

NOW THEREFORE,
GO;

AND I WILL BE WITH
YOUR MOUTH AND
AND TEACH YOU
WHAT YOU
SHALL SAY.

Exodus 4:12 NKJV



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As We Gather

As we gather this Wednesday, we might find ourselves relating all too well to Moses. When faced with daunting tasks or the heavy reality of our own inadequacies, our first instinct is often to offer God a list of excuses. "I'm not good enough." "I don't know what to say." "Send someone else." Yet, the beauty of our Lord is not found in our perfection, but in His relentless grace. Even when our faith falters, God's saving purposes stand firm. Today, as we explore Moses' hesitations in Exodus 4, we are pointed to a profound Lenten comfort. Our rescue doesn't rely on our flawed abilities, but on the steadfast love of a God who faithfully sends a Deliverer.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

342 – Chief of Sinners Though I Be

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 51:15; 18:2; 107:20; Colossians 1:13

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
- C** **And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.**
- P** The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;
- C** **My God, my strength, in whom I will trust.**
- P** He sent His word and healed them,
- C** **And delivered them from their destructions.**
- P** For He has delivered us from the power of darkness,
- C** **And conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** Beloved in the Lord! When God calls us to serve our neighbor, we quickly offer excuses, claiming we are inadequate and unworthy. We doubt God's promises, harden our hearts, and fear the world's judgment more than our Creator. Yet, the Lord hears our cries under the bondage of sin and graciously sends a Deliverer. Let us therefore draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am truly sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I 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 ✠

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray...

... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 3:1-6

¹ Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, ² who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house. ³ For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God. ⁵ And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, ⁶ but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 40:1-8

- P** I waited patiently for the LORD;
- C** **And He inclined to me, And heard my cry.**
- P** He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay,
- C** **And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps.**
- P** He has put a new song in my mouth— Praise to our God;
- C** **Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the LORD.**
- P** Blessed is that man who makes the LORD his trust,
- C** **And does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.**
- P** Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works Which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us Cannot be recounted to You in order;
- C** **If I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered.**
- P** Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened.
- C** **Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require.**
- P** Then I said, “Behold, I come;
- C** **In the scroll of the book it is written of me.**
- P** I delight to do Your will, O my God,
- C** **And Your law is within my heart.”**

Passion History Reading

III. Jesus Before Pilate

Immediately in the morning, the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, came together. They took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death. They led Jesus into their council, saying, “If You are the Christ, tell us.” But He said to them, “If I tell you, you will by no means believe; and if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go. Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God.” Then they all said, “Are You then the Son of God?” And He said to them, “You rightly say that I am.” And they said, “What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth.”

Then the whole multitude of them arose, bound Jesus, and led Him away from Caiaphas to the Praetorium and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor; and it was early morning.

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” And they said, “What is that to us? You see to it!” Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed; and went and hanged himself. And falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.

But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." And they took counsel and bought with them the Potter's Field to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced; and gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. And the Jews themselves did not enter into the Praetorium lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. Pilate then went out to them, and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" They answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you." Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him, and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death," that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die. And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this Fellow perverting the nation and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King."

Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, and called Jesus. Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked Him, saying, "Are You the king of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself on this, or did others tell you this about Me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered and said to him, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man." And the chief priests accused Him of many things, but while He was being accused, He answered nothing. Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, "Do You answer nothing? Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" But He answered him not one word, so that Pilate, the governor, marveled greatly.

Response

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

C Amen.

Confession of Faith

Luther's Explanation of the Second Article

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.

He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.

This is most certainly true.

Hymn 143 (1, 3-4, 13-15) – O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken

Sermon Text

Exodus 4:1-20

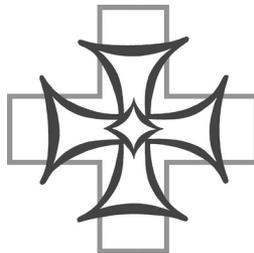
¹ Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.'" ² So the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A rod." ³ And He said, "Cast it on the ground." So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. ⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail" (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand), ⁵ "that they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you." ⁶ Furthermore the LORD said to him, "Now put your hand in your bosom." And he put his hand in his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, like snow. ⁷ And He said, "Put your hand in your bosom again." So he put his hand in his bosom again, and drew it out of his bosom, and behold, it was restored like his other flesh. ⁸ "Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign." ⁹ And it shall be, if they do not believe even these two signs, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from the river and pour it on the dry land. The water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry land." ¹⁰ Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of

speech and slow of tongue.”¹¹ So the LORD said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD?”¹² Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.”¹³ But he said, “O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send.”¹⁴ So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and He said: “Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.”¹⁵ Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do.”¹⁶ So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God.”¹⁷ And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs.”¹⁸ So Moses went and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said to him, “Please let me go and return to my brethren who are in Egypt, and see whether they are still alive.” And Jethro said to Moses, “Go in peace.”¹⁹ Now the LORD said to Moses in Midian, “Go, return to Egypt; for all the men who sought your life are dead.”²⁰ Then Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on a donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the rod of God in his hand.



