

Midweek Lenten Worship III

Set Free:

The Gospel in Exodus—

Exodus 4:1-20

*The Good News of a God Who
Sends a Deliverer*

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH –
HAMBURG**

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026
6:30 p.m.**

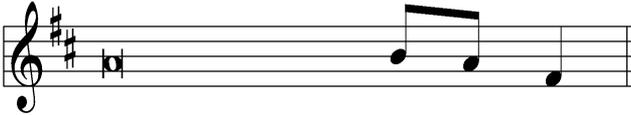
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
**Thursday, March 5, 2026
11:00 a.m. 630 p.m.**

OPENING HYMN

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer”

LSB 918

P O Lord, open my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.

Psalm 25 (read responsively)

P ¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

C ²O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.

- P** ³Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- C** ⁴**Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.**
- P** ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.
- C** ⁶**Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast
love,
for they have been from of old.**
- P** ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my
transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!
- C** ⁸**Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**
- P** ⁹He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.
- C** ¹⁰**All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and
faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his
testimonies.**
- P** ¹¹For your name's sake, O LORD,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.
- C** ¹²**Who is the man who fears the LORD?
Him will he instruct in the way that he should
choose.**
- P** ¹³His soul shall abide in well-being,
and his offspring shall inherit the land.
- C** ¹⁴**The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear
him,
and he makes known to them his covenant.**
- P** ¹⁵My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
- C** ¹⁶**Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.**
- P** ¹⁷The troubles of my heart are enlarged;
bring me out of my distresses.

- C** ¹⁸Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.
- P** ¹⁹Consider how many are my foes,
and with what violent hatred they hate me.
- C** ²⁰Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!
Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in
you.
- P** ²¹May integrity and uprightness preserve me,
for I wait for you.
- C** ²²Redeem Israel, O God,
out of all his troubles.

ANTIPHON

- P** Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit.



- C** O come, let us wor - ship Him.

RESPONSIVE HYMN “Create in Me”

LSB #956

- 1** Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** “God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in
spirit and in truth.” (*John 4:24*) And, “He who conceals
his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and
renounces them finds mercy. (*Proverbs 28:13*)
Therefore, let us confess and renounce our sins with
a sincere heart and mind before the Lord, receiving
His Almighty, Divine, and Eternal forgiveness.

*(A moment of silence
for personal confession and reflection.)*

P We confess:

C **God forgive me, a sinner. Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P “For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, so that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but shall have everlasting life. *(John 3:16)* “Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against him, and in whose spirit is no deceit. *(Based on Psalm 32:1, 2)* By this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto you, and by the command and in the stead of the Lord Jesus Christ, *(John 20:22-23; Matthew 16:19 NIV)* I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. “Be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven you. *(Matthew 9:2 KJV)* Now, go and live a life worthy of your calling in Christ Jesus, and produce fruit in keeping with real repentance. *(Ephesians 4:1)*

READING

Exodus 4:1-20

P A reading from Exodus, chapter 4.

¹Then Moses answered, “But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, ‘The LORD did not appear to you.’” ²The LORD said to him, “What is that in your

hand?” He said, “A staff.” ³And he said, “Throw it on the ground.” So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it. ⁴But the LORD said to Moses, “Put out your hand and catch it by the tail”—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand— ⁵“that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.” ⁶Again, the LORD said to him, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow. ⁷Then God said, “Put your hand back inside your cloak.” So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. ⁸“If they will not believe you,” God said, “or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign. ⁹If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.”

¹⁰But Moses said to the LORD, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.” ¹¹Then the LORD said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? ¹²Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.” ¹³But he said, “Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.” ¹⁴Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, “Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. ¹⁵You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do. ¹⁶He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him. ¹⁷And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs.”

¹⁸Moses 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.” ¹⁹And the LORD said to Moses in Midian, “Go back to Egypt, for all the men who were seeking your life are dead.” ²⁰So 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.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

READING

Hebrews 3:1-6

P A reading from Hebrews, chapter 3.

¹Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, ²who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God’s house. ³For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. ⁴(For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) ⁵Now Moses was faithful in all God’s house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, ⁶but Christ is faithful over God’s house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

READING

John 8:31-38

P A reading from John, chapter 8.

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son

sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. ³⁸I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SERMON HYMN

“Christ, the Life of All the Living”

LSB #420

SERMON

OFFERING

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

PRAYERS

LORD’S PRAYER

C 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

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *“Abide with Me”*

LSB #878