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Bulletin for the 5th mid-week Lenten Service

HYMNS: 64 171 357 48 v.3

PSALM: I have been waiting eagerly for the LORD, and He has bent down to me and heard my cry for help. He has lifted me out of a desolate pit, out of the muddy clay. He has set my feet on a rock and made my steps secure. He has put a **new song** in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many people will see it, be afraid and trust in the LORD.

Blessed is the person who has placed his trust in the LORD, and who has not turned to arrogant people or to those who turn aside to falsehood!

O LORD, my God, You have done many things, Your wonderful works and Your plans for us. No one can be compared to You. If I were to report and speak about them, they would be too many to recount.

You have not taken pleasure in sacrifice and offering. You have opened ears for Me. **You have not** asked for a **burnt offering or a sin-offering.**

Then I said: "Look! I have come. It has been written about Me in the scroll of the Book.

I delight to do **Your will, O My God,** and Your Teaching is inside My inner being."

I have announced the good news of righteousness in the great assembly. Look! I shall not keep my lips closed, O LORD. You Yourself know it.

I have not concealed Your righteousness inside my heart. I have spoken about Your faithfulness and Your salvation. I have not hidden Your mercy and Your truth from the great assembly.

You Yourself, O LORD, will not withhold Your compassion from me. Your mercy and Your truth will continually protect me.

For evils without number have surrounded me. My iniquities have overtaken me, so that I cannot see. They outnumber the hairs on my head, and my heart has failed me.

Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me! O LORD, come quickly to help me!

Let those who are trying to snatch away my life be disgraced and utterly confounded! Let those who desire to harm me be driven back and be humiliated!

Let those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!" be horrified because of their shame!

Let all who are intent on You rejoice and be glad in You! Let those who love Your salvation constantly say, "May the LORD be magnified!"

However, I am afflicted and needy. May the LORD plan for me! You are my Help and my Deliverer. O my God, do not delay!

Psalm 40

COLLECT: Lord God, through Your Son you have made the heavens and the earth. Through Him You continue to rule over all things. Make us, Your chosen people, witnesses of Your power and heralds of Your glory to the praise of Your unfailing love; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERMON: Genesis 42:6-24 Chased by a Dirty Conscience

1st Reading: Genesis 42:6-24

Joseph, as the ruler of the country, was selling grain to all the people of the country. So, when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces on the ground. ⁷ When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognised them. However, he kept his identity from them and spoke harshly to them. He asked them, "From where have you come?" They answered, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food."

⁸ Although Joseph recognised his brothers, they did not recognise him. ⁹ Joseph remembered the dreams that he had had about them. He told them: "You are spies. You have come to find out where the country is undefended."

¹⁰ They answered him: "No, my master! Your servants have come to buy grain for food. ¹¹ We are all the sons of one man. We are honest men. Your servants have never been spies."

¹² However, he told them, "No! You have come to find out where the country is undefended."

¹³ They answered him: "Your servants are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan. In fact, the

youngest is now with our father and one is no more.”

¹⁴ However, Joseph told them: “It is just as I have told you. You are spies. ¹⁵ This is how you will be tested: As surely as Pharaoh lives, you will not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here. ¹⁶ Send one of you to fetch your brother. The rest of you shall be kept in prison, that what you are saying may be tested, to see whether you are telling the truth! If not, as surely as Pharaoh lives, you are spies.”

¹⁷ So, he put them in prison for three days. ¹⁸ On the third day Joseph told them: “Do this and live! I too fear God. ¹⁹ If you are honest men, let one of your brothers remain confined where you are in custody! The rest of you, go and take grain for your hungry families! ²⁰ You shall also fetch me your youngest brother, that what you are saying may be confirmed! Then you will not die.”

So, that is what they did. ²¹ Then they told one another: “Surely we are bearing the consequences of our guilt concerning our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he was pleading with us for pity, and we would not listen. This is why this distress has come on us.”

²² Reuben answered them: “Did I not tell you, ‘Do not sin against the boy!’? However, you would not listen. Yes, you see, we are being called to account for his blood.”

²³ However, they were not aware that Joseph understood them. For he had been speaking to them through an interpreter. ²⁴ Joseph turned away from them and wept. When he came back, he spoke to them. Then he took Simeon from them and had him arrested while they were watching.

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

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Drawn from the Four Gospels, Part 5

Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him.¹ The soldiers took Him away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium), and called together the whole company of soldiers. They took His clothes off and put a scarlet robe on Him. They twisted together a crown of thorns, placed it on His head, and put a stick in His right hand, knelt in front of Him, and made fun of Him, saying: “Welcome, King of the Jews!” They spat on Him, took the stick, and began to beat Him on the head.² Pilate went outside again and told them, “Look! I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no cause for complaint in Him.”

