

NARRATIVE LECTIONARY—YEAR 1—WEEK 3



“HOPE WHEN IN THE CARCERAL SYSTEM”

**JOSEPH’S HOPE
GENESIS 39**

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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ALTAR FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:
TO THE GLORY OF GOD



THE WORD OF GOD SERVICE

This service celebrates the Word of God, using words from Paul's letters to Timothy.

Opening Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LSB 790



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly
fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall
dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has
dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -
prais - es be - fore Him! Let the A - men Sound from His



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?
failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.
might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.
peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him!

Invocation and Greeting

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

C: Amen.

P: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 1 Tim. 1:2b

C: And also with you.

The Word of God

P: In worship, we become acquainted with the sacred writings,

C: **which are able to make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.**

P: All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

C: **so that we may be equipped for every good work. Amen.**

2 Tim. 3:15-16

Song of Praise

Come, Now Is The Time To Worship

CHORUS



Come, now is the time _____ to wor - ship. ____



Come, now is the time _____ to give _____ your _____ heart. ____



Come, just as you are _____ to wor - ship. ____



Come, just as you are _____ be - fore _____ your _____ God. ____

End here on final time

VERSE



Come. 1. One day ev - 'ry tongue will con - fess _____ You are God. ____
2. Will - ling - ly we serve and sur - ren - der our lives. ____



One day ev - 'ry knee _____ will bow. ____ Still, the great - est treas - ure re - mains ____
Will - ing - ly our knees _____ will bow. ____ With all our heart, _____ soul, _____ mind, ____



_____ for _____ those _____ who glad - ly _____ praise _____ You now. ____
_____ and _____ strength _____ we glad - ly _____ serve _____ You now. ____

Confession of Sin

P: The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance:

C: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

1 Tim. 1:15

P: For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men:

C: Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all.

1 Tim. 2:5-6

Silence for meditation on our need for Christ's forgiveness.

Absolution (Forgiveness)

1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Tim. 1:9-10; 2 Tim. 2:21

P: God our Savior desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. He saved you and called you to a holy calling, not because of your works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave you in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. You have been cleansed of your sin, set apart as holy, useful to our Lord, and ready for every good work in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: If we have died with him,

C: we will also live with him;

P: if we endure,

C: we will also reign with him;

P: if we deny him,

C: he also will deny us;

P: if we are faithless,

C: he remains faithful—

P: for he cannot deny himself.

2 Tim. 2:13-14

Acknowledgments

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Today's Collect adapted from Aaron Ochert. <https://talesoffaith.substack.com>

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Response *The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns* LSB 532 sts. 3-6

These hymn verses are based on the above Scripture, 2 Timothy 2:13-14.



3 The Joy of all who dwell a - bove, The Joy of all be - low
4 To them the cross, with all its shame, With all its grace, is giv'n;
5 They suf - fer with their Lord be - low, They reign with Him a - bove,
6 The cross He bore is life and health, Though shame and death to Him:



To whom He man - i - fests His love And grants His name to know.
Their name an ev - er - last - ing name, Their joy the joy of heav'n.
Their pro - fit and their joy to know The myst' - ry of His love.
His peo - ple's hope, His peo - ple's wealth, Their ev - er - last - ing theme.

The Charge to the Congregation Regarding the Scriptures

P: Devote yourselves to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.

If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, ⁴he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. Guard the deposit entrusted to you—the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Do not be ashamed of His Word, for we know whom we have believed, and we are convinced that He is able to guard His Word in us by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from the Scriptures, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you. 1 Tim. 4:13,6:3-4,20; 2 Tim. 1:12-14

C: *We have devoted ourselves to the Scriptures.*

We dedicate this time now to hear from God's Word. Amen.



This Week's Reading

Genesis 39 (VOICE)

Now Joseph had been taken to Egypt. Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard, himself an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him there *to sell along with their goods and wares.*² The Eternal One was with Joseph, however, and he became successful *in his own right as a slave* within the house of his Egyptian master.

³ Potiphar *could not help but* notice that the Eternal One was with Joseph and caused everything Joseph did to prosper.⁴⁻⁵ Joseph became the favorite of the household and rose in the ranks to become Potiphar's personal attendant. In time, Potiphar made Joseph overseer of the entire household and put him in charge of everything he owned. *From that moment,* the Eternal One blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake, a blessing which seemed to cover everything Potiphar possessed from house to field.⁶ Potiphar entrusted everything to the care of Joseph. With him in charge, Potiphar had no concern about anything except for *his private affairs, such as* the food he chose to eat!

