

## LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE 6

March 25, 2026

11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

**“I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY:  
The Story of God’s Deliverance in Exodus”**



### **AS WE GATHER: “Set Free – The Gospel in Exodus”**

From earliest days the Christian Church employed the weeks before Easter—what came to be called the season of Lent—as the time of the year to prepare candidates for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the catechumenate. Paul wrote, “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” (Romans 6:4). The readings from Exodus, which shall guide our worship through Lent, provide us with Good News of God’s deliverance. The deliverance of the Israelites through the Red Sea in Exodus and into the promised land is described in the Bible as a type of baptism. As the Israelites were delivered from slavery to Pharaoh in Egypt by Moses, so we are delivered from slavery to sin by Christ and into salvation. 1 Corinthians 10:1–2 explicitly states that our forefathers *“were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.”*

### **PRELUDE**

11:30 am  
6:30 pm

“O Sacred Head”  
“Blessed Assurance


Pachelbel  
Melody Bober

### **GREETING**

*Pastor Larson*

# OPENING HYMN

## "I Love to Tell the Story"



I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove, Of  
 I love to tell the sto - ry: 'tis plea - sant to re - peat What  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best Seem  
 Je - sus and His glo - ry, of Je - sus and His love; I  
 seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet; I  
 hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like - ly the sweet rest; And  
 love to tell the sto - ry be - cause I know 'tis true, It  
 love to tell the sto - ry, for some have ne - ver heard The  
 when in scenes of glo - ry I sing the new, new song, 'Twill  
 sat - is - fies my long - ings as no - thing else can do. I  
 mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word. I  
 be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long. I  
 love to tell the sto - ry! 'Twill be my theme in  
 love to tell the sto - ry! 'Twill be my theme in  
 love to tell the sto - ry! 'Twill be my theme in  
 glo - ry: To tell the old, old sto - ry Of Je - sus and His love.  
 glo - ry: To tell the old, old sto - ry Of Je - sus and His love.  
 glo - ry: To tell the old, old sto - ry Of Je - sus and His love.

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# OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 118:24; 113:3; Joel 2:13; Matthew 16:24; Isaiah 53:5*

**Pastor:** This is the day which the Lord has made;

**People:** let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Pastor:** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**People:** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**Pastor:** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

**People:** slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.

**Pastor:** Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,

**People:** let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

**Pastor:** Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

**People:** He was bruised for our iniquities.

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
 People: the name of the Lord is to be praised.  
 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in  
 the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE Psalm 141

**C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,

the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

**I** O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice

when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,

the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

**II** Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.

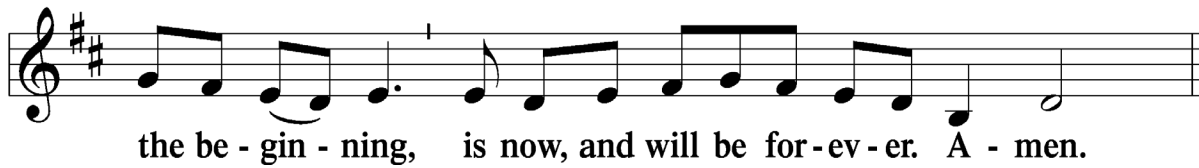
**I** Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;

let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers.

**II** But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref - uge.

Strip me not of my life. **C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and

to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in



## INTROIT *Psalm 51:1–3, 10–12, 17*

**Pastor:** Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;

**People:** according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**Lectern side:** *Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,*

**Pulpit side:** *and cleanse me from my sin!*

**Lectern side:** *For I know my transgressions,*

**Pulpit side:** *and my sin is ever before me.*

**Lectern side:** *Create in me a clean heart, O God,*

**Pulpit side:** *and renew a right spirit within me.*

**Lectern side:** *Cast me not away from Your presence,*

**Pulpit side:** *and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.*

**People:** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

**Pastor:** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

**People:** a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

## PRAYER AND CONFESSION

**Pastor:** Together we admit the truth. Scripture says, “Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it” (*James 2:10*). We may fool ourselves into thinking we haven’t broken certain commandments, but scripture shows how deep God’s laws really go, for instance, regarding the command not to murder, “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer” (*1 John 3:15*) and regarding adultery, “Whoever lusts in his heart is guilty of committing adultery” (*Matt 5:28*).

