

## ***LENTEN MIDWEEK 5***

LENTEN THEME: Honest Repentance – “Salvation”  
March 29, 2023

### **INVOCATION**

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

**PRAISE TO THE GOD OF OUR SALVATION** Psalm 18:1–3  
(The LORD Is My Rock and My Fortress)

L: I love you, O LORD, my strength.  
C: **The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,**  
  
L: my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,  
C: **my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**  
  
L: I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,  
C: **and I am saved from my enemies.**

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,**  
**world without end. Amen.**

**CONFESSION** (based on John 20: 24-29; Luke 24:36-43)

L: Let us turn in repentance to the God of our Salvation seeking His forgiveness.  
(Silent Confession)

P: Most merciful God,  
C: **we often let the darkness of our sin overwhelm us and paralyze us from following Your life-saving course. We remain slaves to sin, rather than benefactors of Your great mercy. Forgive our sins and release us from the grip of our failure to follow You. Turn our eyes in faith to Jesus who through His suffering, death and resurrection promises to bring us safely to heaven’s doors. Give us unwavering faith in Him who is the Hope of the World. In Jesus’ Name we pray, Amen.**

## **ABSOLUTION**

**L:** Standing before the Red Sea with the Egyptian Army in full pursuit, Moses said, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today.” As Moses stretched out his arms over the sea parting the waters so that Israel was able to cross safely to the other side, so Jesus with outstretched arms on an old rugged cross, opens the way to eternal life to all of His rebellious children. As you have believed, receive His forgiveness; In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**SONG OF PRAISE** “Salvation’s Song” (video)

## **PRAYER**

**L:** Ever-loving God, who makes all things to work together for good to those who love You, pour into our hearts such steadfast love toward You that the pure desires Your Holy Spirit stirs within us, may not be turned aside by any temptation and that we may live in daily thankfulness for the great salvation You have brought to us and all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Exodus 14:10-15:1 (See the Salvation of the Lord)

[10] When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. [11] They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? [12] Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” [13] And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. [14] The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

[15] The LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. [16] Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. [17] And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. [18] And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”

[19] Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, [20] coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

[21] Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. [22] And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. [23] The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. [24] And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, [25] clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."

[26] Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." [27] So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. [28] The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. [29] But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

[30] Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. [31] Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses. (ESV)

[15:1] Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying,

"I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE**      Romans 6:1–11      (Dead to Sin, Alive to God)

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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.

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. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**HOLY GOSPEL**      Matthew 12:38–41      (The Sign of Jonah)

L:      The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C:      Glory to You, O Lord.**

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

L:      This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C:      Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN No. 555**      “Salvation Unto Us Has Come” (vss. 1,2,5,6 &10)

Salvation unto us has come By God’s free grace and favor;  
Good works cannot avert our doom, They help and save us never.  
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone;  
He is our one redeemer.

What God did in His Law demand And none to Him could render  
Caused wrath and woe on ev'ry hand For man, the vile offender.  
Our flesh has not those pure desires The spirit of the Law requires,  
And lost is our condition.

Yet as the Law must be fulfilled Or we must die despairing,  
Christ came and has God's anger stilled, Our human nature sharing.  
He has for us the Law obeyed And thus the Father's vengeance stayed  
Which over us impended.

Since Christ has full atonement made And brought to us salvation,  
Each Christian therefore may be glad And build on this foundation.  
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead, Your death is now my life indeed,  
For you have paid my ransom.

All blessing, honor, thanks and praise To Father, Son, and Spirit,  
The God who saved us by His grace; All glory to His merit.  
O triune God in heav'n above, You have revealed Your saving love;  
Your blessed name we hallow.

**SERMON** "Salvation" Exodus 14 Pastor Vern

## **OFFERING**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

L: Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

L: Holy Lord, pride led us to rebel against You and choose our own way instead of Your gracious path. Keep us from hubris and pride, lest in thinking too highly of ourselves, we turn away from Your mercy again. Instill within us the humble heart of faith that trusts in Your Word and bear within us the obedience of faith that delights to follow where You have led, so that we may be found blameless and holy when Christ comes again in His glory to bring all things to their perfect consummation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

L: Lord God, You are the strength of the weak, the consolation of those who suffer, the peace of those troubled, and the hope of those in the hour of death. Deliver, we pray You, all whom we name before You that, according to Your will, their sickness may be turned to health, their sorrow into joy, and their anxious hearts may rest in peace. Hear our prayers on behalf of those You have put on our hearts and whose names we now call out to You for help... (names)

Hear our prayers through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray saying:

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

**All: 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.**

**LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER**

L: I thank You, my heavenly Father,

**C: through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

**BLESSING OF THE LORD**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: Amen. Thanks be to God!**

**CLOSING HYMN No. 878**

“Abide with Me” (vss. 1, 4 & 6)

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.  
The darkness deepens;  
Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

**SENDING**

**L:** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**