Now Joseph was a well-built, good-looking young man.⁷ After a while, his master's wife began watching him, *and she tried to seduce him.*

Potiphar's Wife: Come. Sleep with me.

⁸ But Joseph refused.

Joseph (to Potiphar's wife): Look, *please don't take offense,* but with me in charge, my master has no concerns for anything *that goes on* in his house. He has trusted me with everything he has.⁹ He hasn't treated me like I am any less than he is, and he hasn't kept anything from me—except, *of course,* for you because you are his wife. Why would I do something so *clearly* wrong and sin so *blatantly* against God?

¹⁰ Although she pursued him day after day, Joseph would not consent to sleep with her and refused to be *alone* with her.¹¹ One day, however, when he went into the house to do his work while no one else was in the house,¹² she grabbed him by his clothes *and tried again to seduce him.*

Potiphar's Wife: Come on. Sleep with me.

But Joseph ran outside *away from her, as far and as fast as he could,* leaving her holding his clothes in her hand.¹³ When she realized *he rejected her again and* she had

his clothes in her hand, ¹⁴ she called out to the other servants of her household.

Potiphar's Wife: See here! My husband brought this Hebrew into our house to take advantage of us! He came to me and wanted to sleep with me. I screamed *as loudly as I could*, ¹⁵ and when he heard me yell, he dropped his clothes here beside me and ran outside.

¹⁶ She kept Joseph's clothes beside her until her husband came home. ¹⁷ Then she told him the same story.

Potiphar's Wife: The Hebrew servant you brought into this household came in to take advantage of me. ¹⁸ When I screamed as loudly as I could, he dropped his clothes here beside me and ran outside.

¹⁹ When Potiphar heard his wife's account, his face flushed with anger. ²⁰ So *Potiphar*, Joseph's master, put him into prison and locked him up in the place where the king's prisoners were confined. Joseph remained there *for a time*.

²¹ But the Eternal One remained with Joseph and showed him His loyal love and granted him favored status with the chief jailor. ²² The jailor put Joseph in charge of all of the prisoners who were confined there. Whatever needed to be done, Joseph was the one to do it. ²³ The chief jailor, *like Potiphar*, didn't need to worry about anything that was in Joseph's care because the Eternal One was with him. And whatever Joseph did worked out well because the Eternal made it so.

Note on the Story

God did not forget Joseph when he was sent to prison. Instead, God took what was an unjust and terrible situation, and brought blessing from it, for His glory and for His plan of salvation for all people. He would work through His servant, Joseph, to continue the promise given to his great-grandfather Abraham, to make this people a great nation. Psalm 105 recalls the history of God's people, and perhaps today we could hear the psalm in the mouth of Joseph, as him calling on us to remember these wonderful things that God has done for His plan of salvation...

Joseph:

Psalm 105 (VOICE, alt.)

Come, offer thanks to the Eternal; invoke His *holy* name.

Tell other people about the things He has done.

⁵ Remember the wonderful things He has done,
His miracles and the wise decisions He has made,

⁷ He is the Eternal, our True God;

His justice extends to every corner of the earth.

⁸ He keeps His covenant *promises* forever
and remembers the word He spoke to a thousand generations—

⁹ The covenant He made with [my great-grandfather] Abraham
and His sworn oath to [my grandfather] Isaac.

¹⁰ Then God confirmed it to [my father] Jacob—
promised a never-ending covenant,

¹¹ Saying, “I will give you the land of Canaan; it will be your inheritance.”

¹² When we, God’s people, were only a few in number—
indeed, very few—we were strangers in a foreign land.

¹³ We roamed from place to place, from one kingdom to another.

¹⁴ God didn’t allow anyone to tyrannize us;
He rebuked kings in order to protect His people:

¹⁶ [Then] He ordered famine to grip the land and
cut [His people] off from their supply of bread.

¹⁷ *But long before*, [God] had sent me ahead of them:
when my brothers sold me into slavery.

¹⁸ *At first*, my masters shackled my feet with chains,
placed my neck into a collar of iron.

¹⁹ That was until the Eternal’s promises came to pass;
His word tested me *and proved me worthy*.

