

A dramatic, painterly illustration of Moses from behind, wearing a red robe and holding a staff high in his right hand. He stands against a sky filled with swirling golden and white clouds, with a bright light source behind him. The overall mood is one of divine power and liberation.

LET MY PEOPLE GO!

MIDWEEK LENT 1

FEBRUARY 21, 2024

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2024 Lenten Theme: The Book of Exodus: “Let My People Go!”

Prayer Before Worship: O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

TONIGHT’S THEME:

Change. It’s often said that the only person who likes *change* is a baby with a wet diaper!

Change. That’s God’s plan for Moses. That’s also God’s plan for us!

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GREETING

P: Peace be with you,

C: And also with you.

stand

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 77 selected verses.

P: I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.

C: **You are the God who performs miracles.**

P: You display your power among the nations.

C: **With your mighty arm you redeemed your people.**

P: The descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

C: **The waters saw you, O God, the waters saw you and writhed.**

P: The very depths were convulsed.

C: **Your path led through the sea.**

P: Your way through the mighty waters.

C: **Though your footprints were not seen.**

All: **You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron!**

HYMN “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

LSB 440 v. 1-4



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;
 2 Make me see Your great dis - tress, An - guish, and af - flic - tion,
 3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone Make me see Your pas - sion,
 4 Grant that I Your pas - sion view With re - pen - tant griev - ing.



With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.
 Bonds and stripes and wretch - ed - ness And Your cru - ci - fix - ion;
 But its cause to me make known And its ter - mi - na - tion.
 Let me not bring shame to You By un - ho - ly liv - ing.



Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish
 Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
 Ah! I al - so and my sin Wrought Your deep af - flic - tion;
 How could I re - fuse to shun Ev - 'ry sin - ful plea - sure



Of Your suf - f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.
 How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.
 This in - deed the cause has been Of Your cru - ci - fix - ion.
 Since for me God's on - ly Son Suf - fered with - out mea - sure?

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615. Text and tune: Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

From selected verses in Romans 7

P: Hear me, merciful and mighty Father, as I confess my bondage to sin and death.

C: I know that nothing good lives in me.

P: That is, in my sinful nature.

C: I have the desire to do good.

P: But I cannot carry it out.

C: What I do is not the good I want to do.

P: No, the evil I do not want to do, this I keep on doing.

C: I find this law at work—

P: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

C: In my inner being I delight in your law.

P: But I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war and making me a prisoner of the law of sin and death.

All: Who will rescue me from this body of death?

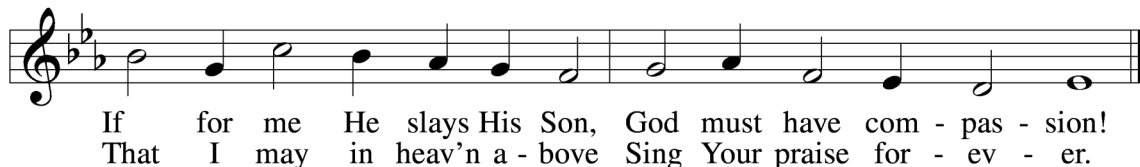
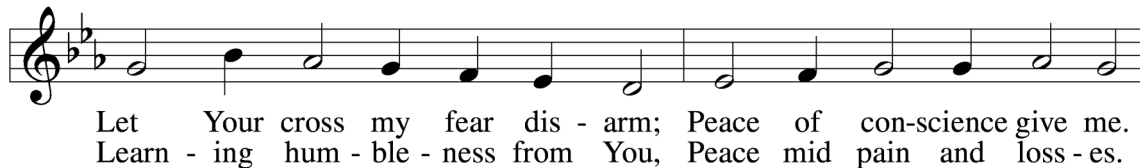
*You are invited to silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great,
Christ's love is greater.*

P: Hear the good news! The same God who delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage also delivers you from your body of sin and death! Jesus Christ, the Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed and his blood forgives you and sets you free! He turned the sea into dry land; we passed through the waters on foot.

All: You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron!

HYMN "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

LSB 440 v. 5-6



Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.. Tune: Melchior Vulpus, c. 1570–1615. Text and tune: Public domain

KYRIE

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: Lord, have mercy.

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, right where we are, you love us with an everlasting love. But you love us too much to let us remain there. Give us faith and humility to accept your process of change so that—more

and more—we become like Jesus. We pray in his name,
All: Amen.

sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 3:1-14

¹Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” ⁴When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” ⁵Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷Then the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” ¹¹But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” ¹²He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

¹³Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

stand

PASSION READING Mark 14:1-26

P: Our Passion Reading this evening is from St. Mark's Gospel, the 14th Chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him, ²for they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people."

³And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head.

⁴There were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment wasted like that? ⁵For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they scolded her.

⁶But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. ⁸She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial.

