

A dramatic, painterly illustration of Moses from behind, wearing a red robe and holding a staff high in his right hand. He stands before a massive, golden mountain peak under a sky filled with swirling white and yellow clouds. The overall tone is majestic and divine.

LET MY PEOPLE GO!

MIDWEEK LENT 2

FEBRUARY 28, 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:

Stop trying and start trusting. That’s the truth God teaches his people in Exodus 14. And that’s the Gospel truth God teaches us as well—**today!**

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GREETING

P: Peace be with you,

C: **And also with you.**

HYMN “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

LSB 435 v. 1-3



1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined
2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -
3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -



by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,
tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,



Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -
From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and
Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain



pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.
make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt. Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–87. Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

C: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *From selected verses in Psalm 105.*

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

C: **Amen.**

P: Israel arrived in Egypt; Jacob lived as a foreigner in the land of Ham.

C: **The LORD multiplied the people of Israel.**

P: The LORD sent his servant Moses, along with Aaron, whom he had chosen.

C: **The LORD blanketed Egypt in darkness.**

P: They had defied his commands to let his people go.

C: **He turned their water into blood, poisoning all the fish.**

P: Then frogs overran the land and even invaded the king's bedrooms.

C: **When the LORD spoke, flies descended on the Egyptians.**

P: He sent them hail instead of rain, and lightning flashed over the land.

C: **He spoke, and hordes of locusts came.**

P: The LORD brought his people out of Egypt, loaded with silver and gold.

All: **Not one among the tribes of Israel stumbled!**

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: **Not one among the tribes of Israel stumbled!**

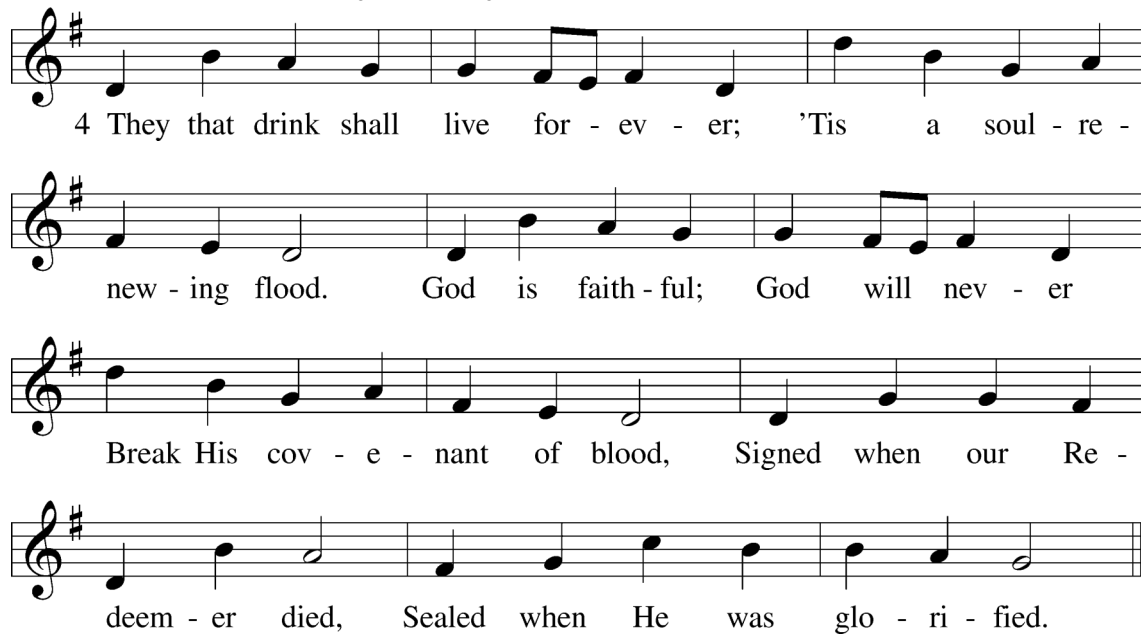
*You are invited to silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great,
Christ's love is greater.*

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 "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"

LSB 435 v. 4



4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -
new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er
Break His cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -
deem - er died, Sealed when He was glo - ri - fied.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt. Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-87. 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. Father in heaven, although you graciously and daily provide for all that we need, we frequently fail to trust your love and mercy. Awaken our faith so that, all the more, we trust you in every test and temptation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING*Exodus 14:1-29*

P: A reading from Exodus, the fourteenth chapter.

¹Then the LORD said to Moses, ²“Tell the people of Israel to turn back and encamp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Baal-zephon; you shall encamp facing it, by the sea. ³For Pharaoh will say of the people of Israel, ‘They are wandering in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.’ ⁴And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD.” And they did so.

⁵When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the mind of Pharaoh and his servants was changed toward the people, and they said, “What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?” ⁶So he made ready his chariot and took his army with him, ⁷and took six hundred chosen chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. ⁸And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the people of Israel while the people of Israel were going out defiantly. ⁹The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and his horsemen and his army, and overtook them encamped at the sea, by Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.

¹⁰When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. ¹¹They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? ¹²Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” ¹³And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

¹⁵The LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. ¹⁸And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”

¹⁹Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, ²⁰coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. ²²And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, ²⁵clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. ²⁹But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

stand

PASSION READING Mark 14:27-42

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

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

²⁷And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' ²⁸But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." ²⁹Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not." ³⁰And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night,

before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” ³¹But he said emphatically, “If I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And they all said the same.

³²And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” ³³And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. ³⁴And he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch.” ³⁵And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” ³⁷And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? ³⁸Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ³⁹And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. ⁴¹And he came the third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴²Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

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.

sit

Sometimes God gives us no way out but through _____.

God replaces our “*What if?*” with His Word that says, “_____”

When did God finally save His people from their long night in Egypt?
_____.

When does Psalm 46:5 say God delivers? _____.

When did Jesus rise again? _____.

When does God deliver us from the long nights of life? _____.

When are God’s mercies made new for us? _____.

Psalm 30:5, “Weeping endures for a night, but joy (Joy! Joy!) comes _____.”

“God has never lost one single, solitary battle!”

OFFERTORY HYMN “How Firm a Foundation”

LSB 728



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 “Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,
3 “The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose
4 “When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way will lie,
5 “Through - out all their life - time My peo - ple will prove



Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;
My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, will be your sup - ply.
My sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can He say than to you He has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,
The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
And then, when gray hairs will their tem - ples a - dorn,



Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!
Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.
Like lambs they will still in My bos - om be borne."

Text: A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt. Tune: Genuine Church Music, 1832, Winchester. Text and tune: Public domain

OFFERING

Silent Prayer: Jesus, teach me again and again to stop trying and start trusting you... *with everything*. Amen.

stand

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Following each petition, the pastor will say,

"LORD, you promise you will fight for us" to which the congregation is invited to respond, "Teach us to stay calm." (Exodus 14:14)

THE 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.

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

