

Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024

Exodus: "Let my people go"

Theme of the Day: *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!*

ORGAN PRELUDE "Winchester Old" arr. by M. Alfred Bischel

OPENING HYMN (AGPS) 214 Sing, My Tongue" [st. 1-4] (tune: Picardy LSB 621)

[Stand]

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

[During the sermon series on Exodus we are using psalms that celebrate Israel's deliverance from Egypt. Today we use selected verses from 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: 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! The LORD brought his people out of Egypt, loaded with silver and gold.

All: And not one among the tribes of Israel stumbled!

RESPONSE (AGPS) 214 Sing, My Tongue" [st.5]

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

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.**

[Sit]

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE LESSONS ARE ABOUT TRUSTING GOD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Exodus 14:1–29 (*monitor*)

HYMN (AGPS) 145 “Jesus, Name Above All Names”

[Stand]

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 11:25–30 (*monitor*)

CREED (*monitor*)

[Sit]

[Children leave for a Story & Craft]

HYMN (AGPS) 126 “I Am Trusting You”

SERMON Exodus: *Let My People Go!* “**Stop Trying and Start Trusting**”

HYMN (AGPS) 175 “My Faith Looks Trustingly”

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (*monitor*)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*monitor*)

BENEDICTION

P: May the Almighty God—Father, + Son and Holy Spirit—who brought his people out of Egypt, loaded with silver and gold, bring you safely through your trial and test.

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

All: **Amen and Amen!**

CLOSING HYMN “In Christ Alone” (*monitor*)

Silent Prayer: Jesus, teach me again and again to stop trying and start trusting you ... <i>with everything.</i> Amen.

POSTLUDE “Wo Gott zum Haus“ – J.S. Bach