

LENTEN MIDWEEK 5

Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus

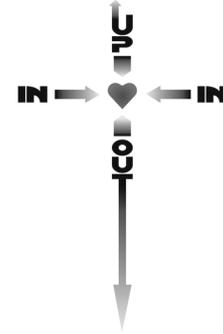
The Good News of a God Who Makes a Way for Us

March 18, 2026



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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AS WE GATHER

When the Israelites seemed trapped, the way out for them was through the middle of the sea. For Christians today, it has been through the waters of Baptism. It is Jesus who is the way, and the truth, and the life. God's Old Testament people survived to continue their escape in the desert. But we follow Christ, in our daily walk, through a resurrection like His, and on to the place He has readied for us. This is all good news for us from Exodus.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN "All Who Believe and Are Baptized" (LSB) 601

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 143:1, 5, 10*

Pastor: Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

People: **In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!**

Pastor: I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that You have done;

People: **I ponder the work of Your hands.**

Pastor: Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God!

People: **Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground!**

PSALM Psalm 121

Left side: I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

*Right side: My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.*

Left side: He will not let your foot be moved;

Right side: He who keeps you will not slumber.

**People: Behold, He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

Left side: The LORD is your keeper;

Right side: the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

Left side: The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

Right side: The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.

**People: The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.**

+ SERVICE OF GOD'S WORD +

FIRST READING Exodus 4:5–31 (The Lord protects His people at the sea.)

5 “that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.” 6 Again, the Lord said to him, “Put your hand inside your cloak.”[a] And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous[b] like snow. 7 Then God said, “Put your hand back inside your cloak.” So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. 8 “If they will not believe you,” God said, “or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign. 9 If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.”

10 But Moses said to the Lord, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.” 11 Then the Lord said to him, “Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? 12 Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.” (cont.)

13 But he said, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else." 14 Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, "Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. 15 You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do. 16 He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him. 17 And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs."

18 Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, "Please let me go back to my brothers in Egypt to see whether they are still alive." And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace." 19 And the Lord said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt, for all the men who were seeking your life are dead." 20 So Moses took his wife and his sons and had them ride on a donkey, and went back to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the staff of God in his hand.

21 And the Lord said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. 22 Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord, Israel is my firstborn son, 23 and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me." If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.'"

24 At a lodging place on the way the Lord met him and sought to put him to death. 25 Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin and touched Moses'[c] feet with it and said, "Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me!" 26 So he let him alone. It was then that she said, "A bridegroom of blood," because of the circumcision.

27 The Lord said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him. 28 And Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord with which he had sent him to speak, and all the signs that he had commanded him to do. 29 Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel. 30 Aaron spoke all the words that the Lord had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people. 31 And the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING *Romans 6:3–5* (We shall be raised as Christ was.)

³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

THIRD READING *John 14:1–6* (Jesus is the way, and the truth, and the life.)

14 “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God;^[a] believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?^[b] ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.”^[c] ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

PASSION READING *Mark 15:12–24*

12 And Pilate again said to them, “Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” **13** And they cried out again, “Crucify him.” **14** And Pilate said to them, “Why? What evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him.” **15** So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged^[a] Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

16 And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters),^[b] and they called together the whole battalion.^[c] **17** And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. **18** And they began to salute him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” **19** And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. **20** And 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.

21 And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. **22** And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). **23** And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. **24** And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE HYMN "Chief of Sinners Though I Be" (LSB) 611

MESSAGE

OFFERING "On My Heart Imprint Your Image" (LSB) 422

1 On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation!

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord, who protected His people throughout the
 exodus, bless you.
 The Lord, who sustained them in the desert, bless you.
 The Lord, who led them and you to the Promised Land,
 bless and keep you, now and forever.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer" (LSB) 918

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.
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JOIN US FOR THE LENTEN SEASON
MID-WEEK -

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MARCH 25

SUPPER AT 6
SERVICE AT 7

APRIL 2 AT 7 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE WITH
HOLY COMMUNION

APRIL 3 AT 7 PM GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

APRIL 5 AT 10 AM EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION WITH
EASTER BRUNCH TO FOLLOW