⁹And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

¹⁰Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. ¹¹And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him.

¹²And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" ¹³And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, ¹⁴and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹⁵And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." ¹⁶And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." ¹⁹They began to be sorrowful

and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" ²⁰He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. ²¹For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

²²And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." ²³And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ²⁴And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

²⁶And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

sit

APOSTLES CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life *†* everlasting. Amen.

Godly change, *is* a _____; *Begins* with God's _____; *Continues* with God's _____; *Is only* possible with **God's** _____.

God loves us too much to _____ us _____ we _____.

Moses has **4** excuses why he won't change:

1) "I don't know your _____;" 2) "Israel's leaders won't _____ me;" 3) "I'm not a fluent speaker;" 4) _____ can do it better."

What are my excuses?

"You may be calling on God to sound a retreat, but he only knows how to sound an advance!"

stand

OFFERTORY HYMN "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling"

LSB 827



1 Hark, the voice of Je - sus call - ing, "Who will go and work to - day?
2 Some take up His task in morn - ing, To their Lord re - spond - ing soon;
3 For as rain and snow from heav - en Wa - ter seeds in dust - y soil,
4 Hear - ken to the Lord whose com - ing Marks the time when grace shall end,



Fields are white and har - vests wait - ing— Who will bear the sheaves a - way?"
Some are called in heat of mid - day, Oth - ers late in af - ter - noon;
Caus - ing them to bud and flow - er, Giv - ing bread to those who toil;
When with His an - gel - ic reap - ers He in glo - ry shall de - scend.



Loud and long the Mas - ter call - eth; Rich re - ward He of - fers thee.
E - ven as the sun is set - ting, Some are sent in - to the fields,
So the Lord sends forth His prom - ise, Words of life and joy and peace—
Soon the night, the fi - nal har - vest; Soon the time for work shall cease.



Who will an - swer, glad - ly say - ing, "Here am I, send me, send me?"
There to gath - er in the boun - ty That God's Word so rich - ly yields.
Nev - er void to Him re - turn - ing, Bear - ing fruit with great in - crease.
Then the souls His grace has gar - nered Shall en - joy His Sab - bath peace.

OFFERING

Silent Prayer: Lord Jesus, you are calling me to change. Empower me to say with Moses, “Here I am!” Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Following each petition, the pastor will say,

“God, you are calling me to change and so I say.”

to which the congregation is invited to respond, **“Here I am.”** (Exodus 3:4)

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor **†** and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN “Abide With Me”

LSB 878 st. 1, 2 & 6



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 6 Hold Thou Thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
 In life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt. Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89. Text and tune: Public domain

THE SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE(S)





Welcome to Peace in the name of the Risen Savior!

We request that visitors register by using the Communication cards found in the pew card holders. We ask that you share your name and address so that we can recognize your visit with us. All members are requested to register by using the Communication cards found in the pew card holders. Members, please indicate all family members present and those who took communion, so that the Pastor and Elders can be spiritually accountable for you and your family.

Are your cell phones turned off? Cell phones are indeed a great convenience in life these days. However, please, out of courtesy, silence cell phones during the worship service. Thank you!

Hearing assist devices and large print bulletins are available for those who may need them. Please see an Usher or the Elder who will be happy to assist you.

A Mother's Room is available for parents of young children if the need arises. The Mother's Room in the west hallway. The worship service is able to be heard in the Mother's Room.



Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Holy Communion. Scripture teaches that Holy Communion is a sacred act, established by Christ Himself and is given to His Church. As members of **The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**, we hold the doctrine of the Real Presence, in with and under; meaning that Jesus gives His Body and Blood with the bread and wine, as He Himself says, *"This is my body... This is my blood... for the forgiveness of sins."* (Matthew 26:26ff)

The Holy Scriptures also teach us to receive this meal in a way that is responsible and healthy. As overseer, St. Paul wrote- *"let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself"* (1 Cor. 11:28-29). Out of genuine care for God's people we ask that those (1) who have not been baptized and instructed in the faith or (2) who come from another church body, not in altar or pulpit fellowship with us, refrain from receiving Holy Communion.

For those preparing to receive Holy Communion, Luther encourages us to ask ourselves these questions:

Do **I repent** of my sins, desiring to turn away from them, back to the Lord?

Do **I believe** Jesus died and rose for me and gives me His Body and Blood this day "for the forgiveness of sins"?

Do **I intend** to use this means of grace to change my life, following His will and way?

We ask that all who receive the Lord's Supper fill out a "Care Card" and place it in the offering plate. Please note that reduced-alcoholic white wine is available in the center cups of the communion tray.

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WORSHIP SERVICES:

Holy Communion Celebrated at all Services
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00a.m.
Sunday Bible Study 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School (Sept. -May) 10:30 a.m.

Website: www.peaceneenah.com

YouTube: Peace Neenah

