

Confirmation Instruction – October 10, 2021 – God Provides Manna

Welcome

- Prayer
- Questions from last week’s class or readings?

Review

We believe in the Holy _____, one God in (*how many?*) _____ persons. We baptize and make the sign of the cross in the name of these persons, the _____, the _____, and the _____. When God appeared to _____ in a burning bush, God revealed God’s name, which means “_____ who _____” or “I will be who I will be.” A _____ is a statement of belief; the word derives from the Latin word meaning, “I believe.” The 3 ecumenical creeds are: the _____ creed, the _____ creed, and the _____ creed.

Dramatic Reading of Key Events in Exodus 4-15

Moses & Aaron (*to Pharaoh*): Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘Let my people go.’

Pharaoh (*to Moses & Aaron*): I do not know the Lord, and I will not let Israel go.

Pharaoh (*to taskmasters & supervisors*): You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks. But you shall require them to make just as many bricks as they made before.

Moses (*to God*): Why did you ever send me? Since I first came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has mistreated this people, and you have done nothing to deliver them.

God (*to Moses*): Go and tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the Israelites go out of his land.

Moses (*to God*): Since I am a poor speaker, why would Pharaoh listen to me?

God (*to Moses*): I will harden Pharaoh’s heart. I will multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt. When Pharaoh does not listen to you, I will lay my hand upon Egypt and bring my people the Israelites out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment.

Moses (*to Aaron*): Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt—its rivers, its canals, its ponds, and its pools of water—so that they may become blood.

God (*to Moses*): Go to Pharaoh and say, “Thus says the Lord: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. If you refuse, I will plague your whole country with frogs.”

Pharaoh (*to Moses & Aaron*): Pray to the Lord to take away the frogs from me and my people, and I will let the people go and sacrifice to the Lord.”

Moses (*to Aaron*): Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats throughout the whole land of Egypt.

Image from Wikimedia Commons.

"Entreat the Lord, that He may take away the Frogs from me and from my People."
Bible beasts and birds: a new edition of illustrations of scripture by an animal painter, 1886. By Jemima Blackburn, 1823-1909.



God (to Moses): Say to Pharaoh, "Thus says the Lord: If you will not let my people go, I will send swarms of flies on you, your officials, and your people, and into your houses."

Pharaoh (to Moses & Aaron): I will let you go to sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness, provided you do not go very far away. Pray for me.

Moses (to Pharaoh): As soon as I leave you, I will pray to the Lord that the swarms of flies may depart tomorrow.

God (to Moses): Say to Pharaoh, "If you refuse to let them go, the hand of the Lord will strike with a deadly pestilence your livestock in the field."

God (to Moses & Aaron): Take handfuls of soot from the kiln, and let Moses throw it in the air in the sight of Pharaoh. It shall cause festering boils on humans and animals throughout the whole land of Egypt.

Moses (to Pharaoh): Thus says the Lord: You will not let my people go. Tomorrow I will cause the heaviest hail to fall that has ever fallen in Egypt.

Pharaoh (to Moses & Aaron): This time I have sinned. Pray to the Lord! Enough of God's thunder and hail! I will let you go.

Moses & Aaron (to Pharaoh): Thus says the Lord: If you refuse to let my people go, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your country.

Pharaoh's officials (to Pharaoh): Let the people go, so that they may worship the Lord their God. Do you not yet understand that Egypt is ruined?

Pharaoh (to Moses & Aaron): Only your men may go and worship the Lord.

God (to Moses): Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt, so that the locusts may come upon it and eat every plant in all the land, all that the hail has left.

Pharaoh (to Moses & Aaron): I have sinned against the Lord your God, and against you.

God (to Moses): Stretch out your hand toward heaven so that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt.

Pharaoh (to Moses): Go, worship the Lord. Only your flocks and herds shall remain behind. Even your children may go with you.

Moses (to Pharaoh): You must also let us have burnt offerings to sacrifice to the Lord.

God (*to Moses*): I will bring one more plague upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt.

Moses: Thus says the Lord: About midnight I will go out through Egypt. Every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die.

God (*to Moses & Aaron*): This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord.

Moses (*to the Israelites*): It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, for he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt, when he struck down the Egyptians but spared us.

Pharaoh (*to Moses & Aaron*): Rise up, go away from my people! Go, worship the Lord. Take your flocks and your herds, and be gone. And bring a blessing on me too!

Moses (*to the Israelites*): Remember this day on which you came out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, because the Lord brought you out from there by the strength of his hand. No leavened bread shall be eaten.

Pharaoh & officials: What have we done, letting Israel leave our service?

Israelites (*to Moses*): What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.

Moses (*to the Israelites*): Do not be afraid. Stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today.

Egyptians: Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.

God (*to Moses*): Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians.

Moses & Israelites: I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously. Horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

Musical Response to Exodus 4-15

- Listen to “Go Down, Moses” in Hebrew from *Biblical Hebrew* CD 2, track 26.

Law and Gospel in Today’s Reading

	Law (What is the problem? What are people supposed to be doing?)	Gospel (What is God doing for us?)
Exodus 16:1-18		

Blessings at Meals

- *The Lutheran Handbook*, pp. 226-227
- *The Lutheran Handbook*, pp. 99-100

Discussion Questions

- What are your family and personal practices around thanking God at mealtime?
 - Do you bless or give thanks for food *before* eating? After? Both?
 - Do you use a memorized prayer or pray extemporaneously? Spoken or sung?
 - Who participates in saying the prayer?
 - Do you hold hands with or fold your hands? Bow your heads? Make the sign of the cross?
 - Are your practices different if you are at home or eating out?
 - Are they different if you are eating as a family, alone, or with guests present?
 - What happens at holiday meals, like Thanksgiving?
- God provided food for the displaced people. What kinds of provisions does a refugee need besides food? How can you help?
- The complaints of the people recently freed from enslavement may sound ungrateful. How can you find ways to appreciate what God has given you when it's tempting to complain about something that went wrong?

Daily Readings

- *Monday* – Numbers 11:4-9
- *Tuesday* - Deuteronomy 5:1-22; 6:1-9
- *Wednesday* - Joshua 1:1-9
- *Thursday* - Joshua 24:2-25
- *Friday* - Judges 5:1-31
- *Saturday* - 1 Samuel 1:20-28; 2:1-11
- *Sunday, October 17* – 1 Samuel 3:1-21 (God Calls Samuel)

Seven Key Faith Practices for Christian Disciples Worship | Pray | Study | Serve | Give | Invite | Encourage

