

*Do not  
be afraid.  
Stand still,  
and see*

*the  
SALVATION  
of the  
LORD.*

*Exodus 14:13*



**Immanuel Lutheran Church & School**

1449 34<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881

[www.WinterHavenLutheran.com](http://www.WinterHavenLutheran.com)

Rob Sauers, Pastor (920) 602-3242

Neil Bernthal, Teacher (863) 967-5145

Katie Naumann, Teacher (253) 230-4184

## As We Gather

Have you ever felt completely trapped? We often feel the crushing weight of our own helplessness. Like the Israelites standing before the impassable Red Sea with Pharaoh's chariots thundering behind them, we frequently find ourselves backed into a corner by our guilt, our failures, and the relentless attacks of our enemy. There is no human escape route. But our worship today centers on a miraculous, comforting truth: when we are completely out of options, the Lord is not. Today, we turn our eyes to His Word to witness the breathtaking grace of our Savior. Prepare your hearts to hear the good news of a God who makes a way for us.

### ✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

#### Hymn

522 – When in the Hour of Utmost Need

#### Invocation

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

#### Opening Sentences

Isaiah 43:16; 19; Exodus 15:2

- P** Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea,
- C** **And a path through the mighty waters.**
- P** I will even make a road in the wilderness,
- C** **And rivers in the desert.**
- P** The Lord is my strength and song,
- C** **And He has become my salvation.**

#### Confession and Absolution

- P** Beloved in the Lord! We often find ourselves backed against a wall of our own making. Like the ancient Israelites trapped between an approaching army and an impassable sea, our sins, our fears, and the accusations of the devil hem us in. By our own reason and strength, we have no way out, and we are easily tempted to despair and complain. Yet, we have a God who makes a way for us. Let us therefore draw near to our gracious Father, confessing our sins, and pleading for His deliverance.

**C** Almighty God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have looked at the obstacles before us and doubted Your saving power. We have feared our earthly enemies and trials more than we have trusted in Your heavenly promises. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**P** The Lord fights for you, and He has made a way! In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, taking upon Himself the overwhelming flood of our sin and God's righteous wrath. As a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

<sup>1</sup> Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 77:11-20

- 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.**
- P** Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary;  
**C** **Who is so great a God as our God?**
- P** You are the God who does wonders;  
**C** **You have declared Your strength among the peoples.**
- P** You have with Your arm redeemed Your people,  
**C** **The sons of Jacob and Joseph.**
- P** The waters saw You, O God; The waters saw You, they were afraid;  
**C** **The depths also trembled.**
- P** The clouds poured out water; The skies sent out a sound;  
**C** **Your arrows also flashed about.**
- P** The voice of Your thunder was in the whirlwind; The lightnings lit up the world;  
**C** **The earth trembled and shook.**
- P** Your way was in the sea, Your path in the great waters,  
**C** **And Your footsteps were not known.**
- P** You led Your people like a flock  
**C** **By the hand of Moses and Aaron.**

## Passion History Reading

V. The Humble King

Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. Then the soldiers of the governor led Jesus away into the hall called Praetorium, and they called together and gathered around Him the whole garrison. And they stripped Him, and put a scarlet robe on Him, clothing Him in purple. And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and worshiped Him, mocking Him. They saluted Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head with it. And they struck Him with their hands.

When they had mocked Him, Pilate went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know I find no fault in Him." Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!"

Therefore when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made

Himself the Son of God.” Therefore when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid; and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said to Him, “Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?” Jesus answered, “You could have no power at all against Me, unless it had been given to you from above; therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.” From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, “If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar’s friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar.”

When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the preparation day of the Passover; and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, “Behold, your King!” But they cried out, “Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” And so Pilate delivered Jesus to their will, to be crucified.

The soldiers took Jesus’ purple robe off Him, and put His own clothes on Him. They took Jesus, and led Him out to crucify Him, bearing His cross. Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name, the father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming from the country. On him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus. And a great multitude of the people followed Him. But Jesus turning to them said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children, for indeed the days are coming in which they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore, and the breasts which never nursed’. Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’, and to the hills, ‘Cover us’. For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?”

There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. And they brought Him to the place called Calvary, in Hebrew Golgatha, which is the Place of a Skull. And when they had come there, they gave Him sour wine mingled with myrrh and gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink it.

## 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**

514 – God Moves in a Mysterious Way

## **Sermon Text**

Exodus 14:5-31

<sup>5</sup> Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, “Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?” <sup>6</sup> So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. <sup>7</sup> Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them. <sup>8</sup> And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness. <sup>9</sup> So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon. <sup>10</sup> And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD. <sup>11</sup> Then they said to Moses, “Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup> Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.” <sup>13</sup> And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. <sup>14</sup> The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.” <sup>15</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. <sup>16</sup> But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. <sup>17</sup> And I indeed will harden the hearts of the

Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. <sup>18</sup> Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.” <sup>19</sup> And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. <sup>20</sup> So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night. <sup>21</sup> Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup> So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. <sup>23</sup> And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. <sup>24</sup> Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. <sup>25</sup> And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.” <sup>26</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen.” <sup>27</sup> And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. <sup>28</sup> Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. <sup>29</sup> But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. <sup>30</sup> So the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup> Thus Israel saw the great work which the LORD had done in Egypt; so the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD and His servant Moses.

