



Wednesday
Lenten Services

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
LENTEN MIDWEEK 2 - March 11, 2020 – 7:00pm**

Theme of the Day

*Stop trying and start trusting. That's the truth God teaches his people in Exodus 14. And that's the Gospel truth God teaches us as well – **today!***

Prelude: "O How Cheating, O How Fleeting"

set by Georg Bohm

(Please Rise)

Opening Hymn: #435 "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"

Invocation and Call to Worship: Psalm 105

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Israel arrived in Egypt; Jacob lived as a foreigner in the land of Ham.

C: The LORD multiplied the people of Israel.

P: The LORD sent his servant Moses, along with Aaron, whom he had chosen.

C: The LORD blanketed Egypt in darkness.

P: They had defied his commands to let his people go.

C: He turned their water into blood, poisoning all the fish.

P: Then frogs overran the land and even invaded the king's bedrooms.

C: When the LORD spoke, flies descended on the Egyptians.

P: He sent them hail instead of rain, and lightning flashed over the land.

C: He spoke, and hordes of locusts came.

P: The LORD brought his people out of Egypt loaded with silver and gold.

ALL: Not one among the tribes of Israel stumbled!

Confession and Absolution

P: Hear me, merciful and mighty Father, as I confess my bondage to sin and death.

C: I know that nothing good lives in me.

P: That is, in my sinful nature.

C: I have the desire to do good.

P: But I cannot carry it out.

C: What I do is not the good I want to do.

P: No, the evil I do not want to do, this I keep on doing.

C: I find this law at work –

P: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

C: In my inner being, I delight in your law.

P: But I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war and making me a prisoner of the law of sin and death.

All: Who will rescue me from this body of death?

(You are invited to silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater.)

P: Hear the good news. The same God who delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage delivers you from your body of sin and death! Jesus Christ, the Passover lamb, has been sacrificed and his blood forgives you and sets you free! The LORD brought his people out of Egypt, loaded with silver and gold.

ALL: And not one among the tribes of Israel stumbled!

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Father in heaven, although you graciously and daily provide for all that we need, we frequently fail to trust your love and mercy. Awaken our faith so that, all the more, we trust you in every test and temptation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

(Be Seated)

First Lesson: Exodus 14:1-29

Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ²“Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea. ³For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, ‘They *are* bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.’ ⁴Then I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I *am* the Lord.” And they did so. ⁵Now 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?” ⁶So he ^[a]made ready his chariot and took his people with him. ⁷Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them. ⁸And 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. ⁹So 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.

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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? ¹² *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."

¹³ And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation^[b] of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. ¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold^[c] your peace."

¹⁵ And the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Then the Egyptians shall know that I *am* the Lord, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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.

²¹ 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. ²² 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. ²³ And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

²⁴ 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 ^[d]troubled the army of the Egyptians. ²⁵ And He ^[e]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."

²⁶ 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." ²⁷ 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^[f] the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ 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.

(Please Rise)

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

²⁵ At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. ²⁶ Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. ²⁷ All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and *the one* to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*. ²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am ^[a]gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light."

(Be Seated)

Sermon Hymn: #729 "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus"

Sermon: "Stop Trying, Start Trusting"

Offering

Offertory Solo: "Fix Me, Jesus" Spiritual, set by Hall Johnson
Ranara Rahimova, soprano

(Please Rise)

Closing Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

(Please Rise)

Closing Hymn: #738 "Lord of All Hopefulness"

Postlude: "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy" set by Johann Pachelbel

**Join us on Wednesday's during Lent, March 4 – April 1, at 7:00pm for service
Dinner at 5:30pm – March 18 – Cancer Ministry
March 25 – Youth (fundraiser)
April 1 – TBD**

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