

INVITATION AND GATHERING

WELCOME

CENTERING WORDS

God can turn even our worst moments into possibilities for good. God can transform even our worst experiences into opportunities for grace. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD (Natalia Lopez)

Here is God’s good news. Now is the time. God’s kingdom is at hand.

***SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 (Natalia Lopez)**

*** OPENING HYMN:**

CALL TO WORSHIP (Kate Flint and Family):

Kate: Jesus walks to us over the water.

Family: "Call to us, Lord. We long to be with you."

Kate: Jesus calls to us, "Come! Do not be afraid."

Family: "Save us, Lord, we're sinking!"

Kate: Jesus saves us from our fears.

Family: God delivers us from the storm. Thanks be to God!

*** Let us pray (Jeremy Flint and Family):**

Eternal God, you visit us in dreams, offering us glimpses of new possibilities. Rescue us from life's storms and lift us from the raging waters. Be with us now, as we call on your name. Reveal your purposes for our world, that we may be of use and service. Amen.

*** LET’S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:**

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Lisa Schutt):**

God of infinite possibilities, we are like a boat that is beaten by the storm: without your aid we are powerless to get where we are going; we are like disciples who sit in fear for their lives: without your presence we are trapped within the prison of our feelings of helplessness. Grant us the

courage of Peter to believe that through your power anything is possible. Give us the confidence of Joseph to live as dreamers, even when the world turns against us, that we may always be found faithful. Amen.

*** LET’S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:**

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD (Natalia Lopez)

Come and listen to the Good News of salvation.

***SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 14:22-33 (Natalia Lopez)**

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD MADE FLESH: “Fixing our Focus?”

*** RESPONSE TO THE WORD:**

CONGREGATION IN PRAYER: Joys and Concerns

*** CLOSING HYMN:**

***DISMISSAL BLESSING**

Today’s Scripture Readings

Genesis 37:1-4 New King James Version

Joseph Dreams of Greatness

37 Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was a ^[a]stranger, in the land of Canaan. ² This *is* the history of Jacob.

Joseph, *being* seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad *was* with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father’s wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father.

³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he *was* the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of *many* colors. ⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

Genesis 37:12-28 (NKJV)

Joseph Sold by His Brothers

¹² Then his brothers went to feed their father’s flock in Shechem. ¹³ And Israel said to Joseph, “Are not your brothers feeding *the flock* in Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.”

So he said to him, “Here I am.”

¹⁴ Then he said to him, “Please go and see if it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back word to me.” So he sent him out of the Valley of Hebron, and he went to Shechem.

¹⁵ Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, “What are you seeking?”

¹⁶ So he said, “I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding *their flocks*.”

¹⁷ And the man said, “They have departed from here, for I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’ ” So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan.

¹⁸ Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him. ¹⁹ Then they said to one another, “Look, this ^[a]dreamer is coming! ²⁰ Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, ‘Some wild beast has devoured him.’ We shall see what will become of his dreams!”

²¹ But Reuben heard *it*, and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, “Let us not kill him.” ²² And Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood, *but* cast him into this pit which *is* in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him”—that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father.

²³ So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph *of* his tunic, the tunic of *many* colors that *was* on him. ²⁴ Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit *was* empty; *there was* no water in it.

²⁵ And they sat down to eat a meal. Then they lifted their eyes and looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead with their camels, bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry *them* down to Egypt. ²⁶ So Judah said to his brothers, “What profit *is there* if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷ Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he *is* our brother *and* our flesh.” And his brothers listened. ²⁸ Then Midianite traders passed by; so *the brothers* pulled Joseph up and

lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty *shekels* of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Matthew 14:22-33 (NKJV)

Jesus Walks on the Sea

²² Immediately Jesus ^[a]made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. ²³ And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. ²⁴ But the boat was now ^[b]in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

²⁵ Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear.

²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, ^[c]“Be of good cheer! ^[d]It is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸ And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”

²⁹ So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw ^[e]that the wind *was* boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”

³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

³³ Then those who were in the boat ^[f]came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”

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