

WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SIN

* Reading from the Law

The Israelites who had experienced the miraculous events and deliverance of the exodus hardened their hearts in unbelief, failing to remember what God had done, and concentrating only on the present difficulties they faced. The psalmist here (and later the writer to the Hebrews in 3:12-15) exhorts us to remember these things and not to be like them.

Psalm 95:7d-11 ESV

- ⁷ Today, if you hear his voice,
⁸ do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
⁹ when your fathers put me to the test
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.
¹⁰ For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, "They are a people who go astray in their heart,
and they have not known my ways."
¹¹ Therefore I swore in my wrath,
"They shall not enter my rest."

Silent Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin

Here we acknowledge the self-centeredness that causes us to forget God and everything He has done for us, which is at the root of most of our problems.

Corporate Confession: Compassionate and Gracious God, Who in the person of Your Son emptied yourself of all Your divine prerogatives for our sakes and gave to the uttermost, we humbly beseech your forgiveness for the narcissism and self-centeredness which we constantly display in the living of our lives: forgetting you, neglecting others and their needs, considering only our interests, needs, and desires. We have truly every one of us turned to our own way from time to time, wandering like lost sheep. But oh our Savior, we despise these our ways and appeal to Your infinite grace, that you would not only forgive these our sins, casting them into the depths of the sea and remembering them no more, but also that you would work in us that true obedience from the heart that both pleases you and blesses Your people, by the power of Your Spirit, in the name of Your precious Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE REJOICE IN THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

The writer of Hebrews sums up the section dealing with the unbelief of the Exodus community with these words of comfort in the form of an exhortation to remember and believe the Gospel.

Hebrews 4:14-16 ^{ESV}

¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Leader: This is the gospel.

Congregation: Hallelujah!

* Hymn of Assurance

In this great hymn we praise the One who is faithful to His people in all His ways, not least in saving them from sin.

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” (Trinity Hymnal #32)

WE PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Prayers of Intercession

*During this time, the elders will be in the back of the room, ready to take personal prayer requests from and pray with all who want this. These will be confidential if desired. Everyone who is not receiving prayer in this way will participate in corporate prayer as the worship leader mentions a list of topics. As each item is mentioned, the congregation should respond with the words, **“We offer these our prayers,”** followed by a brief silent prayer from each individual.*

WE HEAR INSTRUCTION FROM THE LORD

Sermon

“The Setting of Deliverance” (Rev. Mike Biggs)

* **Exodus 1** ^{ESV}

¹ These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: ² Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, ³ Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, ⁴ Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. ⁵ All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt. ⁶ Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. ⁷ But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them. ⁸ Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ And he said to his people, “Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. ¹³ So

they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves. ¹⁵ Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ “When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.” ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and let the male children live?” ¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” ²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

WE COMMUNE WITH OUR LORD

Communion Meditation

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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. (*or universal)

Distribution of Elements

Because we believe that wine was used in the Last Supper and is thus more in accord with the fullness of symbolism intended by God in the Lord's Supper, we offer wine and encourage those who take part in Communion to take this. For those with conscientious convictions against the use of wine, however, we offer the option of grape juice, which is contained in the inner circle of the communion trays. The cups containing wine are in the outer circles of the trays.

"The Church's One Foundation" (Trinity Hymnal #347)

WE RESPOND TO THE GRACE OF THE LORD

Offering Meditation

As we have seen before, it is confidence in God's deliverance and provision that enables us to give freely to His cause.

II Corinthians 9:8 ^{ESV}

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

Presentation of Offerings

See Communion

* **Doxology** (Trinity Hymnal #731)

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

We depart today singing the words of Psalm 23, which rehearse the faithfulness of God to deliver and provide for His people as the Good Shepherd.

***"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"** (Trinity Hymnal #87)

Special Offering

Benediction

VISION

Purpose (our reason for existence): to reverse the effects of rebellion against God (sin)

Mission (what we are called to do): to build the Kingdom of God, by...

- adding people (incorporation)
- building people (edification)

Core Values (our fundamental commitments):

1. *Knowing* truth from God (Scripture)
2. *Being* right with God (Justification)
3. *Living* life for God (Sanctification)

Goals (what we seek to accomplish):

1. *Worship*—People experiencing and being attracted to and trained in the enjoyment of God
2. *Fellowship*—People displaying and enjoying genuinely loving and giving relationships/Christian community
3. *Christian Education*—People being confronted with and oriented to the whole truth of God
4. *Outreach*—People being drawn to the Church and trained to draw others
5. *Mercy*—People caring about and meeting the material needs of both non-Christians and other Christians

How can you be a part of all this?