

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 5

MARCH 20, 2024

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

Tonight's Theme:

When we don't conquer coveting,
coveting conquers us. Every time!
Coveting drives a stake into every
relationship we have. But don't
despair! *There is hope for us
today in God's Word.*

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 "My Song Is Love Unknown"

LSB 430 v.1-5



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
3 Some-times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es
4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and
5 They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made a -



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly
stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would
sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their
spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their
way; A mur - der - er they save, The Prince of Life they



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,
King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath,
sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these
slay. Yet cheer - ful He To suf - f'ring goes



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
Who at my need His life did spend!
And for His death They thirst and cry.
Them-selves dis - please And 'gainst Him rise.
That He His foes From thence might free.

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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 106.

P: The LORD commanded the Red Sea to dry up. He led Israel across the sea as if it were a desert.

C: **He rescued them from their enemies and redeemed them from their foes.**

P: The water returned and covered their enemies; not one of them survived.

C: **Then his people believed his promises. Then they sang his praise.**

P: Yet how quickly they forgot what he had done! They wouldn't wait for his counsel!

C: **The people made a calf at Mount Sinai; they bowed before an image made of gold.**

P: They forgot God, their Savior, who had done such great things in Egypt.

C: **So he declared he would destroy them.**

P: But Moses, his chosen one, stepped between the LORD and the people.

C: **He begged him to turn from his anger and not destroy them.**

All: **Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.**

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! Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations.

All: **That we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise!**

HYMN "My Song Is Love Unknown"

LSB 430 v.7

7 Here might I stay and sing, No sto - ry so di -
vine! Nev - er was love, dear King, Nev - er was grief like
Thine. This is my friend, In whose sweet praise
I all my days Could glad - ly spend!

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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. Lord God, merciful Father, you are the God who made heaven and earth. Forgive us when we clamor for a different god and set our feet on the path that trusts you above all things;
In Jesus' name we pray,

All: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING*Exodus 32:1-14*

¹When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, "Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." ²So Aaron said to them, "Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." ³So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. ⁴And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ⁵When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD." ⁶And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.

⁷And the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. ⁸They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" ⁹And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you."

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, 'With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people.

¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.'" ¹⁴And the LORD relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 10:1-14

¹I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

¹⁴Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

stand

PASSION READING

Mark 15:16-47

P: Our Passion Reading this evening is from St. Mark's Gospel, the 15th Chapter.

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

¹⁶And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion.

¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. ²⁰And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

²¹And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

²²And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of

a Skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. ²⁵And it was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

³³And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." ³⁶And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

⁴⁰There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

⁴²And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the Council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

⁴⁴Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead.

⁴⁵And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. ⁴⁶And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

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 “Digging Ourselves into a Hole”

Exodus 32:1-14

In life, it's easy at times to take a _____ turn. Without realizing it, it's easy to then get _____. Once we're stuck, it becomes easy to _____ ourselves deeper into a _____. We don't like a God who makes us _____. We want a god who can satisfy— _____! Aaron made a stunning claim: Aaron calls the golden calf “_____!” How often do we exchange the real God for a fake god? What are some easy fake gods in America?

Pagan revelry means _____. (Ex. 32; 1 Cor. 10:8)

If you're stuck, don't _____ the _____! When you're in a hole, claim the _____! (*the one fulfilled in the death of Jesus, **FOR YOU!***)

“The LORD changed his mind about the terrible disaster he had threatened to bring on his people.” (Ex. 32:14) The covenant with Abraham, Isaac & Israel is an everlasting covenant sealed in blood (Gen. 15:10). Sin can't break this covenant. Idolatry can't nullify it. Death can't defeat it.”

OFFERING

Silent Prayer: Thank you Jesus for your loving desire to acquire me, now and forevermore! Please lead me through the wilderness of life in this sinful world and satisfy me with every good and perfect gift. For Your steadfast love endures forever! Amen.

OFFERTORY HYMN "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"

LSB 594



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap - tized
 2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap - tized
 3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap - tized
 4 Death, you can - not end my glad - ness: I am bap - tized
 5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing To this life - long



in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it,
 in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong - er:
 in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion,
 in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness
 com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing:



Gave my full re - demp - tion price. Do I need earth's
 Je - sus' cleans - ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y
 I am not so soon en - ticed. Now that to the
 To in - her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in
 E - ven there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a -



trea - sures man - y? I have one worth
 con - science seize me Since my Bap - tism
 font I've trav - eled, All your might has
 dust and ash - es Faith's as - sur - ance
 waits its rais - ing, Still my soul con -



more than an - y That brought me sal -
 did re - lease me In a dear for -
 come un - rav - eled, And, a - gainst your
 bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the
 tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!
 giv - ing flood, Sprin - kling me with Je - sus' blood?
 tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!
 strength di - vine To make life im - mor - tal mine.
 in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756; tr. Robert E. Voelker, 1957. Tune: Johann Caspar Bachofen, 1695-1755, alt.
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stand

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Following each petition, the pastor will say, “Lord, in Your mercy,” to which the congregation is invited to respond, “Hear our prayer.”

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





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

