

## Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

### **Monday (February 13) – Exodus 10, 11**

Pharaoh hardens his own heart first (7:22; 8:15, 19, 32). Each time he does, it becomes easier the next time. In verse 12 God seals his fate. Through chapters 10 and 11, God continues to be the one doing the action. (10:1, 20, 27; 11:10). “It is as though God says to the king, ‘If that is how you want it, I’ll help you along the way.’”<sup>1</sup> Even Pharaoh’s own advisors see the futility of his decisions (10:7). Hardness of heart and numbing of the conscience are deadly. Protect us from this, dear Father in heaven. “Create in me a clean heart, O God...” (Psalm 51:10a). God is determined to bless his people. He will not let Pharaoh keep the children behind or prevent God’s people from taking their animals with them. In the Old Testament and the New, the little children belong in the company of God’s people. Young and old need animals for sacrifice. The blood of those beasts anticipates the blood Jesus shed on the cross to cover their sin and ours.

### **Tuesday (February 14) – Exodus 12**

In verse 6 God tells Moses that there will be a loud cry over all Egypt, such as never has been or ever will be again. This terrible prophecy is fulfilled in verse 30. God also has another word for Moses: Houses marked with blood on their doorposts and on their lintel will be passed over; no disaster will come to them. This terrible day for the Egyptians will also be the day of deliverance for God’s people. God institutes the celebration of the Passover as a yearly remembrance of God’s salvation for his people. This sign of blood signifies how the blood of Christ covers God’s people even today. Today, God doesn’t have you paint your doorframes with blood, instead he offers you his Son’s Blood to drink, the Blood of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (Matthew 26:28).

### **Wednesday (February 15) – Exodus 13, 14**

The practice of setting aside the firstborn and the celebration of the Passover are given to the people by God as regular reminders of how He saved them. God tells his people to “Make this a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead (13:9, 16). This is figurative language emphasizing how they are to remember God’s salvific work for them and pass that knowledge on to their children. When it seems to the people like they are trapped on the shore of the Red Sea, they panic. God’s people often doubt; but God always delivers. Moses says, “The Lord is fighting for you, so be still.” (14:14) In our baptismal liturgy, we pray, “You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism” (LSB 268).

### **Thursday (February 16) – Exodus 15**

The Song of Moses and Israel is the first of the Biblical Canticles included in the Lutheran

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<sup>1</sup> Lessing, R. Reed. *Prepare the Way of the Lord: An Introduction to the Old Testament*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2014. pg. 85.

Service Book (LSB 925). It is often sung at the Easter Vigil Service. God really did miraculously part the Red Sea, drown hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his hosts, and bring His people safely through on dry ground. As New Testament believers, we cannot help but see this as a foreshadowing of Christ's victory over sin and death won on the cross. He delivered to you the spoils of this victory when you were led through the waters of Baptism. Even greater than God's triumph over Pharaoh, is His triumph over the horse and his rider of our sin, death itself, and the power of the devil, by the blood of Christ shed on the cross.

### **Friday (February 17) – Exodus 16**

Manna means “what is it?” It tasted like a wafer with honey. The manna the people of Israel ate was just bread. It sustained their bodies for a short time, but they got hungry again after eating it. Today, we also eat Bread from heaven. What is the wafer your Pastor places in your mouth? It is the true Body of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus says “whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” (John 6:54) The wilderness wanderings of the people of Israel correspond to our wilderness wanderings through this life of brokenness and sin. Yet you are sustained with far greater bread from heaven, the Body of our Lord. That Manna grants you forgiveness, life, and salvation.

### **Saturday (February 18) – Exodus 17, 18**

Jethro's suggestions are for good order. God had neither commanded, nor forbidden an organizational structure by which Moses would judge the people of Israel in their civil affairs. Therefore, Moses accepts Jethro's sound advice and delegates some of his responsibilities (18:21-22). Likewise, the organizational structures of our congregations are not determined by a command from God. Instead, we have Christian freedom to establish and fill offices such as president, elders, treasurer, and trustees. We may change the requirements and duties of these roles whenever necessary to promote good order in our churches. The office of the Holy Ministry (the Pastoral Office), however, is instituted by Christ himself. The qualifications for pastoral office and the duties of that office are clearly defined in the Scriptures and cannot be changed by any pope, council, or assembly.

### **Sunday (February 19) – Exodus 19, 20**

The Law always accuses. It shows us our sin and our need for salvation. God's proclamation of the Law terrifies the people (20:19). Notice that the Law is not given as a way to become a part of God's holy people. The Law is given *after* God has already delivered his people from the hand of Pharaoh (20:2). God claimed them first. Neither does adherence to the law keep them within the company of God's holy people. God institutes His Divine Service (20:24). Worship is, first and foremost, God's service of us. He comes to us, dwells with us, and blesses us. Our prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, flow from what God has done first in Christ. We sing and give thanks because He forgives our sins, makes us his children, and sustains us unto life everlasting with Word, Water, Bread, and Wine. While the Law chiefly accuses, it also becomes a picture depicting the beauty of the new life you have received through Holy Baptism.