

LENTEN MIDWEEK 5

March 18, 2026

HYMN *“All Who Believe and Are Baptized” LSB #601*

Stand

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 143:1, 5, 10*

Pastor: Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

People: **In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!**

Pastor: I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that You have done;

People: **I ponder the work of Your hands.**

Pastor: Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God!

People: **Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground!**

PSALM *Psalm 121*

Left side: I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

Right side: My help comes from the Lord,

who made heaven and earth.

Left side: He will not let your foot be moved;

Right side: He who keeps you will not slumber.

People: **Behold, He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

Left side: The Lord is your keeper;

Right side: the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

Left side: The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

Right side: The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.

People: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Sit

FIRST READING *Exodus 14:5–31*

5 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the mind of Pharaoh and his servants was changed toward the people, and they said, “What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?” 6 So he made ready his chariot and took his army with him, 7 and took six hundred chosen chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. 8 And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the people of Israel while the people of Israel were going out defiantly. 9 The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and his horsemen and his army, and overtook them encamped at the sea, by Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon. 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. **Moses Returns to Egypt**

18 Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, "Please let me go back to my brothers in Egypt to see whether they are still alive." And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace." 19 And the Lord said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt, for all the men who were seeking your life are dead." 20 So Moses took his wife and his sons and had them ride on a donkey, and went back to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the staff of God in his hand. 21 And the Lord said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. 22 Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord, Israel is my firstborn son, 23 and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me." If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.'" 24 At a lodging place on the way the Lord met him and sought to put him to death. 25 Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin and touched Moses' feet with it and said, "Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me!" 26 So he let him alone. It was then that she said, "A bridegroom of blood," because of the circumcision. 27 The Lord said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him. 28 And Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord with which he had sent him to speak, and all the signs that he had commanded him to do. 29 Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel. 30 Aaron spoke all the words that the Lord had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people. 31 And the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand

SECOND READING *Romans 6:3–5*

3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 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. 5 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.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

THIRD READING *John 14:1–6*

Pastor: “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.”

Lector: Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him,

Pastor: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN “What Prompted Christ” (*Tune: LSB #543*)

**What prompted Christ our Lord to come down to the cross,
What prompted Him to die for my soul?
It was the Father’s love**

**That sent Him to the cross
That in Christ's boundless love He would pay for all sin
To pay for ev'ry sin since the fall.**

**We do not know the way or the truth or the life.
We see but errors, lies, and much strife.
The Father knows our plight:
He dearly loves us much
That He sent down His Son to become for us all
God's way, His truth, and life for us all.**

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PASSION READING *Mark 15:12–24*

Lector: The Passion of our Lord according to St. Mark, the fifteenth chapter.

And Pilate again said to them, “Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” And they cried out again,

People: “Crucify Him.”

Lector: [And Pilate said to them,] “Why, what evil has He done?” But they shouted all the more,

People: “Crucify Him.”

Lector: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.

And the soldiers led Him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed Him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on Him. And they began to salute Him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they were striking His head with a reed and spitting on Him and kneeling down in homage to Him. And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the purple cloak and put His own clothes on Him. And they led Him out to crucify Him.

And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry His cross. And they brought Him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). And they offered Him wine mixed with myrrh, but He did not take it. And they crucified Him and divided His garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sit

HYMN *“Chief of Sinners Though I Be” LSB #611*

SERMON

HYMN *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” LSB #426*

Stand

PRAYERS

Lector: 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.**

Lector: 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.**

Lector: 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.**

Lector: 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.

Lector: 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.

Lector: 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.

Lector: 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.

Lector: 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;

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

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: 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

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.

HYMN *“Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer” LSB #918*

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