



***Heroes of  
the Faith:  
Joseph—  
Faith Filled  
with  
Forgiveness***

**Midweek  
Lenten  
Services  
Wed at 7pm**

+ Midweek Lent 3 +  
Wednesday, March 15, 2023



**Messiah Lutheran  
Church**

1531 Townline Ave. Beloit, WI  
(608) 365-3794

*Welcome! We are glad you are worshipping the Lord with us tonight!*

## Midweek Lenten Meditative Worship

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

# Heroes of the Faith – the Sequel - Joseph

**FROM THE LAY ELDER-DEACONS:** Welcome to Messiah. We want to make sure your worship experience goes well. So just as a reminder, ***please have cellphones ringers off during worship. Please, no gaming, texting, or social media. If you need to use your phone or have a conversation with someone, please excuse yourself from the sanctuary. Thank you.***

**FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE:** Live audio of the worship service is available in our Crying Room. It is located just off the Narthex in the back of the sanctuary. The room has a bathroom. This room is a safe place for anxious children (or adults) to go and still be a part of the worship service.

**Prayer before worship:** (Please pray silently): *O Heavenly Father, as we gather in Your house to receive the gift of forgiveness through Your Word, guard us from vain and distracting thoughts. Grant us pause from our busy lives. Open our hearts so that we are receptive to the proclamation of life with Your Son, and do not close our ears to the offering of salvation. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen. (Adapted from **Right Worship of God** prayer in Portals of Prayer, April through June, 2011)*

### PRELUDE

**WORSHIP THEME:** Lent is a time of internal reflection on our lives: our thoughts, words, and deeds. You look inwardly to see the real you, and to have the Word of God help you focus on better ways to live more obedient lives for Christ's glory.

This Midweek Lenten season we continue featuring **Heroes of the Faith** as described in Hebrews 11. Tonight, we look at Joseph, whose faith was filled with forgiveness, even after he was hurt over and over by others. See how the Lord blesses people who are willing to forgive. How is the Lord filling your life with forgiveness as you deal with the hurts its hurts. Thank you to Jim Waters for playing the role of Joseph.

**OFFERING:** *Please put your offering in the plates at the entrance. Thank you for your support.*

## WELCOME – WORSHIP THEME – GREET ONE ANOTHER IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

*(Lighting of the candles...to symbolize the special presence of Christ when we invoke the Name of God in which we were baptized.) Adapted from Order of Vespers from the Lutheran Service Book.*

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: O Lord, open my lips.

**C: And my mouth will declare Your praise.**

P: Make haste, O God to deliver me.

**C: Make haste to help me, O Lord. 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.**

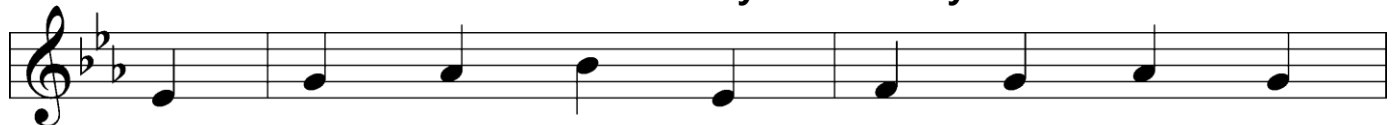
P: World without end.

**C: Amen.**

P: Praise to You, O Christ.

**C: Lamb of our salvation.**

## HYMN OF THE NIGHT..... "God Moves in a Mysterious Way" .....LSB 765



1 God moves in a mys - te - rious way His  
2 Judge not the Lord by fee - ble sense, But  
3 His pur - pos - es will rip - en fast, Un -  
4 Blind un - be - lief is sure to err And



won - ders to per - form; He plants His foot - steps  
trust Him for His grace; Be - hind a frown - ing  
fold - ing ev - 'ry hour; The bud may have a  
scan His work in vain; God is His own in -



in the sea And rides up - on the storm.  
prov - i - dence Faith sees a smil - ing face.  
bit - ter taste, But sweet will be the flow'r.  
ter - pret - er, And He will make it plain.

5 You fearful saints, fresh courage take;  
The clouds you so much dread  
Are big with mercy and will break  
In blessings on your head.

*(Please be seated)*

### **SCRIPTURE READING #1: Genesis 37:1-4 ESV**

<sup>1</sup> Jacob lived in the land of his father's sojournings, in the land of Canaan. <sup>2</sup> These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. <sup>3</sup> Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. <sup>4</sup> But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.