²⁰ The king sent out *the order* to release me *from prison*;
the ruler of *Egypt* liberated me *from the chains*.

²¹ Then he put me in charge of the *royal* household,
made me ruler of all the royal possessions,
²² [*gave me command of*] the royal officials
and gave me wisdom to impart to the elders *in the land*.

²³ Then, when the time was right,
my father, Jacob, also known as Israel, came to Egypt;
Jacob and my brothers and our families
resided as foreigners in a foreign land.

²⁴ And while we were there, the Eternal made His people prosperous;

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Author of Justice, help us to seek Your justice both for ourselves and all those around us. Help us like Joseph endure hardships, and see Your hand seeking good even when others seek evil. Help us to seek justice for others, so that all may live in freedom and grace, and may know Your ultimate and true hope of life everlasting goodness. In the Name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

C: **Amen.**

Song of the Day

Goodness is Stronger Than Evil

ELW 721

Good-ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;
light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death; vic-t'ry is
ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic-t'ry is
ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

The Charge for the Pastor

E: Paul instructed Timothy as a pastor. His letters speak of the calling and duties of pastors.... Pastor, we remind you of your duty now:

C: **We charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus:**

**Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season to speak His Word;
Point out errors, warn people, and encourage us,
with complete patience and teaching. Amen.**

2 Tim. 4:1-2

Sermon

“Hope When in the Carceral System”

Genesis 39:19-23



Anthem

Alleluia

Adult Choir

- Use the anthem’s music and words to help you to meditate on God’s Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

Offertory

LSB 871 st. 3; tune: Haslemere

Sung as our Offerings are brought forward to the Altar

HASLEMERE

**Songs and Tunes for Education, 1861
harmonized by MARTIN SHAW, 1931**

In unison, simply



Lord, I will to - day On Your love re - ly; Let no ev-il thought Cloud the clear blue sky.
Joy-ful and cont-ent With life’s simp-ler things, Know-ing all I need From Your kind-ness springs.

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Prayers

P: Supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings
are to be made for all people,

C: *thanking God whom we serve,*

P: as we remember others constantly in our prayers night and day.

**C: *And praying for our leaders and all who are in high positions,
that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life,***

P: godly and dignified in every way.

C: *This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior.*

1 Tim. 2:1-3; 2 Tim. 1:3

(Pastor then offers the Prayers of the Church).

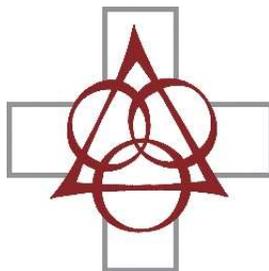
The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: *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.*

Benediction

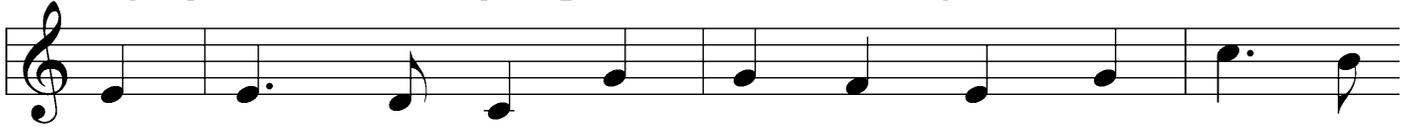
P: There is stored up for you the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to you on the Last Day,
and not only to you but also to all who have longed for his appearing.
The Lord will rescue you from every evil deed and bring you safely into his
heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever in the Name of the
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.** 2 Tim. 4:8,18



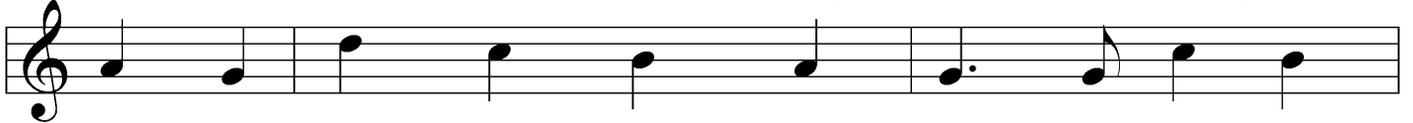
Closing Hymn

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

LSB 575



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on
3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly
then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt., Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901

Announcements

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 9AM

FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM -1 1:30AM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM) – 9AM

FELLOWSHIP 10 -10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM -1 1:30AM