March 15- Written Service

Praise team- Beth Lindgren, Melanie Jacobsen, Robin and Jeremiah Thompson, Collen Turner, and Merlin Thompson
Special Music- PRC Bells

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship
Leader: Come, let us worship the God who is with us.
All: Even when we are falsely accused, the Lord is with us.
Leader: When we are trapped in the darkness of the prison,
All: The Lord is with us, showing steadfast love.
Leader: Though humans may plot evil against us,
All: God is our shield and refuge.
Leader: We worship the Lord, who remains faithful in every season of life.

Song: Sing to the King
Sing to the King who is coming to reign.
Glory to Jesus, the Lamb that was slain.
Life and salvation His empire shall bring,
And joy to the nations when Jesus is King.

Come, let us sing a song,
A song declaring we belong to Jesus,
He is all we need.

Lift up a heart of praise,
Sing now with voices raised to Jesus;
Sing to the King.

For His returning we watch and we pray.
We will be ready, the dawn of that day.
We'll join in singing with all the redeemed,
'Cause Satan is vanquished and Jesus is King.

Come, let us sing a song,
A song declaring we belong to Jesus,
He is all we need.

Lift up a heart of praise,
Sing now with voices raised to Jesus;
Sing to the King.
Sing to the King.

Prayer

Song: By Faith
By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design,
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness,
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth
With the power of His promise in their hearts,
Of a holy city built by God's own hand,
A place where peace and justice reign.

We will stand as children of the promise;
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go
In the power of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news
In every corner of the earth.

We will stand as children of the promise;
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith the church was called to go
In the power of the Spirit to the lost

To deliver captives and to preach good news
In every corner of the earth.

We will stand as children of the promise;
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith this mountain shall be moved
And the power of the gospel shall prevail,
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name.

We will stand as children of the promise;
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

Announcements

Special Music- O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee….PRC Bells

Congregational Prayer

Song: #139- Great is Thy Faithfulness (vs. 1,3)
Great is Thy faithfulness,
O God, my Father;
There is no shadow
Of turning with Thee.

Thou changest not;
Thy compassions they fail not.
As Thou hast been
Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning
New mercies I see;

All I have needed

Thy hand hath provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace
That endureth,
Thy own dear presence
To cheer and to guide.

Strength for today
And bright hope for tomorrow-
Blessings all mine
With ten thousand beside!

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning
New mercies I see;

All I have needed
Thy hand hath provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me!

Offering/Offertory
Offering Song- O How He Loves You and Me
Offering Prayer

Children's Message

Scripture
Genesis 39: 6-20a
6 So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself
with anything except the food he ate.
Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, 7 and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and
said, "Come to bed with me!"
8 But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in
the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. 9 No one is greater in this house than I
am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do
such a wicked thing and sin against God?" 10 And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to
go to bed with her or even be with her.

[11] One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. [12] She caught him by his cloak and said, “Come to bed with me!” But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.
[13] When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, [14] she called her household servants. “Look,” she said to them, “this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. [15] When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.”
[16] She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. [17] Then she told him this story: “That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. [18] But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.”
[19] When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, “This is how your slave treated me,” he burned with anger. [20] Joseph’s master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined.

Luke 23: 1-5
Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. [2] And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king.”
[3] So Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”
“You have said so,” Jesus replied.
[4] Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.”
[5] But they insisted, “He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.”

Luke 23: 39-43
[39] One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”
[40] But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? [41] We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”
[42] Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.[d]”
[43] Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Message
Intro-Easter Eggs
In the 1982 movie Tron where video games are a heavy plot point, there’s a map of a ship which is taken directly from the game Pac Man

It’s only on the screen briefly, but if you stop at the right moment, you see this
This Lent, we’re looking through stories in the OT for Easter Eggs
As we read today’s story, see what you can notice that points us to Jesus

Especially the parts of Jesus' life that we emphasize during Holy Week and Easter

Genesis 39:6-20a

What'd you see?

Joseph was innocent, falsely accused, sentenced unjustly

Compare to Jesus in Luke 23:1-5, 39-42

People throughout Jesus' trial and crucifixion acknowledge his innocence

And yet, He too, was convicted and sentenced

In both Joseph's story and Jesus' they are shown to be innocent and also unjustly punished

Usually when I suffer it's the natural consequence of my actions

Yes, I would like to eat the whole pizza

Oh the suffering that can bring

Or the times when it's just easier to respond with impatience or to return someone's wrong for wrong

Maybe you have those experiences too

Times where you do something wrong and that's what leads to suffering

Times where we create our own bad situations through our own bad choices

But that was certainly not the case for Joseph here, and definitely not for Jesus

This is height of injustice

Too often we can find examples of this as well

"Ow, stop kicking me"

Sister getting me into trouble when I'd done nothing wrong

On a larger scale we see the injustice of slavery, the strong taking advantage of the weak, etc

Our world continues to be full of injustice

Another similarity that has meaning for us

In prison, there were 2 criminals with Joseph

1 freed, 1 executed

There were also 2 criminals crucified with Jesus

1 finds paradise, 1 does not

What's amazing is what happens next

Later, when Joseph has been freed and put in charge of all Egypt, he's face to face with the brothers that had sold him into slavery in the first place

And he reassures them that "what you intended for evil, God has used for good"

God saves not only Egypt but whole region through Joseph

This is even more true with Jesus

His religious and political enemies intended His destruction, devil intended to finally strike a killing blow to God

God used these acts of injustice to bring about salvation of the world

That is the salvation offered to the other thief crucified alongside Jesus

That is the salvation hinted at through Joseph's efforts in Egypt

We see in both of these a God who takes the injustices of this world and bends them into a different story

A story of life and freedom and salvation

For us, let the injustice we see in the world create in us a longing for a better kingdom

Precisely because we know that we are so often suffering justly for our own actions

Precisely because we see the injustice of the world and the cycle of destruction this continues to bring

May we long for a kingdom brought about as God sets right the wrongs of this world through Jesus' work on the cross

May our prayer be that Jesus remembers us in that kingdom

May our comfort be that even today, we'll be transported in Him to paradise

Song: #324- When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (vs. 1,3,4)

--Accompanied by the PRC Bells

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

Benediction

Postlude