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Bulletin for the 6th mid-week Lenten Service

HYMNS: 49 68 783 48 v.3

PSALM: Save me, O God! For the water has come up to My neck.

I have sunk in deep mud, where there is no footing. I have come into deep waters, and a flood has swept over Me.

I have become weary from My crying out. My throat has become hoarse. My eyes have become dim from waiting for My God.

Those who hate Me without cause outnumber the hairs on My head. My deceitful enemies, who would destroy me, are powerful. Although I have not stolen, I must repay.

O God, You Yourself know My foolishness, and My guilty acts have not been hidden from You.

Let those who hope in You not be put to shame because of Me, O Lord, GOD of hosts!

Let those who seek You not be disgraced because of Me, O God of Israel!

For it is because of You that I have endured abuse. Disgrace has covered My face.

I have become alienated from My brothers and a foreigner to My mother's children.

For jealous love for Your house has consumed Me, and the taunts of those who taunt You have fallen on Me.

When I wept and My soul was fasting, I was insulted for it.

When I made sackcloth My garment, I became a byword for them.

Those who sit at the gate are talking about Me, and those who drink liquor make mocking songs about Me.

As for Me, My prayer comes to You, O LORD, at an acceptable time, O God. In Your great mercy, answer Me, in the truth of Your salvation!

Rescue Me from the wet clay! Let Me not sink into it! Let Me be rescued from those who hate Me and from the deep waters!

Let floodwaters not sweep over Me! Let the deep not swallow Me up, and let the pit not close its mouth over Me!

Answer Me, O LORD! For Your mercy is good. According to Your great compassion, turn to Me!

Do not hide Your face from Your Servant! For I am in trouble. Answer Me quickly!

Come close to My soul! Redeem it! Ransom Me because of My enemies!

Psalm 69:1-18

COLLECT: O LORD, spare us from the folly of wickedness and the pursuit of evil. Make us rejoice in Your saving acts that we who have been redeemed by Your Son may abound in works of faith, hope, and love: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

SERMON: Genesis 45:1-15 God *does* have a plan

1st Reading: Genesis 45:1-15

Then Joseph could no longer hold back his emotions before all who were standing near him and called out, "Make everyone leave my presence!"

There was no one else standing with Joseph when he told his brothers who he was. ² He wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him and the household of Pharaoh heard him. ³ Then Joseph told his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?"

However, his brothers could not answer him because they were terrified at his presence. ⁴ Joseph told his brothers, "Please come closer to me!"

Therefore, they went closer. He said: "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ Now, however, do not be sad or angry with yourselves for selling me here! For it was to save lives that God has sent me ahead of you. ⁶ For two years now there has been a famine in the land, and there are five more years when there will be no ploughing or harvesting. ⁷ God has sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on the earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸ So now, it has not been you who have sent me here, but God. He has also made me a father to Pharaoh, master over his entire household and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Go up to my father quickly and tell him, 'This is what your son Joseph has said: "God has made me master of all Egypt. Come down to me immediately! ¹⁰ You shall live in the region of Goshen, and you yourself, your children and your grandchildren will be near me with your flocks, your herds and everything else that you have! ¹¹ I shall provide for you there. For there will be five more years of famine. Otherwise you, your family and all who belong to you will lose your property.'" ¹² Look! Your own eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin can see that it is my mouth that is speaking to you. ¹³ Tell my father about all the honour given to me in Egypt and about everything that you have seen and bring my father down here quickly!"

¹⁴ Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck.

¹⁵ Joseph kissed all his brothers and wept over them. After that, his brothers talked with him.

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 6

The people stood there watching. Those who were going past kept ridiculing Him, shaking their heads, and saying, "Ha! You who are tearing down the temple and building it in three days, come down from the cross, and save Yourself!"

In the same way the chief priests and the scribes kept mocking Him among themselves, saying, "He saved others. He cannot save Himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, in order that we may see and believe!" "He trusts in God. Let God rescue Him

now if He wants Him! For He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”¹

The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him wine-vinegar. They said, “If you are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!”² In the same way even the robbers who had been crucified with Him kept insulting Him.³ One of the criminals who hung there was blaspheming Him: “Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!”

