

WADE IN THE WATER

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP: *The Nile*

March 4, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
4101 Washington Street NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

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OPENING HYMN: “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted” – Blue Hymnal #116

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, see him dying on the tree!
This is Christ, by man rejected; here, my soul, your Savior see.
He’s the long expected prophet, David’s son, yet David’s Lord.
Proofs I see sufficient of it: He’s the true and faithful Word.

Tell me, all who hear him groaning, was there ever grief like this?
Friends through fear his cause disowning, foes insulting his distress;
Many hands were raised to wound him, none would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced him was the stroke that justice gave.

You who think of sin but lightly nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly, here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed; see who bears the awful load;
It’s the Word, the Lord’s Anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.

Here we have a firm foundation; here the refuge of the lost;
Christ, the rock of our salvation, His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded who on him their hope have built.

(“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”, setting copyright 1982 Concordia Publishing, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)

INVOCATION AND CONFESSION OF SINS:

- L:** When we are baptized into Christ, He draws us from the water as new creatures and delivers us into life eternal.
- C:** **Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.**
- L:** Our worship begins the way our life in Christ begins in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C:** **Amen.**
- L:** Lent is a time of deliverance. Just as the helpless infant Moses was delivered to safety in the waters of the Nile River,
- C:** **Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.**

"He Is the King"

He is the King, — He is the Lord, — He is the One —
hail to the Lord, — hail to the One —

— who de-liv-ers me; — He is the King, — He is the Lord, —
— who de-liv-ers me; — Hail to the King, — hail to the Lord, —

4th (last) time to CODA 1., 3.
— He is the One — who de-liv-ers — me. Hail to the King, —
— hail to the One — who de-liv-ers —

2.
me. Je - sus, strong and might - y King, rul - ing o -

- ver all the king - doms of this world; Lift your voice to

Him and sing, He is Lord — of ev - 'ry - thing, — He

D.S. al CODA CODA
is the King of kings. He is the King, — me.

("He Is the King" by Ewing, Moen, Stocker, copyright 1989, 1992 by Integrity's Hosanna! Music, CCLI License #921494.)

- L: Let us approach with confidence this One who was delivered over unto death for our sake.
- C: **Lord, we have sinned against you and against each other. Our sin is destructive and deadly. We need you to repair what we have broken, to restore what we have destroyed, to bring back what we have banished, to heal what we have poisoned.**
(Time of silence for personal confession)
- P: "We are going up to Jerusalem," [Jesus] said, "and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise." This is our Good News. Christ has taken our sin upon Himself and given us His righteousness. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, it is my joy and privilege to

follow Christ's command and forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son
+ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. Amen.

“He is the King” – repeat refrain (above)

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, You are our rock, our refuge, our hiding place, our deliverance. You have delivered us from sin, death and the devil. You have rescued us from all that holds us in bondage, all that threatens us, all that robs us of true life. Now in your grace, use us to deliver others. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

GREETING TIME

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 1:15-2:10

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, “When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, “Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?” The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.” So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own. Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.” Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. Then Pharaoh’s daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said. Then his sister asked Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?” “Yes, go,” she answered. So the girl went and got the baby’s mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh’s daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, “I drew him out of the water.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 6:1-7

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

MESSAGE: “The Nile – The River of Deliverance”

Part 1: Fishing Francis

“Wade in the Water” – traditional

(The congregation will sing the refrain before and after the verse)

Musical score for the hymn "Wade in the Water". The score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line: "Wade in the wa - ter, Wade in the wa - ter, child - dren;". The second staff continues the melody for the second line: "Wade in the wa - ter, God's gon-na trou-ble the wa - ters. Why don't you". The third staff shows the beginning of a second line of the melody, starting with a measure rest and the lyrics "wa - - - ters.".

*Verse: The King said sternly, “Kill all the boys!”
But one brave lady thought, “Enough of this noise!”
From the Nile River, Moses was drawn,
The Holy God delivers and His people go on. Why don’t you...*

Part 2: Pastor Bill Hugo

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles’ Creed

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.

GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

READING FROM THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

(Time of silence)

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN:

“God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven” – Blue Hymnal #492

God, who made the earth and heaven, darkness and light:

You the day for work have given, For rest the night.

May your angel guards defend us,

Slumber sweet your mercy send us,

Holy dreams and hopes attend us all through the night.

And when morn again shall call us to run life’s way,

May we still, whate’er befall us, Your will obey.

From the pow’r of evil hide us,

In the narrow pathway guide us,

Never be your smile denied us All through the day.

Guard us waking, guard us sleeping, and when we die,

May we in your mighty keeping all peaceful lie.

When the last dread call shall wake us,

Then, O Lord, do not forsake us,

But to reign in glory take us with you on high.

Holy Father, throned in heaven, all holy Son,

Holy Spirit, freely given, blest Three in One:

Grant us grace, we now implore you,

Till we lay our crowns before you

And in worthier strains adore you while ages run.

(“God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven”, setting harmonized by Ralph Vaughan Williams. From the English Hymnal by permission of Oxford University Press, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Lay Minister: Bob Nehring

Ushers: Craig Affeldt

Power Point: Adahlia Eames

Acolyte: Josh Neaderhiser

Passion Reading: Doug Krant