

March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Call to Worship

Psalm 11

LEADER: In the Lord I take refuge;
How can you say to my soul, "Flee *as* a bird to your mountain;
For, behold, the wicked bend the bow,
They make ready their arrow upon the string
To shoot in darkness at the upright in heart.
If the foundations are destroyed,
What can the righteous do?"

The Lord is in His holy temple; the Lord's throne is in heaven;
His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.
The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked,
And the one who loves violence His soul hates.
Upon the wicked He will rain snares;
Fire and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup.
For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness;
The upright will behold His face.

Prayer of Invocation

O gracious and holy God,
give us diligence to seek you, wisdom to perceive you, and patience to wait for you.
Grant us, O God, a mind to meditate on you, eyes to behold you,
ears to listen for your Word, a heart to love you, and a life to proclaim you.

Silence all voices within our minds but your own.
Help us to seek and be able to follow your will.
May our prayers be joined with those of our sisters and brothers in the faith,
that together we may glorify your name and enjoy your fellowship forever.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Confession of Sin

ALL: Holy and merciful God,
in your presence we confess
our sinfulness, our shortcomings,
and our offenses against you.
You alone know how often we have sinned
in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts,
in forgetting your love.
Have mercy on us, O Lord,
for we are ashamed and sorry
for all we have done to displease you.
Forgive our sins,
and help us to live in your light
and walk in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

from 1 John 4:14-16

LEADER: We have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the Jesus we remember is the Savior of the world. In Christ we are forgiven. And through him God abides with even us.

Acts 7:35-50 | The Mission of God (part 3): The Red Sea Road

³⁵ “This Moses whom they disowned, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’ is the one whom God sent to be both a ruler and a deliverer with the help of the angel who appeared to him in the thorn bush. ³⁶ This man led them out, performing wonders and signs in the land of Egypt and in the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years. ³⁷ This is the Moses who said to the sons of Israel, ‘God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren.’ ³⁸ This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness together with the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai, and who was with our fathers; and he received living oracles to pass on to you. ³⁹ Our fathers were unwilling to be obedient to him, but repudiated him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt, ⁴⁰ saying to Aaron, ‘Make for us gods who will go before us; for this Moses who led us out of the land of Egypt—we do not know what happened to him.’ ⁴¹ At that time they made a calf and brought a sacrifice to the idol, and were rejoicing in the works of their hands. ⁴² But God turned away and delivered them up to serve the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, ‘It was not to Me that you offered victims and sacrifices forty years in the wilderness, was it, O house of Israel? ⁴³ You also took along the tabernacle of Moloch and the star of the god Rompha, the images which you made to worship. I also will remove you beyond Babylon.’

⁴⁴ “Our fathers had the tabernacle of testimony in the wilderness, just as He who spoke to Moses directed him to make it according to the pattern which he had seen. ⁴⁵ And having received it in their turn, our fathers brought it in with Joshua upon dispossessing the nations whom God drove out before our fathers, until the time of David. ⁴⁶ David found favor in God’s sight, and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. ⁴⁷ But it was Solomon who built a house for Him. ⁴⁸ However, the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands; as the prophet says:

⁴⁹ ‘Heaven is My throne,
And earth is the footstool of My feet;
What kind of house will you build for Me?’ says the Lord,
‘Or what place is there for My repose?’

⁵⁰ ‘Was it not My hand which made all these things?’

Main Idea: Following God’s law means following Him.
And following Him means taking the “Red Sea Road.”

1) The church has always been a pilgrim church

2) Because God has always been on the move.

FAMILY DISCUSSION: In scary times your parents are tempted just like you to look for help in other things besides God. That’s what God’s people of old did too. But even though you can’t see Him, God is still with you through His Word, the Bible. Here is a good verse to memorize right now: (1 Peter 5:7) “Throw all of your fears on Him, because He cares for you.”

Red Sea Road

by Ellie Holcomb
sung by Joy Voigt

*We, buried dreams
Laid them deep into the earth behind us
Said, our goodbyes
At the grave but everything reminds us
God knows, we ache
When He asks us to go on
How do we go on?*

*We will sing, to our souls
We won't bury our hope
Where He leads us to go
There's a red sea road
When we can't, see the way
He will part the waves
And we'll never walk alone
Down a red sea road*

*How, can we trust
When You say You will deliver us from
All, of this pain, that threatens to take over us
Well, this desert's dry
But the ocean may consume
And we're scared, to follow You*

*So we'll sing, to our souls
We won't bury our hope
Where He leads us to go
There's a red sea road
When we can't, see the way
He will part the waves
And we'll never walk alone
Down a red sea road*

*Oh help us believe
You are faithful, You're faithful
When our hearts are breaking
You are faithful, You're faithful
Oh grant us eyes to see
You are faithful, You're faithful
Teach us to sing
You are faithful, You're faithful,
You're faithful*

*And we'll sing, to our souls
We won't bury our hope
Where He leads us to go
There's a red sea road
When we can't, see the way
He will part the waves
And we'll never walk alone
Down a red sea road*

*No, we'll never, walk alone
Down a red sea road
No, we'll never, walk alone
Down a red sea road*