



LET MY PEOPLE GO!

“Making it Worse”

April 1, 2020

7:00 pm

Welcome to Worship! It's easy to get stuck in a downward spiral. Look at Aaron and the Israelites. *Better yet, look at us.* Best of all, look to Jesus who alone can make things truly better.

+++ Service of Prayer & Preaching, Page 260 +++

THE PRELUDE: "Jesus I Will Ponder Now" - J.C.H. Rink

THE OPENING HYMN: "My Song Is Love Unknown" Hymn 430 vs. 1-3

- 1 My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?

- 2 He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend,
My friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend!

- 3 Sometimes they strew His way
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!"
Is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.

THE OPENING VERSICLES (LENT): (page 260)

L This is the day which the Lord has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

L From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

L 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.

L Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,

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

L Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

C He was bruised for our iniquities.

L 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.

THE PSALM: Responsively (selected verses from Psalm 106)

P: The LORD commanded the Red Sea to dry up. He led Israel across the sea as if it were a desert.

C: He rescued them from their enemies and redeemed them from their foes.

P: The water returned and covered their enemies; not one of them survived.

C: Then his people believed his promises. Then they sang his praise.

P: Yet how quickly they forgot what he had done! They wouldn't wait for his counsel!

C: The people made a calf at Mount Sinai; they bowed before an image made of gold.

P: They forgot God, their Savior, who had done such great things in Egypt.

C: So he declared he would destroy them.

P: But Moses, his chosen one, stepped between the LORD and the people.

C: He begged him to turn from his anger and not destroy them.

All: Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Exodus 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, "Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." So Aaron said to them, "Take off the rings of

gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD." And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. And the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you." But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the LORD relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 10:5-8

Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:27-30

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown

into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE LENTEN RESPONSORY: (page 263)

L 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.**

L 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.**

L 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.

THE SERMON HYMN: "Hymn 430, vs. 4-7

4 Why, what hath my Lord done?

What makes this rage and spite?

He made the lame to run,

He gave the blind their sight.

Sweet injuries!

Yet they at these

Themselves displease

And 'gainst Him rise.

5 They rise and needs will have

My dear Lord made away;

A murderer they save,

The Prince of Life they slay.

Yet cheerful He

To suffer goes

That He His foes
From thence might free.

6 In life no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was His home
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend!

THE SERMON: "Making it Worse"

THE OFFERING

THE MUSICAL OFFERING: "O Lamb of God Most Holy" – Gerald Near

THE PRAYERS: (page 265)

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind,
let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the
proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us
all, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

THE EVENING PRAYER: (page 266)

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.**

THE BLESSING: (page 267)

Benedicamus

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN: "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing "

Hymn 924

1 Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing,
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us; O refresh us,
Trav'ling through this wilderness.

2 Thanks we give and adoration
For Your Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of Your salvation
In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
To Your truth may we be found.

3 Savior, when Your love shall call us
From our struggling pilgrim way,
Let not fear of death appall us,
Glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
Reign with You in endless day.

THE SILENT PRAYER: Jesus, when I'm stuck in a hole, empower me to claim your covenant – your covenant of blood! Amen.

THE POSTLUDE: "Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow" – Flor Peeters

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Serving in Worship

Preacher: Vicar Ronchetto **Liturgists:** Pastor Blumenberg and Pastor Bloch

Lector: Pastor Rodriguez **Organist:** Mr. Paul Scheiderer