

Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?

Show us Your mercy, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation!

Let me hear what God, the LORD, will speak! For He will promise peace to His people, to His devout people. However, let them not become foolish again!

Surely His salvation is near those who fear Him, in order that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together. Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth will sprout up from the earth, and righteousness will look down from heaven.

The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its produce.

Righteousness will go before Him, to prepare a way for His footsteps. Psalm 85

COLLECT: God of love and faithfulness, You showed Your favour to Your people by sending Your one and only Son to be our Saviour. Help us to trust in Him as our gracious Redeemer and so enjoy the peace He has come to bring, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SERMON: Genesis 37:12-36 A Wondrous Silence

1st Reading: Genesis 37:12-36

¹² Joseph's brothers went to Shechem to graze their father's flock there. ¹³ Israel asked Joseph, "Are your brothers not grazing the flock at Shechem? Come! I shall send you to them."

Joseph answered him, "Very well."

¹⁴ Jacob told him, "Please go and see if all is well with your brothers and well with the flock and bring me a report!"

Therefore, he sent him from the Valley of Hebron. When Joseph arrived at Shechem, ¹⁵ a man found him wandering around in the open country. The man asked him, "What are you looking

for?"

¹⁶ He said, "I am looking for my brothers. Please tell me where they are grazing the flock!"

¹⁷ The man said, "They have moved away from here. For I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan!'"

So, Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸ They saw him from a distance, but, before he reached them, they plotted against him to kill him. ¹⁹ They said to one another: "Look! Here comes that master-dreamer! ²⁰ So come now! Let us kill him, throw him into one of the pits and say, 'A wild animal has devoured him!' Then we shall see what will become of his dreams."

²¹ However, when Reuben heard this, he tried to save him from their hands. He said, "Let us not take his life!"

²² Reuben also told them: "Do not shed blood! Throw him into this cistern in the wilderness but do not lay a hand on him!"

Reuben said this to rescue him from their hands, to take him back to his father.

²³ When Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped off Joseph's tunic, the tunic reaching to the ankles, which he was wearing. ²⁴ Then they took him and threw him into the cistern. It was an empty cistern, without water in it. ²⁵ When they sat down to eat a meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were carrying resinous gum, balm and myrrh. They were on their way to take them down to Egypt. ²⁶ Judah asked his brothers: "What shall we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his death? ²⁷ Come! Let us sell him to the Ishmaelites! Let us not lay our hands on him! For he is our brother, our own flesh."

His brothers agreed. ²⁸ When the Midianite traders were going past, the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the cistern. They sold Joseph for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took Joseph to Egypt.

²⁹ When Reuben returned to the cistern and saw that Joseph was not in the cistern, he tore his clothes. ³⁰ He went back to his brothers and said, "The boy is not there! Where do I myself go from here?"

³¹ Then they took Joseph's tunic, slaughtered a male goat and dipped the tunic in the blood. ³² Then they sent the tunic, which reached to the ankles, back to their father. They said, "We have found this. Find out whether that is your son's tunic or not!"

³³ Jacob recognised it and said: "It is my son's tunic! A wild animal has devoured him. Joseph has certainly been torn in pieces."

³⁴ Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth around his waist and mourned for his son for a long time. ³⁵ All his other sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. He said, "No! I shall still be mourning when I go down to my son in the grave."

This is how his father wept for him.

³⁶ In Egypt the Midianites sold Joseph to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and a captain of the body-guards.

P This is the Word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

While they were reclining at the table and eating, Jesus said, “Truly, I tell you, one of you, **one who is eating with Me**, will betray Me!”

They began to be sad, and to ask Him one after another, “I am not the one, am I?”

Jesus answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the bowl with Me is the one who will betray Me. The Son of Man is going as the Scriptures have said about Him, but how terrible for that man through whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would be better for that man if he had not been born.”¹

The disciples began to look at one another, at a loss to know whom Jesus meant.

One of His disciples, the one whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table close to Him. Therefore Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus which one He meant. Leaning back so that he was against Jesus’ chest, he asked Him, “Lord, who is it?”

Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I shall give the piece of bread when I have dipped it.”

Then He dipped the piece of bread and gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. After Judas had taken the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, “Do quickly what you are doing!”

None of those who were reclining at the table knew why Jesus had said this to him. For, since Judas had the moneybag, some thought that Jesus was telling him, “Buy the things that we need for the feast!” or that he should give something to the poor. After Judas had taken the piece of bread, he immediately went outside. It was night.

When Judas had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in Him. If God has been glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself; and He will glorify Him immediately.”²

While they were eating, on the night when He was betrayed, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples. He said, “Take, eat, this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.” Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, “Drink from it all of you, for this is My blood of the new testament, which is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”³

“Little children, I shall be with you a little longer yet. You will look for Me, but, as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. I am giving you a new Commandment, that you love one another. You also love one another, as I have loved you! By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Simon Peter asked Him, “Lord, where are You going?”

Jesus answered him, “You cannot follow Me now where I am going, but you will follow later.”

Peter asked Him, “Lord, why can I not follow You now? I shall lay down my life for You.”

Then the Lord said, “Simon, Simon, look! Satan has asked for you people, to sift you like wheat. However, I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. When you have turned back, strengthen your brothers!”

¹ Matthew 26:21-25; Mark 14:18-21

² John 13:22-32

³ Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20

However, Peter told Him, “Lord, I am ready to go with You both to prison and to death.” Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day before you deny three times that you know Me.”

Peter told Him, “Even if I have to die with You, I shall certainly not deny You.” All the other disciples said something similar.⁴

Then Jesus asked them, “When I sent you out without a purse, or a bag, or sandals, you did not lack anything, did you?” They answered, “Nothing!”

He told them, “However, now the person who has a purse should take it, and also a bag! The person who does not have a sword should sell his garment and buy one! For I tell you that this passage of Scripture must be fulfilled in Me, ‘**He was numbered with transgressors.**’ Yes, what has been written about Me is being fulfilled.”

The disciples said, “Lord, look! Here are two swords.” He told them, “That is enough.”⁵

Then Jesus told them, “All of you will take offence at Me this night. For Scripture has said, ‘I shall **strike down the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.**’ However, after I have been raised, I shall go ahead of you to Galilee.”⁶

After they sang a hymn, Jesus went out with His disciples across the Kidron Valley, to the Mount of Olives, where there was a garden called Gethsemane. He and His disciples went into it. Now Judas, who was betraying Him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with His disciples.⁷

When He reached the place, He said to His disciples, “Sit down here, while I go over there and pray! Pray that you may not enter into temptation!”

He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and began to be deeply distressed and troubled. Then He told them, “**My soul is very sorrowful**, to the point of death. Stay here and be watchful with Me!” He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, “Abba! Father! All things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me! Nevertheless, not what I want, but what You want!”

When He came back to the disciples, He found them sleeping. He asked Peter, “So could you men not be watchful with Me for one hour? Be watchful and pray, that you may not enter into temptation! The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass by unless I drink it, let Your will be done.” Again He returned and found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what they should answer Him. He left them again, went away, and prayed a third time. He said the same words as before.

An angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him. As He was in agony, He prayed more fervently. His sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground. Then He returned to His disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise. Let us go. Look, My betrayer is near!”⁸ M: Here ends the reading. *The congregation stands.*

⁴ Matthew 26:33-35; Luke 22:31-34; John 13:33-38

⁵ Luke 22:35-38

⁶ Matthew 26:31-32

⁷ John 18:1; Matthew 26:30

⁸ Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46