

Isaiah 45:1-8

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to

subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: ² "I will go before you and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, ⁶ that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷ I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the LORD, who does all these things. ⁸ "Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them both to sprout; I the LORD have created it.

✠ Breaking Down the Gates ✠

Sermon Hymn: Tune of TLH #384

"Sing We Exiles"

- 1. Sing we exiles in our sadness, Though we wander dispossessed; Sing for hope of future rest. Jesus is our Way, our gladness, Straight'ning crooked paths we roam, Leading to our Father's home.**
- 2. Off we fear to be forgotten, Trampled in the dust of sin, Lost and broken deep within. Christ, Redeemer, Sole-begotten, Raise your kinsman from the dead; You have crushed the serpent's head.**
- 3. Sing we exiles in our yearning To be healed from ev'ry wrong; Sing the distant triumph song. Father, guide us in returning With repentance to Your will, Lead us ever homeward still.**

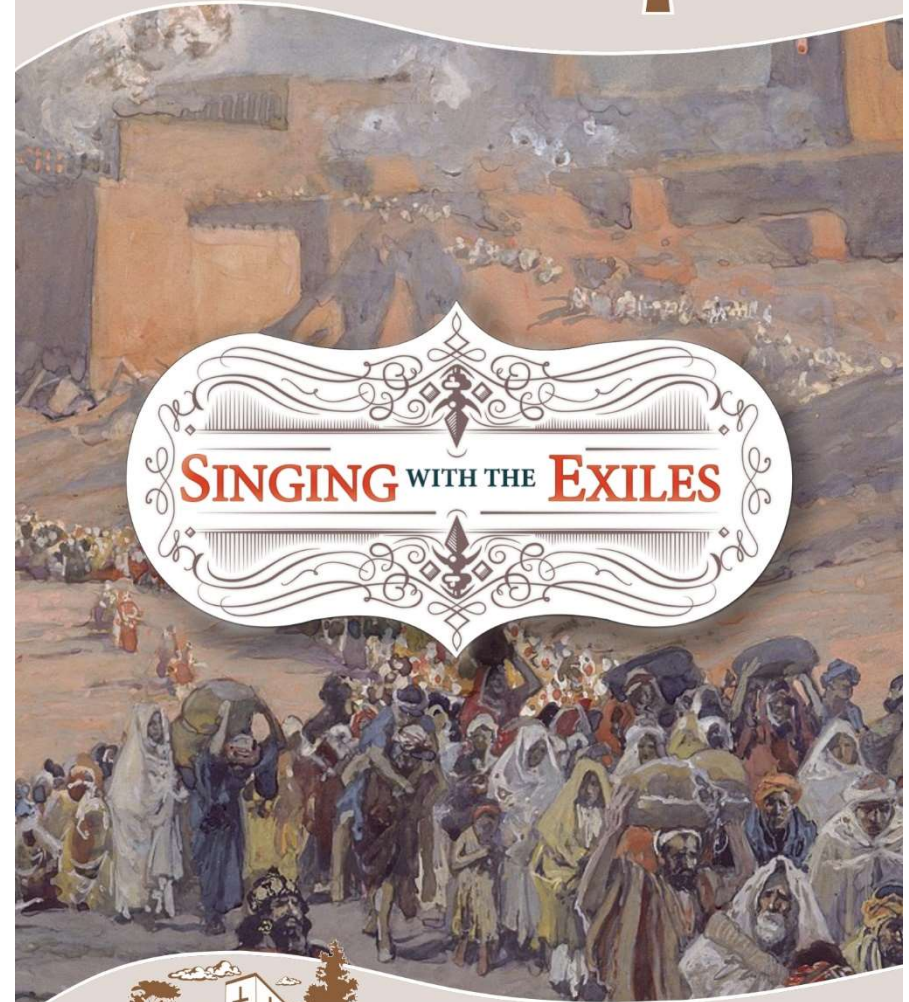
The Lord's Prayer & the Benediction

Hymn: TLH #144

"Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing"

March 15, 2023

4th Midweek Lenten Service



SINGING WITH THE EXILES

Faith

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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #153

"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

The Invocation

P We worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Behold the Father's love, *(John 3:17)*

C For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

P Behold the Son's grace, *(Matthew 20:28)*

C The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

P Behold the Spirit's patient teaching, *(1 Corinthians 2:12)*

C Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

P Please come to us Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

C Show us Your love, show us Your grace, and bind us together through Your Gospel of peace.

P Father in heaven, we come before You out of need. You provide all that we need for body and life. You shower us with blessings too numerous to count. But our response to your generous care falls short in every way.

C We are sinful from birth, and we have also sinned against You daily through things we have said, thought, and done. We can do nothing to erase the record of our sins, and so we come before You seeking help for our greatest need. Forgive us Father, and take away our guilt.

Response: TLH #323 *"With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh"*

1. *With broken heart and contrite sigh,
A trembling sinner, Lord, I cry.
Your pardoning grace is rich and free, --
O God, be merciful to me!*

4. *Nor alms nor deeds that I have done,
Can for a single sin atone.
To Calvary alone I flee, --
O God, be merciful to me!*

P God's Word says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." It also tells us that God has in Christ reconciled the world to Himself, not charging our sin to us. Therefore, by the authority and command of our Lord Jesus, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(1 John 1:9; 2 Cor.5:19; John 20:21-23)*

5. *And now, redeemed from sin and hell,
With all the ransomed throng I dwell,
My raptured song shall ever be,
God has been merciful to me!*

6. *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all Creatures here below;
Praise Him above, Ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!*

✠ Reading from the Passion History of Our Lord ✠

Response: WS #724

"Jesus, Remember Me"

C *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (2x)*

Confession of Faith

Explanation to the 2nd Article

C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death. He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity. This is most certainly true.