

Sunday Service with Communion
Exodus, A Christmas Story - Fight or Flight
December 17, 2017



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Welcome! We are so happy that you are here with us today. Our desire is to be like another home for you. We encourage you to register your name on the fellowship pad which you will find at the end of the row where you are sitting. If you are new to Grace or to the area and are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider joining our family here at Grace. A Fellowship Hour is held after the Worship Service, and we invite you to stay for a few minutes so we can get acquainted.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated in our worship service today. This meal is weird and wonderful: weird because we actually believe that the bread and wine are the Body and Blood of Jesus the Christ; wonderful because Jesus is with us. **Children** who have not been instructed in the meaning of the Sacrament may come to the Lord's Table with their parents for a blessing but are asked to fold their arms across their chests to indicate they are to receive a blessing. If you are not a member of the LCMS, please talk with the pastor before communion.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE COMMUNION: The wine is made available in both the individual glasses and the common cup. Following the distribution of the bread, the individual cups will be offered. Then the common cup will be offered to those who do not have an individual cup in their hand. The acolyte will then gather the individual glasses. ***For those who have an intolerance to wine, grape juice is lighter colored in the individual communion glasses.*** Those who find it difficult to walk to the altar can be communed in the pew. Please inform the usher of your need.

ATTENDANCE BOOKS PLEASE BE SURE TO PASS ALONG THE RED ATTENDANCE BOOKS IN YOUR ROW AND ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO SIGN IT. THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF OUR MINISTRY OF CARE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

Exodus, A Christmas Story

Are you kidding me?! What in the world does Exodus have to do with Christmas? You will be surprised, because when we look at the Christmas story from the Gospel of Matthew, you will see how Matthew's Christmas story is a mirror image of Exodus. Matthew is saying to us: Remember the last time God saved his people? Well, it's happening again.

Today: We want God to do big things. However, when we look in the manger, in Bethlehem, in a virgin birth, in the town of Nazareth, it seems that God keeps working through the small things in life. Perhaps we should look for the small things too.

(Asterisks (**)) indicate that the people stand)

**** THE OPENING HYMN**

JOY HAS DAWNED

Choir sings vs. 1 & 2; congregation joins for vs. 3 & 4

5
1. Joy has dawned up - on the world, Prom - ised from cre - a - tion-
2. Sounds of won - der fill the sky With the songs of an - gels
3. Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, Gaz - ing at the glo - ry;
4. Son of A - dam, Son of heav'n, Giv - en as a ran - som;

9
God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, Hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.
As the might - y Prince of Life Shel - ters in a sta - ble.
Gifts of men from dis - tant lands Proph - e - sy the sto - ry.
Rec - on - cil - ing God and man, Christ, our might - y cham - pion!

13
Not with fan - fares from a - bove, Not with scenes of glo - ry,
Hands that set each star in place, Shaped the earth in dark - ness,
Gold - a King is born to - day, In - cense - God is with us,
What a Sav - ior! What a Friend! What a glo - rious my - st'ry!

17
But a hum - ble gift of love - Je - sus born of Ma - ry.
Cling now to a moth - er's breast, Vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.
Myrrh - His death will make a way, And by His blood He'll win us.
Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, Now the Lord of his - t'ry.

All sing chorus of Angels We Have heard on High
immediately after Joy has Dawned:

Gloria....in excelsis Deo; Gloria....in excelsis Deo.

***Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria....in excelsis Deo; Gloria....in excelsis Deo.***

**** THE INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

PEOPLE: COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS, BORN TO SET YOUR
PEOPLE FREE!

Pastor: O Come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer

PEOPLE: OH DESIRE OF EVERY NATION, JOY OF EVERY LONGING HEART!

Pastor: O Come, Thou Wisdom from on high

PEOPLE: O HOLY CHILD OF BETHLEHEM, DESCEND TO US, WE PRAY!

Pastor: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

PEOPLE: O COME TO US, ABIDE WITH US, O LORD, EMMANUEL!

**** THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

*(We greet one another with the handshake of peace and with the words
"The Peace of the Lord be with you.")*

**** THE HYMN OF PRAISE** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

*Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love.
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!*

*All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays.
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee!*

*Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are Thine.
Teach us how to love each other; lift us to the joy divine!*

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*During Confession we take time to slow down and realize how we have lost God's
Great Story of goodness. We have served ourselves and our interests above God.*

(Take a moment of silent reflection upon our need for God's forgiveness)

Pastor: O Almighty God,

PEOPLE: GOD, OUR LOVING FATHER,

WE CONFESS THAT WE ARE OFTEN IMPATIENT AND RUSH TO
CRITICIZE.

WE TAKE OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS FOR GRANTED.

WE ARE OFTEN UNGRATEFUL AND NOT GRACIOUS.

WE OFTEN EXPECT CHURCH TO MIRROR OUR OWN BIASES.

WE FORGET TO ASK FOR OUR CHURCH TO MIRROR YOU.

WE OFTEN USE YOUR SCRIPTURES TO SUPPORT OUR OPINIONS.

WE FORGET THAT THEY ARE A LAMP TO OUR FEET AND A LIGHT
TO OUR PATH.

OUR HOPE IS CENTERED ON OURSELVES AND NOT ON YOU.

**RENEW US, LORD, THAT WE MAY DELIGHT IN YOUR WILL AND
WALK IN YOUR WAYS,
TO THE GLORY OF YOUR HOLY NAME.
AMEN**

Pastor: The Story of Jesus is.....

There is new life everywhere. There is Good News everywhere. There is nothing lost that cannot be found, no dark place where light cannot shine, no awful past that cannot lead to a bright future. You are God's beloved; you are a child of the resurrection. Live in the hope and promise of Christ. Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE: AMEN.

**** THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Jesus, our promised Messiah, John the Baptist went ahead of you and proclaimed the good news of your coming. Encourage us to receive you with joy as our redeemer, and faithfully follow you. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

PEOPLE: AMEN

THE FIRST LESSON

Exodus 14:13-31

Fire, clouds, and wind all point to a God who is working again in his people. The wind which parts the sea, here, has clear overtones to the wind which blew creation into the world at the beginning.

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. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

The Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. 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. 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. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

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, 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.

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. 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. The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. 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, 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."

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." 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. 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. 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.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 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.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

THE SECOND LESSON

Acts 22:12-16

When Paul invites his audience into his experience with the supernatural, it makes debating the finer points of the law seem ridiculous. It would be like antagonizing Moses while he reiterated God's message heard through the burning bush.

"And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

**** THE HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 2:19-23

Jesus grew up in just a small little town. The population of Nazareth may have contained perhaps 500 residents (smaller than Bethlehem). Nazareth was a traditional and religiously conservative Galilean town.

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

**** THE APOSTLES' CREED**

THE SERMON

Pastor Cris Escher

Exodus a Christmas Story - Fight or Flight

**** THE OFFERTORY**

Create In Me

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your free Spirit.

**** THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

(After each petition)

Pastor: . . . Lord, in your mercy,

PEOPLE: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

**** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD.

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

PEOPLE: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.

*Pastor: The tree of life in the midst of the garden was the tree of our defeat.
Christ was lifted up on the tree of victory; and where life was lost, there life
has been restored. And so we praise you*

PEOPLE (SING):

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT,
HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY.
HOSANNA. HOSANNA. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST.
BLESSED IS HE THAT COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.
HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST.**

**** THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS *A Great and Mighty Wonder*

LW 51

*A great and mighty wonder, a full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant with virgin honor pure!*

Refrain:

**PROCLAIM THE SAVIOR'S BIRTH; "TO GOD ON HIGH
BE GLORY AND PEACE TO ALL THE EARTH!"**

*The Word becomes incarnate and yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems to shepherds from the sky.*

Refrain

*While thus they sing you Monarch, those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains, and oceans, clap you hands.*

Refrain

*Since all He comes to ransom, by all be He adored,
The infant born in Bethl'em the Savior and the Lord.*

Refrain

*All idols then shall perish and Satan's lying cease,
And Christ shall raise His scepter, decreeing endless peace.*

Refrain.

