



LENTEN WORSHIP - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19
THE STORY OF MOSES AND THE EXODUS
WEEK 3: “Let My People Go”

Acolytes: Brady Sickles & Beckett Horswill
Lector: Sandy Grant

Prelude: “Thy Holy Wings”

ORDER OF SERVICE
Holden Village Evening Prayer

Service of Light and Evening Hymn p. 2 - 3

Candles will be lit before the worship begins. Please follow the instructions of the liturgist.

Evening Thanksgiving p. 4

Psalmody p. 4

The liturgist is Group One and the congregation is Group Two.

The WORD
Portions of Exodus 5:1 – 13:36

Song of the Word: “Go Down, Moses”

**Vs. 1: When Israel was in Egypt’s land; Let my people go,
Oppressed so hard they could not stand, Let my people go.
Go down, Moses, Way down in Egypt’s land.
Tell old Pharaoh, Let my people go.**

Lector: After that Moses and Aaron approached Pharaoh. They said,

Moses (Right Side): GOD, the God of Israel, says, “Free my people so that they can hold a festival for me in the wilderness.”

Pharaoh (Left Side): And who is GOD that I should listen to him and send Israel off? I know nothing of this so-called ‘GOD’ and I’m certainly not going to send Israel off.

Lector: Pharaoh took immediate action. He sent down orders to the slave-drivers and their underlings: “Don’t provide straw for the people for making bricks as you have been doing. Make them get their own straw. And make them produce the same number of bricks—no reduction in their daily quotas! They’re getting lazy. They’re going around saying, ‘Give us time off so we can worship our God.’ Crack down on them. That’ll cure them of their whining, their god-fantasies.”

Strike One: Blood

God (Pastor): Pharaoh is a stubborn man... Tell Aaron, ‘Take your staff and wave it over the waters of Egypt—over its rivers, its canals, its ponds, all its bodies of water—so that they turn to blood.’ There’ll be blood everywhere in Egypt—even in the pots and pans.

Lector: Moses and Aaron did exactly as GOD commanded them. Aaron raised his staff and hit the water in the Nile with Pharaoh and his servants watching. All the water in the Nile turned into blood. The fish in the Nile died; the Nile stank; and the Egyptians couldn’t drink the Nile water. The blood was everywhere in Egypt.

Strike Two: Frogs

Lector: GOD said to Moses,

God (Pastor): Tell Aaron, “Wave your staff over the rivers and canals and ponds. Bring up frogs on the land of Egypt.”

Lector: Aaron stretched his staff over the waters of Egypt and a mob of frogs came up and covered the country.

Strike Three: Gnats

Lector: GOD said to Moses,

God (Pastor): Tell Aaron, ‘Take your staff and strike the dust. The dust will turn into gnats all over Egypt.’

Lector: He did it. Aaron grabbed his staff and struck the dust of the Earth; it turned into gnats, gnats all over people and animals. All the dust of the Earth turned into gnats, gnats everywhere in Egypt.

Strike Four: Flies

Lector: GOD said to Moses,

God (Pastor): Get up early in the morning and confront Pharaoh as he goes down to the water. Tell him, “GOD’s Message: Release my people so they can worship me. If you don’t release my people, I’ll release swarms of flies on you, your servants, your people, and your homes. The houses of the Egyptians and even the ground under their feet will be thick with flies.”

Lector: And GOD did just that. Thick swarms of flies in Pharaoh’s palace and the houses of his servants. All over Egypt, the country ruined by flies.

**Vs. 2: So Moses went to Egypt land; Let my people go!
He made old Pharaoh understand; Let my people go!
Go down, Moses, Way down in Egypt’s land.
Tell old Pharaoh, Let my people go.**

Strike Five: Animals

Lector: GOD said to Moses,

God (Pastor): Go to Pharaoh and tell him, “GOD, the God of the Hebrews, says: Release my people so they can worship me. If you refuse to release them and continue to hold on to them, I’m giving you fair warning: GOD will come down hard on your livestock out in the fields—horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep—striking them with a severe disease.”

Lector: Then GOD set the time: “Tomorrow GOD will do this thing.” And the next day GOD did it. All the livestock of Egypt died, but not one animal of the Israelites died.