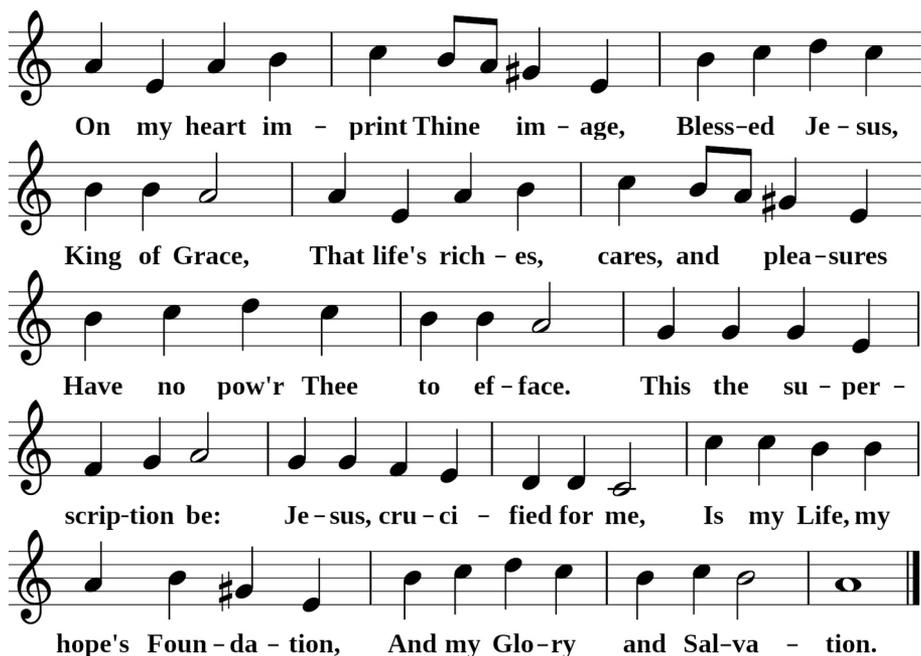


*Sermon*

## **The Good News of a God Who Makes a Way for Us.**

## 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

354 – In the Cross of Christ I Glory

*Hymns and liturgical settings under copyright are reprinted with permission under One License #A-741527. All Rights Reserved. Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

---

## ✠ Announcements ✠

---

### Upcoming Schedule – [winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar](http://winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar)

March 18	2:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 22	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
March 25	2:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 27	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
March 29	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 Sunday:** Have you ever prayed desperately, only to be met with deafening silence? Mary and Martha knew that pain well. When Lazarus fell deathly ill, they sent for Jesus. Yet, He deliberately stayed away. He delayed, and Lazarus died. Next Sunday, we will explore this heartbreaking narrative in John 11:1-45 under the theme, "The Beautiful Agony of God's Delay." Why does the Lord sometimes wait while our hearts break? Why does He allow us to weep? Join us as we discover how Christ's agonizing delays are actually beautiful setups for His greatest glories. Come hear the One who promises, "I am the resurrection and the life," and find lasting comfort for your waiting heart.

**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:*

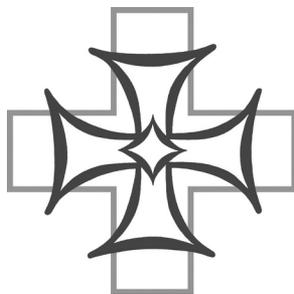
- **Mar 18:** The Good News of a God Who Makes a Way for Us (Exodus 14:5-31)
- **Mar 25:** The Good News of a God Who Sustains on Our Journey (Exodus 16:1-18, 35)

**Learning with Littles** – We’re putting together special Easter bags for the children to enjoy at our March 27<sup>th</sup> Learning with Littles Session! We’re aiming to make about 70 bags for children ages 4 and under, and we’d love your help. Below is a list of items that we could still use. We’ll assemble the bags next Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

- **Food Items:** Cutie oranges, granola bars, Animal crackers (No more candy needed.)
- **Non-Food Items:** Small containers of Play-Doh, mini slinkies, stickers, cross pop-its (from Amazon)

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.



As announced by email, Pastor Sauers has received a call from Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Phoenix, AZ to be their pastor. In this time of deliberation and prayer, we do well to review what God says concerning the Divine Call.

## The Divine Call

“The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps” (Proverbs 16:9). When met with decisions in life (whether a pastor with a call or anyone making an important decision), we use our God-given sense and abilities to evaluate those decisions. As we do this in prayer, seeking direction from God’s Word, and with a humble desire to follow God’s will, **we can be confident that the decision we reach is from the Lord.**

Our life’s purpose is to make the best possible use of the gifts God has given to us and to do so with thankfulness in service to Him and His kingdom. With this in mind, a call decision is based upon a careful consideration of this question: **“How can I best use the gifts and abilities God has given me to serve Him and His kingdom?”**

In evaluating this question it is helpful for an individual to seek advice from other people. Others may be better able to assess a person’s gifts and personal limitations. Others may also be able to recognize factors which the individual himself might overlook.

God’s call does not always match what human reason might suggest. Several of Jesus’ disciples were fishermen, and none were trained Bible scholars. Yet the Lord chose and equipped each of them to do His work.

A person considering a call will frequently pass through 1) an initial reaction either to accept or return the call; 2) confusion as the various factors are considered; and 3) a clear conviction and decision. If a person is convinced of God’s call, there should be no hesitancy to accept the call because whom the Lord calls He also equips (Exodus 4:10-17).

If a pastor returns a call, one might wonder why he received the call in the first place. Was the Holy Spirit wrong? No, God did not make a mistake. **There was a purpose for the call...perhaps to remind the congregation of their work, or as an encouragement to the pastor, or to cause those involved to appreciate their current situation.** Regardless, the Lord will use the situation for His good and glory.

*“How can I  
best use the  
abilities God has  
given me to serve  
Him and His  
kingdom?”*

