

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI

Midweek Lenten Service

March 23, 2022

**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family**

**(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)*

Announcements

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.^

Prelude....A time for silent reflection

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Moses is born into a world of genocide, a world where his life should end just as swiftly as it had begun. But his mother and sister plot a plan for his survival, placing him in the river near Pharaoh's daughter. Their plan succeeds, as Pharaoh's daughter has mercy on the child and unknowingly returns him to his mother to be nursed. When Moses grows up, his mother returns him to Pharaoh's daughter to be adopted. Moses' mother unravels her hopes and dreams as a mother, enduring great sacrifice in order for her child to live. And yet, Pharaoh's daughter unravels her own father's plans by adopting Moses as her own.

We gather in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: When you dream, what do you dream of?
C: We dream of children who know love and churches with open doors. We dream of rest and sunny days.
L: When you dream, what do you dream of?
C: We dream of peace without walls, and equality for all people.
L: When you dream, what do you dream of?
C: We dream of milk and honey, food on tables, and an end to suffering. We dream of the Church of Jesus Christ serving all God’s people.
L: Family of God, This evening, we dream together. This evening, we worship together. For there is nothing on heaven or on earth strong enough to unravel God’s dreams for us. Let us worship Holy God.
Amen.

Opening Hymn “Change My Heart, O God” **ELW #801**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of unending surprises, this life is a tapestry of moments woven together, and we long to be weavers of love. Today we gather and pray that you would unravel our bias. Unravel our assumptions. Unravel whatever it is that keeps us from you. And as you do, clear space in our hearts for your Word. We are listening. We are praying.
Amen.

Word
God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.^

Exodus 1:22; 2:1-10

²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."
¹Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman.

²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. ⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Moses's Mother Gives Him Up Rev. Dawn Lindberg

Hymn "Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am" (3X) **ELW #814**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,

We do not know the plans you have for us. We do not know, so we place our children into "good schools." We set aside money for days to come. We keep our fingers crossed and try to control the world around us. Having faith in the midst of uncertainty has never been easy for us. Forgive us for the moments when we refuse to trust you. Strengthen us so that when life unravels, we are strong enough to turn to you. That is our prayer of faith. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in God, the Great Sower—
Who weaves us together in community,
Collecting our loose ends and turning them into belonging.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit—
Who hems us in before and behind,
Catching us when we fall and writing us into God's holy
narrative.**

**And I believe in Jesus Christ—
Who loved and claimed the people society had thrown out,
refusing to disregard anyone as scrap.**

**I believe God has woven part of God's self into the fiber
of our being, Making us inherently worthy of love and
belonging.**

**I believe the fabric of my life is weak,
That I am prone to error and need God's handiwork
to remind me of love.**

**I believe in the Church, and that like a quilt of different
fabrics, She is designed to be as diverse and beautiful as
God's creation.**

**And I believe that when life unravels,
God is there to stitch my wounds together,
To hold me in the palm of God's hand, to tell me of love,
And to invite me into a new journey.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**Tend your ailing ones: in your love, Lord;
Rest your weary ones: in your love, Lord;
Bless your dying ones: in your love, O Lord for all.
Watch, O Lord, with all those awake this night.
Watch, O Lord, with all those who weep;
Give your angels and saints charge over all who sleep.**

*The Sunday Assembly, Lorraine S. Brugh, Gordon W. Lathrop, Augsburg Fortress, 2008

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Watch, O Lord; A prayer by St. Augustine, Adapted by Marty Haugen

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.^

**Sending Hymn “Come to Me. All Pilgrims Thirsty” ELW #777
(vs. 1,4,5,6)**

DISMISSAL

L: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Steve Zirk, Gary Von Ruden, Sue Ann Degenhardt,
Curt Brieske, Randy Steinbrink, Gloria Meltesen, LuAnn Bever-Denter,
Florence Dougherty, Darlene Babbitt, Sacia Morris, John Acker,
Lois Reineke, Rylan McCarthy, Judy Bever, George Dougherty.

Sooth your suffering ones: **in your love, Lord;**
Heal afflicted ones: **in your love, Lord;**
Shield your joyous ones: **in your love, O Lord for all.**
Watch, O Lord, with all those awake this night.
Watch, O Lord, with all those who weep;
Give your angels and saints charge over all who sleep.

Hold your grieving: **in your love, Lord;**
Raise your fallen Ones: **in your love, Lord;**
Mend your broken ones: **in your love, O Lord for all.**
Watch, O Lord, with all those awake this night.
Watch, O Lord, with all those who weep;
Give your angels and saints charge over all who sleep.

Guard your little ones: **in your love, Lord;**
Guide your searching ones: **in your love, Lord;**
Grant us all your peace: **in your love, O Lord for all.**
Watch, O Lord, with all those awake this night.
Watch, O Lord, with all those who weep;
Give your angels and saints charge over all who sleep.

LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

BLESSING

May all that binds your heart be unraveled in the days to come.
May the fear and pain and suffering be released to the Holy One.
May God go with you as you put down your brokenness.
And may God fill you with all hope and joyfulness.
For Christ will gather you once again.
This is the blessing for the unraveled one. Amen.