Lo, How a Rose is Growing

LW 67

*Lo, how a rose is growing, a bloom of finest grace;
The prophets had foretold it: a branch of Jesse's race
Would bear one perfect flow'r here in the cold of winter
And darkest midnight hour.*

***The rose of which I'm singing, Isaiah had foretold.
He came to us through Mary, who sheltered him from cold.
Through God's eternal will this child to us was given
At midnight calm and still.***

***The shepherds heard the story the angels sang that night:
How Christ was born of Mary; He was the Son of light.
To Bethlehem they ran to find him in the manger
As angel heralds sang.***

***This flow'r, so small and tender, with fragrance fills the air;
His brightness ends the darkness that kept the earth in fear.
True God and yet true man, He came to save his people
From earth's dark night of sin.***

***O Savior, child of Mary, who felt all human woe;
O Savior, king of glory, who triumphed o'er our foe:
Bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven
And into endless day.***

I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes

LW 56

***I am so glad when Christmas comes, the night of Jesus' birth,
When Beth-l'em's star shone as the sun and angels sang with mirth.***

***The little child of Beth-le-hem, the King of heav'n-ly grace,
Came down from His exalted throne to save our fallen race.***

***He's now returned to heav'n above, God's Son he is al-way;
He ne'er forgets His little ones but hears them when they pray.***

***I too would sing my Savior's praise, my joy, my crown, my Lord;
For He has made me His own child by water and the word.***

***I love this precious Christmas Eve and my dear Savior mild,
And I shall not forget the truth: He loves me as His child.***

***I am so glad when Christmas comes: Let anthems fill the air!
He opens wide for every child His paradise so fair.***

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: God does not use the power of the world to judge. He instead uses the weak things of this world to bring blessings to everyone. Go with his blessing, that everything you do matters to God. Have peace.

PEOPLE: AMEN.

**** THE CLOSING HYMN**

What Child is This

LW 61

*What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping.
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh: Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born. The babe, the son of Mary.*

SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Today

Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
Worship
Fellowship
Korean Church Worship
Women's Community Bible Study
AA

December 17, 2017

8:45 pm
10:00 am
Immediately following the service
1:00 pm
4:00 pm
7:30 pm

This Week

Via de Cristo @ Bocks home
Weekly Revelation Bible Study
Heatherwood HOA
Advent Meal
Midweek Advent Service
Bible Study @Perkin's Restaurant
Scripture Narration (Sanctuary)
Brownie Troop
Korean Church Prayer Meeting

12/18, Monday, 6:30 pm
12/19 Tuesday, 11:00 am
12/19, Tuesday, 7:00 pm
12/20, Wednesday, 6:00 pm
12/20, Wednesday, 7:00 pm
12/21, Thursday, 7:00 am
12/21, Thursday, 11:00 am
11/21, Thursday, 6:30 pm
12/23, Saturday, 6:00 am

REMAINING ADVENT & SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES 2017

December 20th	Advent Meal	6:00 pm
December 20th	Wednesday Advent Service	7:00 pm
December 24th	Sunday Worship	10:00 am
December 24th	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	6:00 pm
December 25th	Christmas Service	10:00 am
December 31st	Sunday Worship	10:00 am

BIBLE STUDY ON REVELATION: THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

Pastor Russ Johnson is teaching a class on Revelation on Tuesdays at 11am.

This study takes place at the church. All are welcome.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY GROUP On Sunday afternoons at 4:00 pm at the home of Leigh Liagre. All ladies (members and friends) are welcome. Come join us.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS Kimberly Woschnik, 12/19.

ANNIVERSARIES: No anniversaries listed this week.

If we have missed your anniversary or birthday, please drop us a note in the office or email us at Gracelutheranpsl@gmail.com.



THE FLOWERS adorning the altar this morning are given to the glory of God by the Eschers in honor of their nephew Jacob's birthday.

FLOWER CHART The flower chart is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you would like to order flowers to adorn the altar for a specific Sunday, please write your name on the appropriate line. The cost per Sunday is approximately \$27.00. We thank you for your help.

DON'T FORGET THE BACKPACK PROGRAM A list of needed items is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. For more information talk to Leigh Liagre.



MOPS ARE BACK. Did you know that Grace hosts a "mothers of preschoolers" group? This is a time where moms can come together to talk and support one another. We need people who can watch their little ones at Grace while they meet. It's just two Wednesdays a month, (2nd and 4th).

www.GraceLutheranpsl.com

Remember to check out our website and follow us on Facebook. They're both "works-in-progress", but the calendar and information on our website is updated constantly.

