

# REMEMBER YOUR LEADERS

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Service for the Wednesday in Lent 4

*“By Faith Joseph”*

## Opening Sentences

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God.

**Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.**

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. *(Hebrews 13:7-8)*

**Amen.**

By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff.

**By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelite and gave directions concerning his bones.** *(Hebrews 11:21-22)*

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

**You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.**

Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us!

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.

**The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches.**

It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.

**Restore us, O Lord God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

*(Psalm 80:1-3, 8-11, 19)*

## Hymn # 742

*“For Me to Live Is Jesus”*

## Readings from God’s Word

*Genesis 50:15-26*      *God’s Good Purposes; The Death of Joseph*

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.” So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this command before he died, ‘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. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? 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. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father’s house. Joseph lived 110 years. 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. 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.” Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.” So Joseph died, being 110 years old. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.' Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living. Yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him as a possession and to his offspring after him, though he had no child. And God spoke to this effect—that his offspring would be sojourners in a land belonging to others, who would enslave them and afflict them four hundred years. 'But I will judge the nation that they serve,' said God, 'and after that they shall come out and worship me in this place.' And he gave him the covenant of circumcision. And so Abraham became the father of Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day, and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.

"And the patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt; but God was with him and rescued him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who made him ruler over Egypt and over all his household. Now there came a famine throughout all Egypt and Canaan, and great affliction, and our fathers could find no food. But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers on their first visit. And on the second visit Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and Joseph's family became known to Pharaoh. And Joseph sent and summoned Jacob his father and all his kindred, seventy-five persons in all. And Jacob went down into Egypt, and he died, he and our fathers, and they were carried back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had bought for a sum of silver from the sons of Hamor in Shechem.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsory** (Psalm 59:1)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Sermon** "By Faith Joseph..."

**Hymn # 720** "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

**Offering**

**Magnificat**

Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

**and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.** (Psalm 141:2)

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.

**For He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.**

**For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.**

**For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;**

**and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.**

He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their Hearts. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.

**He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away. He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.**

(Luke 1:46-55)

**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. Amen.**

**Kyrie**

**Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.**

**Lord's Prayer**

O Lord, hear my prayer.  
**And let my cry come to You.**

**Collect for Peace**

**Benedicamus & Benediction**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Amen.**

**Closing Hymn # 753** *"All for Christ I Have Forsaken"*