



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Exodus 3-4, The Call of Moses

July 1, 2018

10:30 Holy Communion

Our journey through Exodus continues as we read chapters 3 and 4 today. It is the call of Moses. Many people are familiar with the burning bush scene, but there is a whole lot more. One thing in particular is puzzling at best, frightening at worst. We'll experience the complete story and see how it connects to our own sense of being called by God.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Nursery care is available during the service. Please see one of the ushers if you need more information.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn In the Secret

(For music turn to Hymn 18 in the Songbook binder)

- 1. In the secret, in the quiet place,
In the stillness You are there.
In the secret, in the quiet hour I wait
Only for You, 'cause I want to know You more.**

Refrain **I want to know You. I want to hear Your voice.
I want to know You more.
I want to touch You. I want to see Your face.
I want to know You more.**

- 2. I am reaching for the highest goal
That I might receive the prize.
Pressing onward, pushing ev'ry hindrance aside,
Out of my way, 'cause I want to know You more. *Refrain***

- 3. (Repeat Verse 1)**

Text and music: Andy Park, Copyright 1995 Mercy/Vinyard Publishing, CCLI #1810119

Apostles' Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

C: Amen

P: Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

(*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*)

P: Eternal God our creator,

C: in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace

draw us near to you, our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise Now the Feast and Celebration
(For music turn to Hymn 789 in the Blue Hymnal)

Refrain

**Now the feast and celebration,
all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom
praise and glory forevermore!**

**1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God.** *Refrain*

**2. Power and riches, wisdom and might,
all honor and glory to Christ forever.** *Refrain*

**3. For God has come to dwell with us,
to make us people of God;
to make all things new.** *Refrain*

Text and music: Marty Haugen; Copyright 1990 GIA Publications Inc.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Exodus 3

A1: Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

A2: Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹²He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." ¹³But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

A3: Go and assemble the elders of Israel, and say to them, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying: I have given heed to you and to what has been done to you in Egypt. ¹⁷I declare that I will bring you up out of the

misery of Egypt, to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.’¹⁸ They will listen to your voice; and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; let us now go a three days’ journey into the wilderness, so that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.’¹⁹ I know, however, that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand.²⁰ So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all my wonders that I will perform in it; after that he will let you go.²¹ I will bring this people into such favor with the Egyptians that, when you go, you will not go empty-handed;²² each woman shall ask her neighbor and any woman living in the neighbor’s house for jewelry of silver and of gold, and clothing, and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters; and so you shall plunder the Egyptians.”

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 40:5-12 (read responsively)

A: Happy are they who trust in God,
not seduced by idols
nor won over by lies.

**C: You do so many wonders,
you show you care for us,**

A: Lord my God;
you are beyond compare.
Were I to name them all,
no one could keep track.

**C: You did not seek offerings
or ask for sacrifices;
but you drilled ears
for me to hear.**

A: “Yes,” I said, “I will come
to live by your written word.”

**C: I want to do what pleases you;
your teaching is in my heart.**

A: I celebrate your justice
before all the assembly;
I do not hold back the story.
Lord, you know this is true.

**C: I did not hide in my heart
your acts of rescue;
I boldly declared to all**

your truth and care, your faithful love.

A: Your maternal love
surrounds me, Lord.

**C: Your sure and tender care
protects me always.**

Second Reading Exodus 4

A1: Then Moses answered, “But suppose they do not believe me or listen to me, but say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you.’”² The Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A staff.”³ And he said, “Throw it on the ground.” So he threw the staff on the ground, and it became a snake; and Moses drew back from it.⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Reach out your hand, and seize it by the tail” —so he reached out his hand and grasped it, and it became a staff in his hand—⁵ “so that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.”⁶ Again, the Lord said to him, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” He put his hand into his cloak; and when he took it out, his hand was leprous, as white as snow.⁷ Then God said, “Put your hand back into your cloak” —so he put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored like the rest of his body—⁸ “If they will not believe you or heed the first sign, they may believe the second sign.⁹ If they will not believe even these two signs or heed you, 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.”

