

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*Pastor*)

WORD

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 5:1-21 (NRSV)

5 Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Let my people go, so that they may celebrate a festival to me in the wilderness.’” **2** But Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should heed him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and I will not let Israel go.” **3** Then they said, “The God of the Hebrews has revealed himself to us; let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness to sacrifice to the LORD our God, or he will fall upon us with pestilence or sword.” **4** But the king of Egypt said to them, “Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their work? Get to your labors!” **5** Pharaoh continued, “Now they are more numerous than the people of the land and yet you want them to stop working!” **6** That same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people, as well as their supervisors, **7** “You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as before; let them go and gather straw for themselves. **8** But you shall require of them the same quantity of bricks as they have made previously; do not diminish it, for they are lazy; that is why they cry, ‘Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God.’ **9** Let heavier work be laid on them; then they will labor at it and pay no attention to deceptive words.” **10** So the taskmasters and the supervisors of the people went out and said to the people, “Thus says Pharaoh, ‘I will not give you straw. **11** Go and get straw yourselves, wherever you can find it; but your work will not be lessened in the least.’” **12** So the people scattered throughout the land of Egypt, to gather stubble for straw. **13** The taskmasters were urgent, saying, “Complete your work, the same daily assignment as when you were given straw.” **14** And the supervisors of the Israelites, whom Pharaoh’s taskmasters had set over them, were beaten, and were asked, “Why did you not finish the required quantity of bricks yesterday and today, as you did before?” **15** Then the Israelite supervisors came to Pharaoh and cried, “Why do you treat your servants like this? **16** No straw is given to your servants, yet they say to us, ‘Make bricks!’ Look how your servants are beaten! You are unjust to your own people.” **17** He said, “You are lazy, lazy; that is why you say, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.’ **18** Go now, and work; for no straw shall be given you, but you shall still deliver the same number of bricks.” **19** The Israelite supervisors saw that they were in trouble when they were told, “You shall not lessen your daily number of bricks.” **20** As they left Pharaoh, they came upon Moses and Aaron who were waiting to meet them. **21** They said to them, “The LORD look upon you and judge! You have brought us into bad odor with Pharaoh and his officials, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.”

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 5:22-6:12 (NRSV)

22 Then Moses turned again to the LORD and said, “O LORD, why have you mistreated this people? Why did you ever send me? **23** Since I first came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has mistreated this people, and you have done nothing at all to deliver your people.” **6** Then the LORD said to Moses, “Now you shall see what I will do to

Pharaoh: Indeed, by a mighty hand he will let them go; by a mighty hand he will drive them out of his land.” ² God also spoke to Moses and said to him: “I am the LORD. ³ I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name ‘The LORD’ I did not make myself known to them. ⁴ I also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they resided as aliens. ⁵ I have also heard the groaning of the Israelites whom the Egyptians are holding as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. ⁶ Say therefore to the Israelites, ‘I am the LORD, and I will free you from the burdens of the Egyptians and deliver you from slavery to them. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. ⁷ I will take you as my people, and I will be your God. You shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has freed you from the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸ I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.’” ⁹ Moses told this to the Israelites; but they would not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and their cruel slavery. ¹⁰ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, ¹¹ “Go and tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the Israelites go out of his land.” ¹² But Moses spoke to the LORD, “The Israelites have not listened to me; how then shall Pharaoh listen to me, poor speaker that I am?”

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Freedom from Plagues” *Jon Bauman, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries*

THE APOSTLES CREED (*Unison*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OUR LORD’S PRAYER (*Unison*)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING INFORMATION

SENDING

INVITATION

Pastor: Jesus invites us to believe in Him and act on our belief.

People: He says, “Here I am. I stand at the door and knock; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in.”

Pastor: When you open your door, we rejoice, as you experience Him in your heart and look forward to eternal life.

People: He says, “If anyone loves me, he will keep My word and My Father and I will make our abode with him.

Pastor: Merciful God, we rejoice with You for all who are saved by belief and grace and all who keep Your word to love others as themselves. Amen.

(If you have professed faith in Jesus for the first time or have committed yourself anew to grow as a disciple, please inform the pastors.)

CHARGE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Let the Trumpet Sound!”

by Lani Smith

Performed by Abbey Clark

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