

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

28171 West Highway 64 PO Box 851

Canton, Texas 75103

[www.holycrosscanton.com](http://www.holycrosscanton.com)

Pastor Mark Huston

903-603-5071

Fifth Midweek of Lent

March 18, 2026

Service of Prayer and Preaching LSB p.260

As We Gather

When the Israelites seemed trapped, the way out for them was through the middle of the sea. For Christians today, it has been through the waters of Baptism. It is Jesus who is the way, and the truth, and the life. God's Old Testament people survived to continue their escape in the desert. But we follow Christ, in our daily walk, through a resurrection like His, and on to the place He has readied for us. This is all good news for us from Exodus.

601 All Who Believe and Are Baptized



1 All who be - lieve and are bap-tized Shall see the Lord's sal - va - tion;  
2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray: Grant us Your Ho - ly Spir - it.



Bap-tized in - to the death of Christ, They are a new cre - a - tion.  
Help us in our in - fir - mi - ty Through Je - sus' blood and mer - it.



Through Christ's re-demp-tion they shall stand A - mong the glo-rious,  
Grant us to grow in grace each day That by this sac - ra -



heav'n - ly band Of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.  
ment we may E - ter - nal life in - her - it.

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860-1942, alt.  
Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, 1524, Wittenberg  
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Opening Versicles

**P** This is the day which the Lord has made;

**C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**P** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

**C** slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.

**P** Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,

**C** let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

**P** Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

**C** He was bruised for our iniquities.

**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

### Old Testament Canticle

LSB 261

*Refrain*

**C** The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.  
With joy will you draw wa - ter from the  
wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that  
day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,  
make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -  
claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."  
*Refrain*  
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.  
Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done  
glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the  
earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -  
hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the

Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

*Refrain*  
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son

and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will

be for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*  
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

*Sit*

## Readings From Holy Scripture

### Reading

*Exodus 14:5–31*

**P** A reading from Exodus, chapter 14.

<sup>5</sup>When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the mind of Pharaoh and his servants was changed toward the people, and they said, “What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?” <sup>6</sup>So he made ready his chariot and took his army with him, <sup>7</sup>and took six hundred chosen chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the people of Israel while the people of Israel were going out defiantly. <sup>9</sup>The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and his horsemen and his army, and overtook them encamped at the sea, by Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.

<sup>10</sup>When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. <sup>11</sup>They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup>Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

<sup>15</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”

<sup>19</sup>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, <sup>20</sup>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.

<sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. <sup>24</sup>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, <sup>25</sup>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.”

<sup>26</sup>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.” <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>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. <sup>29</sup>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.

<sup>30</sup>Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup>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.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Reading

*Romans 6:3–5*

**P** A reading from Romans, chapter 6.

<sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Reading

*John 14:1–6*

**P** A reading from John, chapter 14.

<sup>1</sup>“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we

know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Responsory

**P** We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

**C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

**P** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

**P** We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

**C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

### Ten Commandments

**C** You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

### Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life † everlasting. Amen.

### Lord's Prayer

**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.**

*Sit*

**611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be**



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His  
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the  
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the  
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in  
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
 heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,  
 wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,  
 all to me; All my wants to Him are known,  
 and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—  
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to  
 All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the  
 Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.  
 won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.  
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.  
 hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.  
 need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt.  
 Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901  
 Text and tune: Public domain

**Sermon**

**Offering**

*Stand*

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For Matthew our synodical president and Jon our district president, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For Donald our president and Gregory our governor, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:
- C** **Thanks be to God.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*

- P** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:
- C** **To You, O Lord.**

### Collect of the Day

- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

### Collect for the Word

- P** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## Collect for Peace

**P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Evening Prayer

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

Amen.

## Canticle

### 956 Create in Me



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new  
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way  
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;  
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12  
Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583-1651, adapt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Blessing

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

**C** Amen.

## 918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

1 Guide me, O Thou great Re-deem-er, Pil-grim through this  
2 O-pen now the crys-tal foun-tain Whence the heal-ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor-dan, Bid my anx-ious  
bar-ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might-y;  
stream doth flow; Let the fi-ery, cloud-y pil-lar  
fears sub-side; Death of death and hell's de-struc-tion,  
Hold me with Thy pow'r-ful hand. Bread of heav-en,  
Lead me all my jour-ney through. Strong de-liv-'rer,  
Land me safe on Ca-naan's side. Songs of prais-es,  
bread of heav-en, Feed me till I want no  
strong de-liv-'rer, Be Thou still my strength and  
songs of prais-es, I will ev-er give to  
more; Feed me till I want no more.  
shield; Be Thou still my strength and shield.  
Thee; I will ev-er give to Thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717-91, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722-96, alt.; (sts. 2-3): tr. William Williams, 1717-91  
Tune: John Hughes, 1873-1932  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Announcements

**Adult Sunday School** is at **9am** on Sunday mornings studying our Lutheran identity.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets Wednesdays at **10am** studying the Proverbs.

**Midweek Lent Services** are **Mar 18 & 25**. Dinner at **5:45pm** and Service at **6:30pm**.

In preparation for Easter, **Church Clean-up Day** is **Sat Mar 28** starting at **9am**.

March has a **Fifth Sunday** Get your hymn suggestions to Pastor Huston by **Mar 22**.

The **Combined Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service** is Thurs. **Apr 2** at **6pm**.

**Easter Potluck Breakfast** is Sun. **Apr 5** at **8:30am**. We will be no Sunday School that morning.

The next **Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** is Sat. **Apr 11** at **9am**.

**Church Council** next meeting is **Apr 12** at **8am**.

## Acknowledgments

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

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