

AS WE GATHER

It is difficult to stay silent when injustice is taking place around us. It is even more difficult to stay silent when injustice is being done to us. As we continue in our Lenten quest to “Silence Screwtape,” we witness injustice done to Joseph himself due to the jealousy and envy of his own brothers. Sold into slavery, sent away, staged death—there is little he could have said to change the will of his brothers. What does the Lord have to say, though? Is the problem really within our own hearts? We continue to learn more through this week’s Word of God, how we can battle more temptations of Satan, and we continue to learn of the One who continues His resounding response of redemption.

Gathering Songs Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

He had to walk It by Himself.

Oh...nobody else could walk it for him,

He had to walk it by Himself.

I must walk this lonesome valley,

I have to walk it by myself.

Oh...nobody else can walk it for me

I have to walk it by myself.

I must go and stand my trial.

I have to stand it by myself

Oh...nobody else can stand it for me

I have to stand it by myself.

Jesus walked this lonesome valley.

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Welcome & Invocation

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Opening Song Lord I Lift Your Name on High

¹ Lord, I lift Your name on high, Lord, I love to sing Your praises
I’m so glad You’re in my life, I’m so glad You came to save us.

Chorus: You came from heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky,
Lord, I lift Your name on high.

² Lord, we come before Your throne, Bowed in humble adoration.
We’re so glad to be Your own, So we sing in exaltation. **Chorus**

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Confession and Forgiveness *Based on Psalm 51*

Pastor: We join in King David’s prayer of confession in Psalm 51:
Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unwavering love;

People: according to Your abundant mercy blot out my offenses.

Pastor: Wash me thoroughly from my immoral behavior,

People: and cleanse me from my sin!

Pastor: For I know the evil within me,
People: and my sin is ever before me.
Pastor: Against You have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,
People: may You be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.
Pastor: Purge me, and I shall be clean;
People: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Pastor: Let me hear joy and gladness;
People: let the bones that You have broken rejoice.
Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
People: and renew a right spirit within me.
Pastor: Cast me not away from Your presence,
People: and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Pastor: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
People: and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my friends and family, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; and I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.
Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Almighty God, give us Your grace and Spirit that we may be faithful before temptation, that we may be able to stand strong in the face of evil, and against the schemes of the devil. Deliver us from our slavery to sin through the forgiveness You offer, so that we can serve You faithfully all our life, this we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 37: 2b-11, 18-36

(Joseph and His Envious Brothers)

²These 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. ³Now 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. ⁴But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.

⁵Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. ⁶He said to them, "Hear this dream that I have dreamed: ⁷Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf."

⁸His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

⁹Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." ¹⁰But when he told it to his

father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?" ¹¹And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

¹⁸They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him.

¹⁹They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰Come 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." ²¹But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." ²²And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; cast 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. ²³So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore. ²⁴And they took him and cast him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

²⁵Then 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. ²⁶Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷Come, 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. ²⁸Then 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.

²⁹When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes ³⁰and returned to his brothers and said, "The boy is gone, and I, where shall I go?" ³¹Then they took Joseph's robe and slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. ³²And they sent the robe of many colors and brought it to their father and said, "This we have found; please identify whether it is your son's robe or not." ³³And he identified it and said, "It is my son's robe. A fierce animal has devoured him. Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces." ³⁴Then Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days. ³⁵All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, "No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning." Thus his father wept for him. ³⁶Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Galatians 5:16–26

(Keep in Step with the Spirit)

¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Mark 7: 14-15, 20-23

(Evil in the Heart of Man)

¹⁴And he called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him."

²⁰And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²²coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Song of the Day A Mighty Fortress Is Our God LSB 657



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land All threat - ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No thanks to foes, who



to - rious; He breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And wins sal -
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom God Him -
your us, We trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They can - not
fear it; For God Him - self fights by our side With weap - ons



va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe Has sworn to
self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be? The Lord of
o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage; In bat - tle
of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house, Goods, hon - or,



work us woe. With craft and dread - ful might He
hosts is He, Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord, God's
we'll en - gage. His might is doomed to fail; God's
child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way, They



arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
can - not win the day. The King - dom's ours for - ev - er!

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An Excerpt from C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*

Sermon

Silencing Screwtape: *Envy or Gratitude*

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Creed - NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one

substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Litany of Repentance

Pastor: O Lord, You call sinners to repentance,

People: call us still that we may yet answer.

Pastor: Lord, so many of us have hardened our hearts,

People: soften the hearts of all who are not sorry for their sin.

Pastor: You who met our doubts with mercy,

People: deal gently with those who can scarcely believe.

Pastor: You who have been tempted by Satan himself,

People: give us courage in the face of temptation, strength in time of rest, and hope in despair.

Pastor: You who called out many demons,

People: set free today all who are victims of their lies and distractions.

Pastor: You who healed the sick,

People: grant us healing according to Your will, and patience to endure our afflictions.

Pastor: You who made the deaf to hear and the mute to speak,

People: open deaf ears to the voice of Your Word and loosen our tongues to confess.

Pastor: You who prayed for those who crucified You,

People: look in compassion upon those who persecute Your Church.

Pastor: You who came to save Your people from their sins,

People: save us, O Lord, who put our trust in You.

Pastor: You who raised the dead to life,

People: enliven our souls by Your Holy Spirit to lives of faith.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Save us, O Lord, for the sake of Your name.

Pastor: O Lord, Hear us now on behalf of those in our congregation and all who stand in need:

Local concerns are added by congregational elder here.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Sharing God's Peace

Offering Bless Thou Our Gifts

Bless thou the gifts our hands have brought

Bless thou the work our hearts have planned

Lord, ours the faith, the will, the thought

The rest, O God, is in thy hand. Amen.

Presentation of Gifts

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good things, and Your Word makes clear that every good and perfect gift comes from You. We ask that You accept these gifts back unto Yourself and use them to Your glory. [Psalm 145:15, James 1:17]

People: **Amen.**

Holy Communion

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [2 Timothy 4:22]

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [Colossians 3:1]

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [Psalm 136]

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

The Words of Our Lord [Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25]

Proclamation of Christ

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. [1 Cor.11:26]

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** [Revelation 22:20]

Lord's Prayer [Matthew 6:9–13]

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: **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.**

Distribution

Above All

Just As I am LSB 570



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;

Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

- 6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68 Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Benediction [Numbers 6:24-26]

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

People: Amen.

Sending Song O Jesus, Blessed Lord, To Thee LSB 632

1 O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to Thee My heart - felt
2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is
thanks for - ev - er be, Who hast so lov - ing -
come to me this day! My Sav - ior dwells with -
ly be - stowed On me Thy bod - y and Thy blood.
in my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Arthur J. Mason, 1851–1928 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois Text and tune: Public domain