Strike Six: Boil

Lector: GOD said to Moses and Aaron,

God (Pastor): Take fistfuls of soot from a furnace and have Moses throw it into the air right before Pharaoh’s eyes; it will become a film of fine dust all over Egypt and cause sores, an eruption of boils on people and animals throughout Egypt.

Lector: So they took soot from a furnace, stood in front of Pharaoh, and threw it up into the air. It caused boils to erupt on people and animals.

Strike Seven: Hail

Lector: GOD said to Moses,

God (Pastor): Stretch your hands to the skies. Signal the hail to fall all over Egypt on people and animals and crops exposed in the fields of Egypt.

Lector: Moses lifted his staff to the skies and GOD sent cracks of thunder and hail shot through with lightning strikes. GOD rained hail down on the land of Egypt. The hail came, hail and lightning—a fierce hailstorm. There had been nothing like it in Egypt in its entire history. The hail hit hard all over Egypt. Everything exposed out in the fields, people and animals and crops, was smashed. Even the trees in the fields were shattered.

Strike Eight: Locust

God (Pastor) Go to Pharaoh. I've made him stubborn, him and his servants, so that I can force him to look at these signs and so you'll be able to tell your children and grandchildren how I toyed with the Egyptians, like a cat with a mouse; you'll tell them the stories of the signs that I brought down on them, so that you'll all know that I am GOD.

Lector: Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him,

Moses (Right Side): GOD, the God of the Hebrews, says, "How long are you going to refuse to knuckle under? Release my people so that they can worship me. If you refuse to release my people, watch out; tomorrow I'm bringing locusts into your country.

Aaron (Left Side): They'll cover every square inch of ground; no one will be able to see the ground. They'll devour everything left over from the hailstorm, even the saplings out in the fields—they'll clear-cut the trees. And they'll invade your houses, filling the houses of your servants, filling every house in Egypt. Nobody will have ever seen anything like this, from the time your ancestors first set foot on this soil until today."

Strike Nine: Darkness

Lector: GOD said to Moses:

God (Pastor): Stretch your hand to the skies. Let darkness descend on the land of Egypt—a darkness so dark you can touch it.

Lector: Moses stretched out his hand to the skies. Thick darkness descended on the land of Egypt for three days. Nobody could see anybody. For three days no one could so much as move. Except for the Israelites: they had light where they were living.

Song of the Word: “Go Down, Moses”

Vs. 3: Thus saith the Lord, bold Moses said; Let my people go,
If not, I'll smite your firstborn dead, Let my people go.
Go down, Moses, Way down in Egypt's land.
Tell old Pharoah, Let my people go.

Strike Ten: Death

Lector: GOD said to Moses:

God (Pastor): I'm going to hit Pharaoh and Egypt one final time, and then he'll let you go. When he releases you, that will be the end of Egypt for you; he won't be able to get rid of you fast enough.

Lector: Then Moses confronted Pharaoh:

Moses (All): GOD's Message: “At midnight I will go through Egypt and every firstborn child in Egypt will die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sits on his throne, to the firstborn of the slave girl working at her hand mill. Also the firstborn of animals. Widespread wailing will erupt all over the country, lament such as has never been and never will be again. But against the Israelites—man, woman, or animal—there won't be so much as a dog's bark.”

Please extinguish your candles after the reading of the gospel.

Song of the Word: “Go Down, Moses”

Vs. 4: No more shall they in bondage toil; Let my people go,
Let them come out with Egypt's spoil. Let my people go.
Go down, Moses, Way down in Egypt's land.
Tell old Pharaoh, Let my people go.

Homily: “Let My People Go”

Song and Offering: “We Shall Overcome”

Vs. 1: We shall overcome. We shall overcome.
We shall overcome someday.

**Oh, deep in my heart I do believe.
We shall overcome someday.**

**Vs. 2: We'll walk hand in hand. We walk hand in hand.
We'll walk hand in hand someday.
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe.
We shall overcome someday.**

**Vs. 4: We are not afraid. We are not afraid.
We are not afraid today.
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe.
We shall overcome someday.**

**Vs. 5: God will see us through. God will see us through.
God will see us through today.
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe.
We shall overcome someday.**

Holden Village Evening Prayer

Litany and Prayers p. 10

Final Blessing p. 12

Postlude: "Deep River"