

"Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out of this place."

Exodus 13:3, NKJV



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As We Gather

Today, we gather to reflect on the God who delivers His people with power and grace. Just as He redeemed Israel from bondage in Egypt, marking their freedom with the blood of the lamb, so He has redeemed us through the precious blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. In this time of worship, we are reminded that we belong to Him, redeemed at great cost. Let us come before Him with hearts eager to remember, rejoice, and give thanks for His mighty hand that saves.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

797 – Sing Praise to the God of Israel

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 77:11-12

P I will remember the works of the LORD;

C Surely I will remember Your wonders of old.

P I will also meditate on all Your work,

C And talk of Your deeds.

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in Christ, as we gather to worship our mighty and merciful God, we are reminded of our need for redemption. Though God has redeemed us by His mighty hand and outstretched arm, we often forget His works and stray into sin. Let us humbly confess our sins before God and seek His forgiveness.

P Almighty God,

C We confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved You with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have too often forgotten the mighty acts of Your redemption and relied on our own strength. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who shed His blood to redeem us, forgive us, renew us, and lead us, that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. He has redeemed you by His mighty hand through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. Upon this your confession, I, as a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Introit

Psalm 98:1-4

P Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things;

C His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.

P The LORD has made known His salvation;

C His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.

P He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;

C All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

P Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth;

C Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be - ginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be for - ev - er more. A - men.



Epistle Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

¹² Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. ¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 111

- P** Praise the LORD! I will praise the LORD with my whole heart,
- C** **In the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.**
- P** The works of the LORD are great,
- C** **Studied by all who have pleasure in them.**
- P** His work is honorable and glorious,
- C** **And His righteousness endures forever.**
- P** He has made His wonderful works to be remembered;
- C** **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion.**
- P** He has given food to those who fear Him;
- C** **He will ever be mindful of His covenant.**
- P** He has declared to His people the power of His works,
- C** **In giving them the heritage of the nations.**
- P** The works of His hands are verity and justice;
- C** **All His precepts are sure.**
- P** They stand fast forever and ever,
- C** **And are done in truth and uprightness.**
- P** He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever:
- C** **Holy and awesome is His name.**
- P** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments.
- C** **His praise endures forever.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:22-40

²² Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD”), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” ²⁵ And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷ So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: ²⁹ “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; ³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation ³¹ Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, ³² A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.” ³³ And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against ³⁵ (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” ³⁶ Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; ³⁷ and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. ³⁸ And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. ³⁹ So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Alleluia

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Hymn

105 – Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men

Sermon Text

Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² “Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is Mine.” ³ And Moses said to the people: “Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out of this place. ¹¹ “And it shall be, when the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as He swore to you and your fathers, and gives it to you, ¹² that you shall set apart to the LORD all that open the womb, that is, every firstborn that comes from an animal which you have; the males shall be the LORD’s. ¹³ But every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb; and if you will not redeem it, then you shall break its neck. And all the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴ So it shall be, when your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What is this?’ that you shall say to him, ‘By strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ¹⁵ And it came to pass, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all males that open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’”



Sermon

**Redeemed by the
Mighty Hand of God**

Offertory



Create in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Your
pres-ence, and take not Your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of Your sal - va - tion; and up -
hold me with Your free spir-it. A - men.

