

*“Landmark of the Gospel Since 1834”*

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**

*Our Purpose: Led by the Word of God, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is a family who lives and shares the gospel of Jesus Christ through love and service to all.*

**March 15, 2023**

**7:15 PM**

**Midweek Lent 3**

**By Faith: The Faith of Moses**

*By faith, Moses chose the hard path to follow God’s call. How does our faith affect the choices we must make?*

*As supper ends, the in-person gathering prepares for worship. The stream turns on for remote viewers, announcements are made and candles are lit.*

**OPENING DIALOG**

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways, by the prophets,  
**but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.**

He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being,  
**and he sustains all things by his powerful word.**

Since we have confidence by the new and living way opened for us by Jesus,  
**let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith.**

**SONG**

**Be still, God will fight your battles.**

**Be still, God will fight your battles.**

**Be still, God will fight your battles, God will fight your battles**

**If you just keep still.**

**READING**

Hebrews 11:1, 23-28 NIV

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

<sup>23</sup> By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

<sup>24</sup> By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. <sup>25</sup> He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. <sup>26</sup> He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. <sup>27</sup> By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. <sup>28</sup> By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

## MOSES' STORY

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What did Moses do to show he was living "by faith"?

Do you know anyone who has shown their faith in the same way? If so, tell their story to your group.

Try to name a difficult choice you had to make in your life? Was that choice influenced by your faith? Why or why not?

*The reflection concludes:*

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,  
**the conviction of things not seen.**

HYMN                      Pharaoh, Pharaoh

Pharaoh, Pharaoh  
Oh baby let my people go!  
Huh! Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah  
Pharaoh, Pharaoh  
Oh baby let my people go!  
Huh! Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah

1. Well, the burning bush told me just the other day  
That I should come over here and say  
Got to get my people out of Pharaoh's hand  
And lead them on over to the Promised Land

Pharaoh, Pharaoh  
Oh baby let my people go!  
Huh! Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah  
Pharaoh, Pharaoh

Oh baby let my people go!  
Huh! Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah

2. Well, all of God's people came to the Red Sea  
With Pharaoh's army coming after me  
I raised my rod, stuck it in the sand  
And all of God's people walked across dry land

Pharaoh, Pharaoh  
Oh baby let my people go!  
Huh! Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah  
Pharaoh, Pharaoh  
Oh baby let my people go!  
Huh! Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah

3. Well, all of Pharaoh's army was coming too  
So what do you think that I did do?  
I raised my rod and cleared my throat  
And all of Pharaoh's army did the dead man's float

Pharaoh, Pharaoh  
Oh baby let my people go!  
Huh! Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah  
Pharaoh, Pharaoh  
Oh baby let my people go!  
Huh! Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah

4. Well, that's the story of the stubborn goat  
Pharaoh should've known that chariots don't float  
The lesson is simple, it's easy to find  
When God says, "GO!" you had better mind!

## PRAYERS

Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

Faithful God, shower the world with your lovingkindness,

**that all may know your peace.**

Open our eyes to the needs of our neighbors,

**that all may know your love.**

Comfort the sick and dying,

**that all may know your mercy,**

*(You will be invited to share names either out loud or in your hearts.)*

Guide our leaders in the way of truth,  
**that all may know your justice.**  
Focus our hearts on the way of the cross,  
**that all may have faith in you.**

Let us pray in the words of Martin Luther:  
**Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled.**  
**My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me.**  
**I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that**  
**my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a**  
**strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable**  
**to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen**  
**my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasure**  
**of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to**  
**be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright.**  
**With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the**  
**fullness of righteousness. Therefore I will remain with**  
**you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give.**  
**Amen.**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Finally, let us pray with the words our Savior gave 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

The God of peace,  
who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
the great shepherd of the sheep,  
make you complete in everything good

so that you may do God's will,  
through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.  
**Amen.**

SONG

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

**1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

**Refrain:**

**Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]**

**3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]**

*Share Christ's peace as you go on your way.*

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