TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST/VETERAN’S DAY/MARTIN LUTHER’S BIRTHDAY

Who Am I?

AS WE GATHER

When God called Moses to tell Pharaoh to let His people go, Moses had an identity crisis. He was aware of his inability to take on the great task. But eventually he trusted in God, the great I AM, who was about to keep the promise He had made to the patriarchs. The Early Church was beset with conflicting teachings in the decades after Jesus’ ascension. But Paul reminded the faithful that God had chosen them to be saved. As they awaited Jesus’ return, he urged them to rely on God for the comfort and hope they needed. We, too, by ourselves are helpless, dead in sin, but, as Jesus told His detractors, God is not God of the dead, but of the living, and we shall live with Him forever.
PRELUDE
“Fantasia on ‘America, the Beautiful’”
arr. Rex Koury

PRESERVICE SING-ALONG
“America, the Beautiful”

Please sing along on this beloved national hymn.

PASTORAL GREETING

TOLLING OF THE BELL

HYMN
“The God of Abraham Praise”
Verses 1-2

INVOCATION
Based on Exodus 3:6–8, 14–15

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
People: the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob,
Pastor: who has surely seen the affliction of His people,
People: who has come down to deliver them,
Pastor: whose name is I AM WHO I AM,
People: who is to be remembered throughout all generations.
CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: When God called out to Moses from the burning bush, Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

People: We, having sinned against God in our thoughts, words, and deeds, cannot come into God’s presence as we are, helpless in our fallen sinful condition. Forgive us, almighty Creator.

Pastor: When God promised Moses that he would serve Him on Mount Horeb, Moses asked to know the name of God.

People: And we, who bear the name of God from our Baptism, have failed to reflect His grace, love, and mercy in our daily living. Forgive us, gracious Savior.

Pastor: When God told him to go Pharaoh, Moses could only say, “Who am I that I should go?”

People: We have put our personal desires ahead of God and the people around us. Forgive us, strengthening Spirit.

Silence for reflection on the Word of God and our sinful condition.

Pastor: God promised Moses that he and the Israelites, freed from slavery in Egypt, would worship on that mountain. Because of Jesus’ sacrifice, we have been freed from our sins. God now graciously invites us to worship Him here in time and hereafter in eternity. As a called and ordained 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.

People: Amen.

✧ WORD ✧

HYMN “The God of Abraham Praise” LSB 798 Verses 3-4

KYRIE

Pastor: For the peace that comes from knowing the grace of God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the great I AM, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace in realizing that we have been freed from slavery in sin to look toward the promised land of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace and assurance that God calls us to work for Him and promises to accompany us to accomplish His will, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.
SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Living God, Your almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy and pity.

People: Grant us the fullness of Your grace to lay hold of Your promises and live forever in Your presence;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Exodus 3:1–15
(God calls Moses to tell Pharaoh to free the Israelites in Egypt.)

Pastor: God called Moses to tell Pharaoh that He would free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, and He has called us to spread the news that in Christ He has freed us from our sins. Our place between our gracious God and the people around us parallels that of Moses; therefore, we shall all speak the words of Moses in the Reading.

Lector: Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said,

People: I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.

Lector: When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush,

Pastor: Moses, Moses!

People: Here I am.

Pastor: Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground. I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

Lector: And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said,

Pastor: I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I
have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.

Lector: But Moses said to God,

People: Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?

Pastor: But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.

People: If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, “The God of your fathers has sent me to you,” and they ask me, “What is His name?” what shall I say to them?

Pastor: I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: “I AM has sent me to you.” Say this to the people of Israel: “The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.” This is My name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: 2 Thessalonians 2:1–8, 13–17

(Although evil will be a part of history until the Last Day, Jesus’ return and our salvation are certain.)

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because
from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Congregation, please rise for the Alleluia verse and the Holy Gospel.

VERSE Luke 20:38

Pastor: Alleluia. He is not God of the dead, but of the living,
People: for all live to Him. Alleluia.

(Those who die in faith remain alive in God's presence.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twentieth chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Some of the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus with a question. "Teacher," they said, "Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and have children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers. The first one married a woman and died childless. The second and then the third married her, and in the same way the seven died, leaving no children. Finally, the woman died too. Now then, at the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?"
Jesus replied, "The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection. But in the account of the bush, even Moses showed that the dead rise, for he calls the Lord 'the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive."
Some of the teachers of the law responded, "Well said, teacher!" And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Go Down, Moses" (When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land)

When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land

1 When Is-rael was in E-gypt’s land,
2 The Lord told Mo-ses what to do,
3 As Is-rael stood by the wa-ter-side, Let My peo-ple go,
4 When they had reached the oth-er shore,
5 Lord, help us all from bond-age flee.

Op-pressed so hard they could not stand,
To lead the He-brew chil-dren through,
At God’s com-mand it did di-vide, Let My peo-ple go.
They let the song of tri-umph soar,
And let us all in Christ be free.

Refrain

Go down, Mo-ses, way down in E-gypt’s land,

Tell old Pha-raoh: Let My peo-ple go.