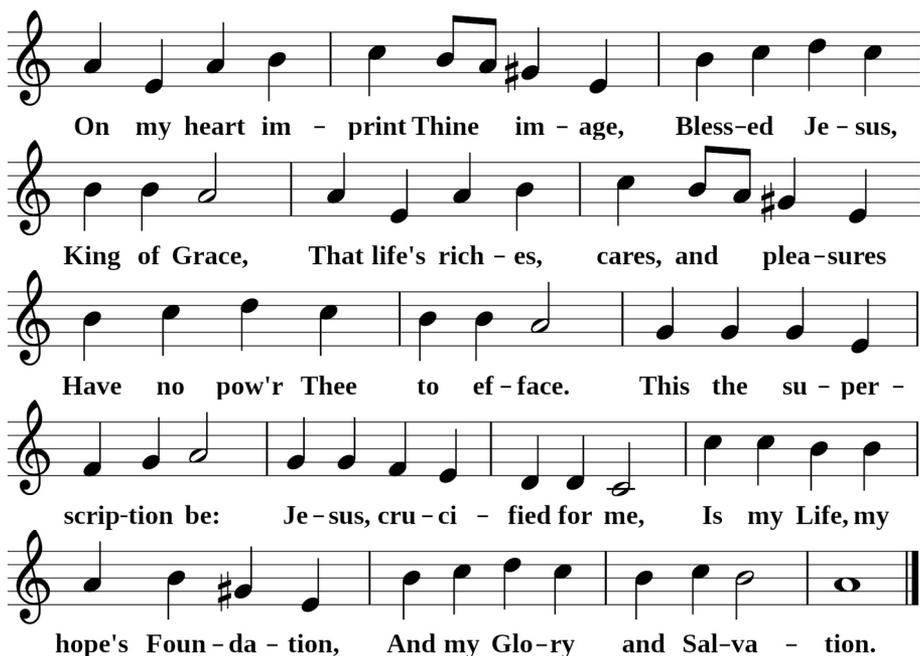
Sermon

The Good News of a God Who Sends a Deliverer



Offertory

TLH 179 – On My Heart Imprint Thine Image



On my heart im - print Thine im - age, Bless-ed Je - sus,
King of Grace, That life's rich - es, cares, and plea-sures
Have no pow'r Thee to ef - face. This the su - per -
scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me, Is my Life, my
hope's Foun - da - tion, And my Glo - ry and Sal - va - tion.

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

375 – If Thy Beloved Son, O God

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar

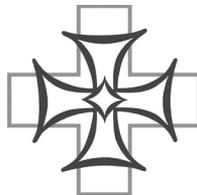
March 4	2:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 8	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
March 11	2:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 13	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
March 15	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service

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

- **April 5** – Quarterly Voters’ Meeting
- **May 3** – Education/Elders
- **June 7**– Trustees/Church Council

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Johanna Jaehnigen, David & Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: Have you ever blindly followed your GPS right into a dead end? It’s incredibly frustrating! The Israelites felt the exact same way in our text for the Third Sunday in Lent (Exodus 17:1-7). They journeyed “according to the commandment of the LORD,” only to arrive at Rephidim where there was absolutely no water. Parched and panicked, they complained, asking, “Is the LORD among us or not?” We often feel the same way when God’s providence seems to steer our lives into a painful trial. But our Savior’s route always has a redemptive purpose! Join us next Sunday as we explore the theme, “When God’s ‘GPS’ Leads You into a Ditch,” and discover how He graciously provides life-giving water from the smitten Rock.



Midweek Lenten Series: Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus: Our midweek Lenten services have begun. This year, our meditation follows the theme "Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus." We are exploring how the Old Testament account of Israel's rescue from Egypt foreshadows our own rescue from sin and death. Just as God heard the cries of His people in bondage, He hears us and answers us in Christ Jesus.

Please join us for the remainder of these opportunities to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Savior's passion. All services are at 2:00 PM.

Service Schedule:

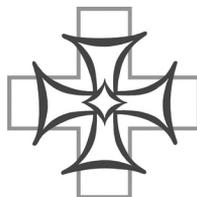
- **Mar 11:** The Good News of a God Who Passes over Us in Mercy (Exodus 12:1-14)
- **Mar 18:** The Good News of a God Who Makes a Way for Us (Exodus 14:5-31)
- **Mar 25:** The Good News of a God Who Sustains on Our Journey (Exodus 16:1-18, 35)

Learning with Littles – Easter Bag Donations Needed: We're planning to put together special Easter bags for the children to enjoy at our March 27th Learning with Littles Session! We're aiming to assemble about 70 bags for children ages 4 and under, and we'd love your help. We're looking for both food and non-food items to fill the bags. Some suggestions include:

- **Food items:** fruit snacks, Cutie oranges, granola bars, Goldfish crackers, Easter-themed chocolate or candy
- **Non-food items:** small containers of Play-Doh, mini slinkies, bubbles, stickers, sticky hands, toy cars, hair bows, pop-its, slap bracelets

Thank you for supporting this outreach and helping us share the love of Jesus with young children and their families in our community!

Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday: We invite you to help beautify our sanctuary for Easter Sunday by purchasing an Easter lily in honor or memory of a loved one. Each lily is \$10. If you would like to participate, please sign up at the back of church by March 29.



CLC Call News: *Calls received:* Pastor Tom Naumann (Mt. Zion, Madison Heights, MI) to Holy Cross, Phoenix, AZ, and Grace, Fridley, MN; Teacher Noah Ohlmann (Grace, Valentine, NE) to teach gr. 3-4 and serve as assoc. principal at Messiah, Eau Claire, WI; Pastor Johnathan Schnose (Bethel, Morris, MN) to Messiah, Eau Claire, WI; Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld (Redeemer, Sister Lakes, MI) to Living Hope, Appleton, WI. The CLC Call Committee for Educational Institutions called Dr. Daniel Schierenbeck as President (2-year call) and Dr. Daniel Sullivan as professor to Immanuel High School, College, and Seminary (Eau Claire, WI).

Calls accepted: to Immanuel, Mankato, MN, Teacher Debra Mayhew (full-time gr. 1-2) and Pastor Emeritus Paul Nolting (1-year part-time religion); Seminarian Sam Radermacher to a summer vacancy at Trinity, Spokane, WA, alongside his vicarship under Pastor Wayne Eichstadt (Gethsemane, Spokane, WA).

Resigned: Teacher Karen Swyter from Faith, Markesan, WI.