However, the other criminal rebuked him. He said, “Do you not even fear God? For you are under the same condemnation. We are also being punished justly. For we are getting what we deserve for what we have done. However, this Man has done nothing wrong.”

Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!”

Jesus told him, “Truly, I tell you, today you will be with Me in paradise.”⁴

Jesus’ mother, His mother’s sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene were standing near the cross of Jesus. Therefore, when Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, there is your son.” Then He said to the disciple, “There is your mother.”

From that time on, this disciple took her into his own home.⁵

At noon darkness came over the whole land and lasted until three in the afternoon. About three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “This man is calling Elijah.”⁶

After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” A jar full of sour wine had been placed there.⁷ Immediately one of them ran, took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to Him to drink. The others said, “Let Him alone! Let us see if Elijah is coming to save Him!”⁸

When Jesus had taken the sour wine, He said, “It is finished.”⁹ Then Jesus cried out aloud, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.” After He had said this, He breathed His last.¹⁰

Just then the curtain in the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. The earth shook and the rocks were split. The tombs were opened and many bodies of the saints who had died were raised. They came out of the tombs, after Jesus had risen, went into the Holy City, and appeared to many people.

When the captain and those who were watching Jesus with him saw the earthquake and the other things that happened, they were terrified. They said, “Truly, this Man was the Son of God!”¹¹

When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what had happened, they beat their breasts and went away. However, all those who knew Him, including the women who had

¹ Matthew 27:39-43; Mark 15:29-32; Luke 23:35

² Luke 23:36-37

³ Matthew 27:44; Mark 15:32

⁴ Luke 23:39-43

⁵ John 19:25-27

⁶ Matthew 27:45-47; Mark 15:33-35; Luke 23:44

⁷ John 19:28-29;

⁸ Matthew 27:48-49; Mark 15:36

⁹ John 19:30

¹⁰ Matthew 27:50; Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46

¹¹ Matthew 27:51-54; Mark 15:38-39; Luke 23:47

followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.¹² Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.¹³ Since it was the Day of Preparation, to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath, and because that Sabbath day was an important one, the Jews asked Pilate that the men's legs should be broken, and the bodies taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and those of the other man who had been crucified with Jesus. However, when they came to Jesus and saw that He was dead already, they did not break His legs; but one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. He who has seen it has been testifying about it. His testimony is true, and he knows he is telling the truth, in order that you also may believe. For these things happened in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "None of His bones shall be broken!" Again another Scripture-passage says: "They will look at the One whom they have pierced."¹⁴

When evening had already come, Joseph from Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who himself also was waiting for the kingdom of God, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action, and who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he was afraid of the Jews, dared to go in to Pilate and ask for the body of Jesus.¹⁵

Pilate wondered whether Jesus had already died. So he summoned the centurion, and asked him if Jesus was already dead. When he had found from the centurion that this was so, Pilate granted the body to Joseph. Joseph bought linen and took Him down.¹⁶

Nicodemus also came, the man who had come to Jesus by night at the beginning. He brought a mixture of about thirty kilograms of myrrh and aloes. Therefore they took Jesus' body and wrapped it in strips of linen with the spices according to the Jewish burial-custom. There was a garden at the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb, in which no one had yet been laid. Joseph laid the body in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. After he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, he went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.¹⁷ They observed the tomb and how His body was laid. When they went back they prepared spices and perfumes. Then they rested on the Sabbath according to the Commandment.¹⁸

The next day, the one after the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees met with Pilate. They said, "Sir, we remember how that deceiver said while He was still alive, 'After three days I shall rise.' Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, to keep His disciples from coming and stealing Him, and telling the people, 'He has been raised from the dead'! Then the latter deception will be worse than the former."

Pilate told them, "You have a guard. Go and make it as secure as you know how!"

So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.¹⁹

P: Here ends the reading.

The congregation stands.

¹² Luke 23:48-49

¹³ Matthew 27:56; Mark 15:40-41

¹⁴ John 19:31-37

¹⁵ Matthew 27:57; Mark 15:42-43; Luke 23:50-51; John 19:38

¹⁶ Matthew 27:59; Mark 15:44-46a; Luke 23:53

¹⁷ Matthew 27:60-61; Mark 15:46-47; Luke 23:53; John 19:39-41

¹⁸ Luke 23:55b-56

¹⁹ Matthew 27:62-66