A2: But Moses said to the Lord, “O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.”¹¹ Then the Lord said to him, “Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?”¹² Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak.”¹³ But he said, “O my Lord, please send someone else.”¹⁴ Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, “What of your brother Aaron, the Levite? I know that he can speak fluently; even now he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you his heart will be glad.¹⁵ You 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 what you shall do.¹⁶ He indeed shall speak for you to the people; he shall serve as a mouth for you, and you shall serve as God for him.¹⁷ Take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs.”

A3: Moses went back to his father-in-law Jethro and said to him, "Please let me go back to my kindred in Egypt and see whether they are still living." And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace."¹⁹ The Lord said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt; for all those who were seeking your life are dead."²⁰ So Moses took his wife and his sons, put them on a donkey and went back to the land of Egypt; and Moses carried the staff of God in his hand.²¹ And the Lord said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders 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 I said to you, "Let my son go that he may worship me." But you refused to let him go; now I will kill your firstborn son."²⁴ On the way, at a place where they spent the night, the Lord met him and tried to kill him.²⁵ But Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin, and touched Moses' feet with it, and said, "Truly you are a bridegroom of blood to me!"²⁶ So he let him alone. It was then she said, "A bridegroom of blood by circumcision."²⁷ The Lord said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went; and he met him at the mountain of God and kissed him.²⁸ Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord with which he had sent him, and all the signs with which he had charged him.²⁹ Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled all the elders of the Israelites.³⁰ Aaron spoke all the words that the Lord had spoken to Moses, and performed the signs in the sight of the people.³¹ The people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had given heed to the Israelites and that he had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Just a Closer Walk With Thee
(For music turn to Hymn 697 in the Red Hymnal)

Refrain

**Just a closer walk with thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

1. **I am weak, by thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Refrain***

2. **Through this world of toils and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Refrain***

3. **When my feeble life is o'er
time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. *Refrain***

Text and music: North American traditional

Apostles' Creed

A: Let us confirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,

The congregation will respond: **Hear our prayer.**

The pastor concludes the prayer:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: We share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

† MEAL †

Offering & Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord

For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.**

**Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.**

**Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.**

**Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray: Merciful God,

C: you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus of Nazareth; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with church of yesterday, today and tomorrow; and the church here in this place and all churches throughout the world, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Isaiah 6:3, spoken)

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. You will receive bread from the communion assistant. (If you need gluten free wafers please ask the assistant distributing bread.) You may receive wine from either the common cup or in an individual glass. If you would like to receive in a glass please pick one up from the tray as you approach the altar rail. White grape juice is available in the individual glasses for those who do not wish to take wine. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

737 *He Comes to Us as One Unknown (Red Hymnal)*

675 *We Walk By Faith (Blue Hymnal)*

Communion Blessing *After all have communed the pastor will say:*

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray...

Jesus our Lord, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Rock of Ages
(For music turn to Hymn 28 in the Songbook binder)

**There is no rock, there is no god like our God;
no other name worthy of all our praise.
The rock of salvation that cannot be moved,
He's proven himself to be faithful and true.
There is no rock, there is no god like ours. (Repeat)**

**Rock of ages, Jesus is the rock.
Rock of ages, Jesus is the rock.
Rock of ages. Jesus is the rock.
There is no rock, there is no god like ours.**

Text and Music: Rita Baloche, copyright 1997 Maranatha Praise, Inc. Admin: The Copyright Company; CCLI Song #2240547

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: **God's Work. Our Hands.**

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Phyllis and Dick Henderson
Acolyte	Molly Perdan
Altar Care	Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistants	Gary Boisseau and Rob Stroup
Nursery Care	Laura Stroup
Counters	Beth Perdan and Bettina Kalish
Coffee Hour	

Worship assistants for next Sunday, July 8, 2018

Greeters and Ushers	Sara DeMuzio and Tricia Kolczynski
Acolyte	Mary Ehrlinger
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan
Counters	Tom Kurilovitch and Helen Crown
Coffee Hour	

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