**People:** O Lord, please forgive us. We are painfully aware that we have broken ALL of your laws by what we have done, by what we have left undone, by the things we have said, and even by what we have thought about privately. Together with the Psalmist who declared in hopeful wonder we ask, “If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? (*Psalm 130:3*)

## **ABSOLUTION**

**Pastor:** Fortunately, the Psalmist also answers that question: “But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared” (*Psalm 130:3*). Because of the sacrifice of His beloved Son for the sins of all people, God has promised forgiveness of all your sins. Lent is a time to remember the purpose of God’s sacrifice of His one and only Son in your place: that you might receive the forgiveness He won for you on the cross. So, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Live as the saints that you are in Christ Jesus.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **✠ WORD ✠**

### **FIRST READING: Hebrews 2:1–9**

*(The founder of salvation)*

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere,

“What is man, that you are mindful of him,  
or the son of man, that you care for him?  
You made him for a little while lower than the angels;  
you have crowned him with glory and honor,  
putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Exodus 2:23–24, 3:14**

*(God hears the cries of His people and declares His Name to be I AM)*

**Pastor:** During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ...God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, "I AM has sent me to you."  
This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **RESPONSORY 1 Corinthians 10:1–4**

*(Paul explains the connection between the Exodus and Baptism)*

**Pastor:** Our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea.

**People: The Rock was Christ.**

**Pastor:** All were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

**People: The Rock was Christ.**

**Pastor:** All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink.

**People: The Rock was Christ.**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY "Lord Take My Hand and Lead Me"**

LSB 722

## **SERMON**

"Lent = Love"

Pastor John Larson

Text: Exodus 20

## **OFFERING** *(collected in the back)*

## **PRAYERS**

**Pastor:** Let us pray for all people who are unsure of God's hearing their prayers.

**People: Hear their cries, O Lord, grant them courage as You accompany, and answer them speedily.**

**Pastor:** Let us ask God to strengthen the faith of those who only recently have known Him.

**People: Reveal Yourself gently to them, Lord Jesus, through the caring of Your church.**

**Pastor:** Let us pray for those who feel trapped by circumstances beyond their control.

**People: Assure them that You know their dilemma and that the deliverer has come: Jesus, our Savior and Lord.**

**Pastor:** Let us pray for all who fear God's punishment.

**People: Show them mercy, O Lord, as You passed over Your Old Testament people. Grant them peace through Your presence.**

Pastor: Let us pray for all who know no good ways to turn, are unsure of the truth, and await only their deaths.

**People: Tell them again, Lord Jesus, that You alone are the way, and the truth, and the life.**

Pastor: Finally, let us pray for all who are tired from opposition in the world around them and from their own conflicts within themselves.

**People: Awaken in them a sense of Your accompanying them on their journey until that day when they and we join those who have gone before us at Your heavenly banquet hall.**

Pastor: 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.

**People: 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.**

*(Other intercessions may be added here)*

Pastor: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,

**People: give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;**

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.**

## **LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER**

**People: I thank You, my heavenly Father, 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.**

## **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord, who protected His people throughout the exodus, bless you.  
The Lord, who sustained them in the desert, bless you.  
The Lord, who led them and you to the Promised Land, bless and keep you, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN****“Blessed Assurance”****BOB 24**


1 Bless-ed as - sur-ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a fore - taste of glo - ry di -  
 2 Per - fect sub - mis-sion: Christ on the cross, For my sal - va - tion— He suf-fered  
 3 Know-ing for - give-ness, now I'm at rest, I in my Sav - ior am hap - py and  
 4 Vic - try o'er Sa - tan, death, and the grave, O what a joy to— know that I'm

vine!— Heir of sal - va-tion, pur-chase of God, Born of His Spir - it, washed in His blood.  
 loss,— Gave up His life and gave up His throne, Pur-chased and won me, made me His own.  
 blest;— Watch-ing and wait-ing, look - ing a - bove, Filled with His good-ness, trust - ing His love.  
 saved!— Claim-ing no mer-it, works of my own, All glo - ry, praise, be to God a - lone!

This is my sto - ry this is my song,— Prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day  
 long;— This is my sto - ry, this is my song— Prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

*New and altered text by Michael Zehnder @2000 Used by Permission***POSTLUDE****11:30 am**

Improvisation on ‘O Sacred Head’”

**Nathan Eickmann****6:30 pm**

“Ah, Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken?”

**Helmut Walcha****SERVING IN WORSHIP**

**LITURGIST AND PREACHER**  
**MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP**  
**ORGANIST**

**Pastor John Larson**  
**Michael Zehnder**  
 11:30 am – **Nathan Eickmann**  
 6:30 pm – **Nancy Nordby**