

The Third Sunday in Lent
March 22-23, 2025
Divine Service, Setting Four, p. 203

Invocation, Confession, and Absolution (*stand*)

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Introit (4:30 and 8:00) *Teach Me Your Paths* Ps. 25:1–2, 17–18, 20; antiph: vv. 15–16

My eyes are ever toward the LORD,

for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

Turn to me and be gracious to me,

for I am lonely and afflicted.

To you, O LORD,

I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame;

let not my enemies exult over me.

The troubles of my heart are enlarged;

bring me out of my distresses.

Consider my affliction and my trouble,

and forgive all my sins.

Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!

Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.

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.

My eyes are ever toward the LORD,

for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

Turn to me and be gracious to me,

for I am lonely and afflicted.

Entrance Hymn (10:30) "Hope of the World"

LSB 690, *soloist st. 1*

Kyrie

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After each petition, the congregation sings:

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

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P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** (*sit*)

Old Testament *Plagues of Gnats and Flies*

Exodus 8:16–24

¹⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.'" ¹⁷And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. ¹⁸The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. ¹⁹Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

²⁰Then the LORD said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh, as he goes out to the water, and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, "Let my people go, that they may serve me. ²¹Or else, if you will not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants and your people, and into your houses. And the houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. ²²But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth. ²³Thus I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen.'"²⁴And the LORD did so. There came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and into his servants' houses. Throughout all the land of Egypt the land was ruined by the swarms of flies.

Gradual of the Day

Psalm 9:19, 3

Arise, O LORD! Let not man prevail;

let the nations be judged before you!

When my enemies turn back,

they stumble and perish before your presence.**Epistle** *Walk in Love*

Ephesians 5:1–9

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not associate with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

Verse for Lent (*stand*)

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel *Jesus and Beelzebul*

Luke 11:14-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eleventh chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁴Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled.

¹⁵But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," ¹⁶while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²²but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

²⁴"When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' ²⁵And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. ²⁶Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first."

²⁷As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" ²⁸But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.****Apostles' Creed**

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Hymn of the Day (*sit*) "Hope of the World" (4:30 and 8:00)

LSB 690

Hymn of the Day (*sit*) "When Israel Was in Egypt's Land" (10:30)tune: GO DOWN MOSES, *Biblical excerpts from Exodus and Galatians*

⁹[The king of Egypt] said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us ¹¹Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they

multiplied . . . and the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. ¹³So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves.

Soloist When Israel was in Egypt's land,
All **Let my people go;**
Soloist Oppressed so hard they could not stand,
All **Let my people go.**
Soloist Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land, tell old Pharaoh:
All **Let my people go.**

⁷Then [God said to Moses], "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt. I will send plagues [such as gnats and flies] upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will drive you away completely.

Soloist The Lord told Moses what to do,
All **Let my people go;**
Soloist To lead the childr'n of Israel through,
All **Let my people go.**
Soloist Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land, tell old Pharaoh:
All **Let my people go.**

¹⁷When Pharaoh let the people go . . . the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.

Soloist The pillar of cloud shall clear the way,
All **Let my people go;**
Soloist A fire by night, a shade by day,
All **Let my people go.**
Soloist Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land, tell old Pharaoh:
All **Let my people go.**

⁹The Egyptians pursued [the Israelites] . . . and overtook them encamped at the [Red Sea] ³And Moses said to the people, "Fear not . . . see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today." ²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back . . . and the waters were divided. ²²And 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.

Soloist As Israel stood by the waterside,
All **Let my people go;**
Soloist At God's command it did divide,
All **Let my people go.**
Soloist Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land, tell old Pharaoh:
All **Let my people go.**

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians" ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea . . . and as the Egyptians fled into it . . . the waters returned and covered them; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. ¹Then Moses and the people of Israel sang [a song of praise] to the LORD.

Soloist When they had reached the other shore,
All **Let my people go;**
Soloist They sang the song of triumph o'er,
All **Let my people go.**
Soloist Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land, tell old Pharaoh:
All **Let my people go.**

¹For freedom Christ has set us free ¹There is . . . no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Soloist Oh, let us all from bondage flee,
All **Let my people go;**
Soloist And let us all in Christ be free,
All **Let my people go.**
Soloist Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land, tell old Pharaoh:
All **Let my people go.**

Sermon "What Will It Take?"

Exodus 8:16-24

Prayer of the Church (*stand*) *congregation responds "Hear our prayer"*

Offering (*sit*)

Preface (*stand*) p. 208

Sanctus

Prayer of Thanksgiving p. 209

Lord's Prayer, Words of Institution, and Pax Domini

Agnus Dei p. 210

Distribution (*sit*) "Salvation Unto Us Has Come" LSB 555, *sts. 1-6*

**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.**

**It was a false, misleading dream that God His Law had given
That sinners could themselves redeem and by their works gain heaven.
The Law is but a mirror bright to bring the inbred sin to light
That lurks within our nature.**

**From sin our flesh could not abstain, sin held its sway unceasing;
The task was useless and in vain, our guilt was e'er increasing.
None can remove sin's poisoned dart or purify our guileful heart—
So deep is our corruption.**

**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.**

Nunc Dimittis (*stand*) p. 211

Post-Communion Collect, Benedicamus, and Benediction p. 212

Closing Hymn "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" LSB 643

Postlude