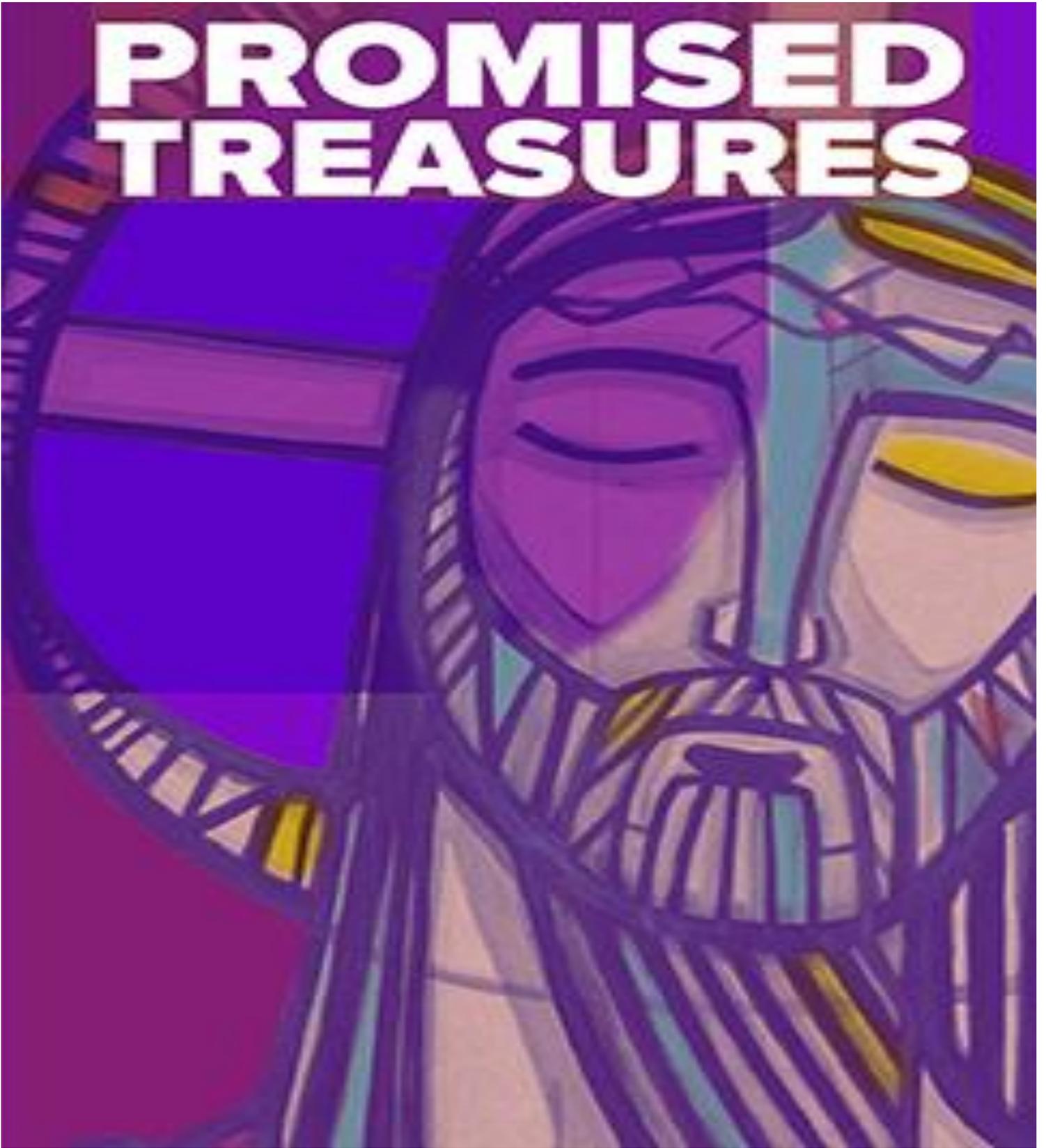


PROMISED TREASURES



MIDWEEK OF LENT 1
SALT THAT SWEETENS AND PRESERVES
MARCH 1ST, 2023

AS WE GATHER

We are blessed to be God’s children—cleansed of sin, renewed by the Spirit, and salted in Christ Jesus. The promised treasures in God’s Word remind us of the importance of salt, which both sweetens and preserves things for our enjoyment. When Paul reminds us to let our conversations be “seasoned with salt” (Colossians 4:6), and when Jesus tells us that we are “the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13), the image is rich, for it is not only visual, but it also engages the sense of taste. We are reminded today that we are blessed to sweeten this world with the presence of Christ in us, even as Jesus Himself preserves our lives through His Word and Spirit.

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

2 Corinthians 5:21, alt.; Isaiah 53:5

P For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin,
 C **so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.**
 P But He was wounded for our transgressions;
 C **He was crushed for our iniquities;**
 P upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
 C **and with His stripes we are healed.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Based on Philipians 2:1–11

P Lord Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another.

We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.

P With humble hearts, let us pray together:
 C **Lord Jesus, the Father’s only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.**
 P We confess that we have not lived our lives as we ought, forgetting that You have called us to be the salt of the earth.

C Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is why You died for us—

P to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.

C With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

P Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who “salts” us with His life-giving and life-preserving Word and with the sweetness of His forgiveness. The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins.

C Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You call Your people to be the salt of the earth, to sweeten and preserve this world even as You have sweetened our lives with Your forgiveness and have preserved us by Your Spirit.

C Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the promised treasures of Your Word;

P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST READING

2 Kings 2:19–22

¹⁹Now the men of the city said to Elisha, “Behold, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees, but the water is bad, and the land is unfruitful.” ²⁰He said, “Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it.” So they brought it to him. ²¹Then he went to the spring of water and threw salt in it and said, “Thus says the LORD, I have healed this water; from now on neither death nor miscarriage shall come from it.” ²²So the water has been healed to this day, according to the word that Elisha spoke.

P The Word of the Lord **C) Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 107:28–36

P Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,

C **and He delivered them from their distress.**

P He made the storm be still,

C **and the waves of the sea were hushed.**

P Then they were glad that the waters were quiet,

C **and He brought them to their desired haven.**

P Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love,

C **for His wondrous works to the children of men!**

P Let them extol Him in the congregation of the people,

C **and praise Him in the assembly of the elders.**

P He turns rivers into a desert, springs of water into thirsty ground,

C **a fruitful land into a salty waste, because of the evil of its inhabitants.**

P He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water.

C **And there He lets the hungry dwell, and they establish a city to live in.**

**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.**

SECOND READING

Colossians 4:2–6

²Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— ⁴that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

⁵Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

P The Word of the Lord. **C) Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

Joel 2:13b

Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13–16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹³"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. C) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Create In Me"

PRAYER

P Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for blessing us with the opportunity to meditate again on the cross of Christ and receive Your promised treasures.

C **Grant that the message of the Lamb of God slain for our salvation bring us the riches of Your pardon and peace.**

P Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,

C **that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.**

P Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.

C **Enable us to see that we are the salt of the earth, preserved by Your grace and sweetened by Your forgiveness.**

P Holy Spirit, lift up troubled souls everywhere. Grant wholeness to those hurting in heart, body, and mind. Work Your healing power in the lives

of those in need, [*especially . . .*], and in the lives of all we name before You in our hearts.

C All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

HYMN "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" LPH 45 v 1 & 2