Text: African American spiritual, adapt. John W. Work II. Public domain

SERMON “The Most Important Verse in The Bible” Pastor John Larson
TEXT: Matthew 22:34-40

NICENE CREED Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for our brothers and sisters in the faith and for all people in their various circumstances.
Eternal Lord, You sent Moses to Pharaoh, giving him Your name and promising to go with him. Now You send us out into the world with Your name upon us from our Baptism and Your gracious presence going with us. Use us, we pray, and work through us to accomplish Your gracious will. Confident that You accompany us,

**People:** we praise the name of the Lord.

**Pastor:** Heavenly Father, You saw the afflictions of Your people in Egypt. Look on all who are oppressed by harsh governments, denied their human rights by corrupt courts, or cast aside by uncaring cultures. Visit, relieve, strengthen, and free them to worship You in peace and joy. Knowing Your answers are better than our prayers,

**People:** we praise the name of the Lord.

**Pastor:** O Holy Spirit, You knew the sufferings of the Israelites in Moses’ day. Listen to all who are struggling with illnesses of body, mind, or spirit, [including . . .], and guide those who seek to meet their various needs. Anticipating the contentment and health that await them in Your gracious plans,

**People:** we praise the name of the Lord.

**Pastor:** Special intercessions may be added here... Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** we praise the name of the Lord.

**Pastor:** Lord Jesus, hear the prayers of all displaced from their homes or seeking asylum in foreign lands, and protect all who work for order within societies and peace across borders. Confident that You can bring good out of every circumstance,

**People:** we praise the name of the Lord.

**Pastor:** Lord Jesus, Your people have awaited Your return since Your ascension. During this time when lawlessness and rebellion are rampant in this fallen world, give us comfort and hope, protection and encouragement. Looking forward to joining those who have gone before and now live in Your presence,

**People:** we praise the name of the Lord, now and forever. Amen.

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**THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** And also with you.
I AM Forever WHO I AM

Richard W. Wiegmann

Solo (or All) 1 Though moun-tains slide in-to the sea, And
Women 2 We buy and sell, we lose or gain; Our
Men 3 Our lust for pow-er, wealth, and land Di-
Choir 4 Like shep-herds watch-ing for the light, A-

wa-ters rush where fields should be, Though
for-tunes shift like sun and rain. Sus-
min-ish-es the earth you planned. Pre-

mon-u-ments and na-tions fall, Your
vent our crimes and fu-tile wars; Con-
hear the an-gel: "Do not fear, The

ho-ly cit-y stands through all. When
brea-d and hon-ey, wine and oil. Save
vinct us that all things are yours. We
Sav-ior of the world is near." We

noth-ing seems to stay the same, You teach us your e-ter-nal name.
us and oth-ers from our greed; You al-ways give us what we need.
rage and burn and kill and steal, But you re-deem, re-store, and heal.
run, we see, we touch, we laugh. You came to earth on our be-half.

Refrain (All sing except for Stanza 4)

I AM for-ev-er WHO I AM. A-bove you, be-neath you, A-

round you and with-in you. Be still and know that I am God.

All 5 Each generation looks for truth,
And doubt can trouble age or youth.
If other gods would take your place,
Remember us with love and grace.
Reclaim us if we go astray;
You are the Truth, the Life, the Way. Refrain

All 6 Some days seem long, though life is brief,
And death is waiting like a thief.
When vision fades and dreams go dry,
We will on unseen things rely.
Our stories take up but a page,
But yours goes on from age to age. Refrain

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HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.

*SACRAMENT*

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.  
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  
People: We lift them to the Lord.  
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS (“The God of Abraham Praise” Verse 9)

People: The whole triumphant host
Give thanks to God on high.
“Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!”
They ever cry.
Hail, Abr’ham’s God and mine!
I join the heav’nly lays:
All might and majesty are Thine
And endless Praise!


Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in
remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My *blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

**LORD’S PRAYER**  *Matthew 6:9–13*  Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

**AGNUS DEI**

Lord Jesus, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

James Pierce

Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us here.

You take away the sins of all, our Savior dear.

Your body and Your blood, Your sacrifice, give peace.

From threatening perils of our sin, grant us release.

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**DISTRIBUTION MUSIC**

“America”  Bill Wolaver

Diana Gaide, pianist

“What Is This Bread”  LSB 629

“What Is This Bread”  LSB 629

“What Is This Bread”  LSB 629

“Before You Lord, We Bow”  LSB 966

**GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING**

Pastor: The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the great I AM—the Father, the **Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
People: Amen.

HYMN “God Bless Our Native Land”

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “The Stars and Stripes Forever” John Philip Sousa
Diana Gaide, synthesized piccolo

Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT Pastor John Larson
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES Michael Zehnder
ORGAN ASSISTANT & CHOIR ACCOMPANIST Diana Gaide
AGAPE Rose Berger, Eli Faulk, Bri Fort,
Lisa O’Neal, Ken Price, Bob Shiflet

ELDER 8:00 Bill Redden
10:30 Don Loptien

LECTOR 8:00 Lorraine Winckler
10:30 Jeanette Nelson

ACOLYTE 8:00 Jonas Tunheim
10:30 Espen Erling

USHERS 8:00 Clyde Wiggins, Gabe Gutierrez,
Members of the Congregation
10:30 Jason Dierking, Carly Calhoun,
Anna Wishon

SERVER 10:30 Flo Westra

ALTAR GUILD Sally Atchison, Gloria Gaudreault,
Gloria Mielke, Laurel Shurtleff

FLOWERS Dennis & Joyce Lord, in celebration of
Nonna Angelina Tacito’s 11st birthday.

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