

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 3**

**MARCH 6, 2024**

## MIDWEEK LENT 3

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

#### Tonight’s Theme:

“Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” (Exodus 17:6) When they were dying from thirst, this worked for Moses and the Israelites. It works for us, too, **today!**

#### PRELUDE RINGING OF THE BELLS

#### GREETING

P: Peace be with you,  
C: **And also with you.**

#### *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.*

#### HYMN “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

LSB 423 v.1&2



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,  
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior  
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,  
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the  
Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your



cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.  
grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.

Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–98; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–96, alt. Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, 1745, Basel. Text and tune: Public domain

*stand*

## 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 78*

P: God did miracles for our ancestors on the plain of Zoan in the land of Egypt.

C: **He divided the sea and led them through.**

P: Making the water stand up like walls!

C: **He led them by a cloud, and all night by a pillar of fire.**

P: He split open the rocks in the wilderness to give them water, as from a gushing spring.

C: **He made streams pour from the rock.**

P: Making the waters flow like a river!

## 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 made streams pour from the rock.

**All: Making the waters flow like a river!**

## HYMN “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

LSB 423 v.3



3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent  
love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -  
hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er  
From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our  
hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–98; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–96, alt. Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, 1745, Basel. 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. Almighty and merciful Father, through Moses you provided water for the people to drink. Quench our spiritual thirst through the one who is greater than Moses, Jesus Christ our Rock and our Redeemer. In his name we pray,

**All: Amen.**

*sit*

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING** Exodus 17:1-7

<sup>1</sup>All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE READING** 1 Corinthians 10:1-4

<sup>1</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*stand*

## **PASSION READING Mark 14:43-65**

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

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

<sup>43</sup>And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. <sup>44</sup>Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard." <sup>45</sup>And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" And he kissed him. <sup>46</sup>And they laid hands on him and seized him. <sup>47</sup>But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. <sup>48</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? <sup>49</sup>Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled." <sup>50</sup>And they all left him and fled.

<sup>51</sup>And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, <sup>52</sup>but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

<sup>53</sup>And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. <sup>54</sup>And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. <sup>55</sup>Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. <sup>56</sup>For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. <sup>57</sup>And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, <sup>58</sup>"We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" <sup>59</sup>Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. <sup>60</sup>And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" <sup>61</sup>But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" <sup>62</sup>And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." <sup>63</sup>And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? <sup>64</sup>You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death. <sup>65</sup>And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" And the guards received him with blows.

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*

## SERMON “Strike the Rock!”

*Exodus 17:1-7*

When we don’t get enough water, we confuse our thirst with \_\_\_\_\_.

What do we do when we’re overcome with thirst?

Just like the Israelites, we want to \_\_\_\_\_.

**We** resort to rocks!

There are always enough \_\_\_\_\_! And this breaks God’s heart.

Rephidim is that place in our lives where we are \_\_\_\_\_ out with \_\_\_\_\_ too deep to manage, \_\_\_\_\_ too heavy to bear, and \_\_\_\_\_ too many to number.

Why do we become so thirsty? 4-words: “\_\_\_\_\_.”

When does *HIS living, life-giving, soul-renewing* water flow? \_\_\_\_\_.

“A fountain will flow out of the LORD’s house.” (Joel 3:18)  
“Wherever the river flows everything will live.” (Ezekiel 47:9)

## OFFERING

**Silent Prayer:** Almighty God—Father, Son † and Holy Spirit—who made streams pour from the Rock, please quench my thirst with the life-giving & life-renewing water of Jesus. Make Your living waters flow like a river that quenches the thirst in my soul. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## OFFERTORY HYMN “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

LSB 803



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,  
△ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.  
Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.  
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine!

Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1852–1933, alt. Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796–1867. Text and tune: Public domain

*stand*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Following each petition, the pastor will say, “As the deer thirsts for streams of water,” to which the congregation is invited to respond, “So we thirst for you, O God.” (Bases on Psalm 42:1)



## **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



1 A - bid e with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
 2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
 3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,  
 4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bid e.  
 What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
 But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;  
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
 Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.  
 Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;



Help of the help - less, O a - bid e with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bid e with me.  
 Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bid e with me.  
 O Thou who chang - est not, a - bid e with me.

- 5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;  
 Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
 I triumph still if Thou abide with me!
- 6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
 Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
 Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
 In life, in death, O Lord, abide 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)



LET MY PEOPLE GO!



**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.

**Peace Lutheran Church  
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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](http://www.peaceneenah.com)

YouTube: Peace Neenah