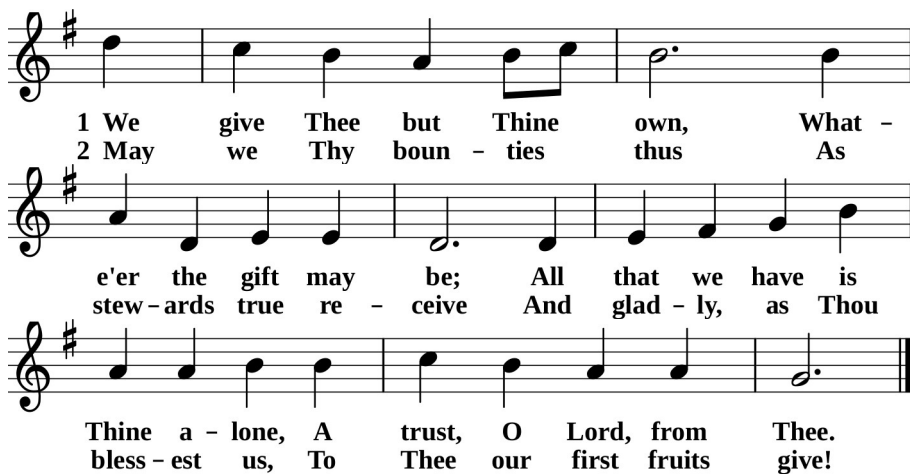
Hymn

40 - The God of Abraham Praise

Offering

Offering Hymn

441 (1-2)



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What -
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As
e'er the gift may be; All that we have is
stew - ards true re - ceive And glad - ly, as Thou
Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
bles - est us, To Thee our first fruits give!

General Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

C 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

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Hymn

400 – Take My Life and Let it Be

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule

December 29	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
January 5	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Annual Voters' Meeting
January 10	10:30 am	Learning with Littles Playgroup
January 12	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **January 5** – Annual Voters' Meeting
- **February 2** – Education/Elders
- **March 2** – Trustees/Church Council

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Paulette Galstad, Johanna Jaehnigen, David & Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield that the Lord may comfort and strengthen them.

“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” (James 5:16)

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: Next Sunday, we celebrate the Epiphany. We will be reminded how Christ’s light shines not just for a select few but for all people! Our sermon text, Acts 13:44-52, reveals how Paul and Barnabas boldly proclaimed this Good News to the Gentiles, declaring Jesus as the fulfillment of God’s promise to be "a light to bring salvation to the ends of the earth" (Acts 13:47). What a comfort to know that this light shines into our lives too, offering hope, forgiveness, and eternal life! Join us as we reflect on this powerful truth, lift our voices in praise, and let Christ’s light brighten our hearts.

Ministry by Mail: Looking to gather more around God’s Word this new year? Check out Ministry by Mail! Ministry by Mail is a weekly publication of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. Each edition includes a sermon, Bible readings, hymn suggestions, and a prayer. You can access the weekly sermon and an archive of sermons online at www.lutheransermos.org or on Facebook. Sermons are also available to listen to on Spotify through CLC’s Ministry by Mail. To receive the weekly sermons via email, contact the editor at editor@lutheransermos.org.

2025 CLC Mission Helper Trip: The application deadline for the 2025 Mission Helper Trip to Nepal is quickly approaching. Applications need to be submitted by January 13th, 2025. Space is limited for this trip, so please apply soon. Find more information at: <https://mht.lutheranmissions.org/>

CLC Call News: Pastor Del Maas of Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN has received the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, Mountain View, CA. <> Pastor George Dummam of Salem Lutheran Church, Eagle Lake, MN has received the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

December 30 – January 5

Monday: Luke 2:22-32 – Jesus has been born under the law of Moses, and His parents soon take Him to the temple to fulfill the rites of purification and presentation. The Spirit uses this opportunity to bless Simeon and those who hear him.

Tuesday: Hebrews 3:1-6 – Jesus deserves greater glory than Moses, just as the builder deserves greater glory than the house. Moses was faithful as “servant in God’s house,” but Jesus is faithful as “Son over God’s house.”

Wednesday: Luke 4:16-21 – New Year’s Day Isaiah prophesied of the Messiah’s time, a wonderful time of good news, spiritual freedom, and recovery, the year of the Lord’s favor (verse 19). With Jesus that time has come, also in 2025 (verse 21)!

Thursday: Isaiah 12:1-6 – As we journey forth into another calendar year, we look back and thank God for the forgiveness that brings salvation and the wondrous things that He has done for the human race.

Friday: Psalm 2:1-6 – While it may seem fearful when the nations rage, the Lord, our God, has no fear of them. He has installed His King on Mount Zion in spite of all opposition!

Saturday: Psalm 2:7-12 – The Son of God towers above all human opposition, and the mighty ones of this world would do well to honor Him. “How blessed are all who take refuge in Him” (verse 12)!