### **SCRIPTURE READING #2: Genesis 37:18-28 ESV**

<sup>18</sup> They (Joseph's brothers) saw him (Joseph) from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. <sup>19</sup> They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. <sup>20</sup> Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams." <sup>21</sup> But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." <sup>22</sup> And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand to restore him to his father. <sup>23</sup> So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore. <sup>24</sup> And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

<sup>25</sup> Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. <sup>26</sup> Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? <sup>27</sup> Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers listened to him. <sup>28</sup> Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.

### **SCRIPTURE READING #3: Genesis 29:1-20 ESV**

<sup>1</sup> Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. <sup>2</sup> The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. <sup>3</sup> His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. <sup>4</sup> So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. <sup>5</sup> From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field. <sup>6</sup> So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. <sup>7</sup> And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." <sup>8</sup> But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. <sup>9</sup> He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" <sup>10</sup> And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.

<sup>11</sup> But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, <sup>12</sup> she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house. <sup>13</sup> And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house, <sup>14</sup> she called to the men of her household and said to them, "See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. <sup>15</sup> And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house." <sup>16</sup> Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home, <sup>17</sup> and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me. <sup>18</sup> But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house."

<sup>19</sup> As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, "This is the way your servant treated me," his anger was kindled. <sup>20</sup> And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison.

## **CHOIR ANTHEM: "How Beautiful" - Senior Choir**

### **SCRIPTURE READING #4: Genesis 50: 15-26 ESV**

*God had given Joseph the ability to interpret dreams, including Pharaoh's. With one of his dream Joseph predicted a famine which allowed the Egyptians time in which to prepare. As a result, Joseph rose to power to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> in command in the empire in charge of prepping for the drought. Years later his brothers came from Canaan seeking food. They didn't recognize Joseph, but he does them. Their father reunites with Joseph. This narrative happens after Jacob dies.*

<sup>15</sup> When 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." <sup>16</sup> So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: <sup>17</sup> '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. <sup>18</sup> His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> As 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. <sup>21</sup> So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

<sup>22</sup> So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father's house. Joseph lived 110 years. <sup>23</sup> And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation. The children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were counted as Joseph's own. <sup>24</sup> And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." <sup>25</sup> Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." <sup>26</sup> So Joseph died, being 110 years old. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

### **SCRIPTURE READING #3: Hebrews 11:22 ESV**

<sup>22</sup> By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON MEDITATION: "Faith Filled with Forgiveness"**

### **RESPONSORY FOR LENT:**

P: Deliver me, O Lord, my God for You are the God of my salvation.

**C: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

P: In You O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

**C: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

P: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**C: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

### **PRAYERS FROM THE PEW**

P: Let my prayer rise before You as incense.

**C: And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

**KYRIE** (as sung to the tune in The Lutheran Hymnal, page 7)

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom as you have taught us to pray:

**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.**

**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.**

### **COLLECT FOR PEACE**

P: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **BENEDICTION**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN..... "I Leave All Things to God's Direction" ....LSB 719**



1 I leave all things to God's di - rec - tion; He loves me  
 2 God knows what must be done to save me; His love for  
 3 My God de - sires the soul's sal - va - tion; My soul He,  
 4 My God has all things in His keep - ing; He is the



both in joy and woe. His will is good, sure His af -  
 me will nev - er cease. Up - on His hands He did en -  
 too, de - sires to save. There - fore with Chris - tian res - ig -  
 ev - er faith - ful friend. He gives me laugh - ter af - ter



fec - tion; His ten - der love is true, I know. My for - tress  
 grave me With pur - est gold of lov - ing grace. His will su -  
 na - tion All earth - ly trou - bles I will brave. His will be  
 weep - ing, And all His ways in bless - ings end. His love en -



and my rock is He: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.  
 preme must ev - er be: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.  
 done e - ter - nal - ly: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.  
 dures e - ter - nal - ly: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.

P: Go in peace to serve the Lord, imitating the Heroes of the Faith.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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ESV: English Standard Version

LSB: Lutheran Service Book

Thank you to Carol Wilkins, Kayla Quade, Vickie Danbury, Cheryl Sennett, and Bobbi Jo Wilkins for serving tonight's meal. Please join us next Wednesday for Supper at 5:45-6:30pm and Heroes of the Faith at 7pm. Next week we look at **Moses: Faith that Liberates and Leads.**