Jesus came outside, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate told them, “Look at the Man!”

Therefore when the chief priests and the attendants saw Him, they shouted, “Crucify, crucify!”

Pilate told them, “Take Him yourselves and crucify Him! For I do not find any basis for a charge against Him.”

The Jews answered him, “We have a Law, and according to the Law He ought to die, because He has made Himself the Son of God.”

When Pilate heard them say that, he was more afraid. He went into the governor’s quarters again and asked Jesus, “From where are You?”

However, Jesus did not give him an answer. Therefore Pilate asked Him, “Are You refusing to speak to me? Do You not realise that I have authority to free You and authority to crucify You?”

Jesus answered him, “You would not have any authority at all over Me if it had not been given to you from above. That is why the man who has handed Me over to you has the greater sin.” From then on Pilate kept trying to release Jesus, but the Jews shouted out, “If you let this Man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king is speaking against Caesar.”

Therefore, when Pilate heard these words, he took Jesus outside, and sat down in the judge’s seat at a place called “the Stone Pavement,” or “Gabbatha” in Aramaic. It was the day of the Preparation of the Passover, and about six in the morning. Pilate told the Jews, “Look at your King!”

Therefore they shouted, “Away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him!”

Pilate asked them, “Am I to crucify your King?”

The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”³

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd. He said, “I am innocent of this Man’s blood. You will see to it yourselves.”

¹ John 19:1

² Matthew 27:28-30; Mark 15:16-19; John 19:2-3

³ John 19:4-15

All the people answered, “Let His blood be on us and on our children!”⁴

Then Pilate decided that what they demanded should be done. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, but he had Jesus scourged, and handed Him over to be crucified.⁵ After the soldiers had mocked Him, they took off the purple robe and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led Him out to crucify Him.⁶ Jesus went out, carrying His own cross, to the place that was called “the Place of the Skull,” which is called “Golgotha” in Aramaic.⁷

A certain man, Simon from Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was going past as he was coming in from the country, and they forced him to carry Jesus’ cross.⁸

A large crowd of the people followed Him. The women in the crowd were mourning and weeping for Him. Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for Me! Rather, weep for yourselves and for your children! For indeed the days are coming when people will say, ‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that have not borne children, and the breasts that have not suckled!’ Then people will begin to say to the mountains: ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills: ‘Cover us!’ For, if they do these things to the green tree, what will be done to the dry one?” Two other men, who were criminals, were also led out to be executed with Him.⁹

When they had come to a place called “Golgotha,” which means “The Place of a Skull,” they offered Him a drink of wine mixed with gall, but, when He had tasted it, He refused to drink it.¹⁰

It was the third hour when they crucified Him.¹¹ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them! For they do not know what they are doing.”¹² They crucified Him with two other men, one on each side, with Jesus in the middle.¹³ (*The Scripture was then fulfilled which says,*) * “He was numbered with transgressors.”¹⁴

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His outer garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier, and also the undergarment. The undergarment was without a seam, woven from the top in one piece. Therefore they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but let us throw dice for it, to decide who will get it!”

This happened in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled that says: “They divided My outer garments among them, and they cast lots for My clothing.”

So that is what the soldiers did.¹⁵

Pilate also wrote a notice and put it on the cross. It read: “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

Therefore many Jews read this notice, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. The notice had been written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek.

Therefore the high priests of the Jews told Pilate, “Do not write: ‘The King of the Jews,’ but: ‘He said, “I am the King of the Jews”!’”

Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”¹⁶

M: Here ends the reading.

The congregation stands.

⁴ Matthew 27:24-25

⁵ Matthew 27:26; Mark 15:15; Luke 23:24-25

⁶ Matthew 27:31; Mark 15:20

⁷ Matthew 27:31; Mark 15:20; Luke 23:26; John 19:17

⁸ Mark 15:21

⁹ Luke 23:27-32

¹⁰ Matthew 27:33-34; Mark 15:23

¹¹ Mark 15:25

¹² Luke 23:34

¹³ Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27; John:19:18

¹⁴ *Not actual word of Scripture. Luke 22:37 reads, “*For I tell you that this passage of Scripture must be fulfilled in Me, ‘He was numbered with transgressors.’*”

¹⁵ Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:23-24

¹⁶ Matthew 27:37; Mark 15:26; Luke 23:38; John 19:19-22