

Thy Will Be Done

God's Will and My Inadequacy

"But [Moses] said, 'Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.'" Exodus 4:13

Opening Hymn: Jesus, refuge of the Weary

Jesus, refuge of the weary, blest Redeemer, whom we love, Fountain in life's desert dreary,
Savior from the world above: Often have your eyes, offended, gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended, you have borne the pain of all.

Do we pass that cross unheeding, breathing no repentant vow, Though we see you wounded,
bleeding, see your thorn-encircled brow? Yet your sinless death has brought us life eternal,
peace and rest; Only what your grace has taught us calms the sinner's deep distress.

Jesus, may our hearts be burning with more fervent love for you; May our eyes be ever turn-
ing to behold your cross anew Till in glory, parted never from the blessed Savior's
side, Graven in our hearts forever, dwell the cross, the Crucified.

Invocation

P: Wherever two or more are gathered together in Jesus' name, he promises to be there in the
midst of them.

C: Come, merciful Father, and be our guest.

P: Come, loving Savior, and be our guest.

C: Come, Comforter, be our guest and fill this moment with your presence.

P: In the sure and confident hope that our Lord is present in this place we begin in the name
of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Let us glorify him who has called us
out of darkness into his marvelous light!

Opening Litany

P: Periods of failure come into the lives of everyone. With the glorious exception of Jesus,
every hero of the Bible had their times of failure as well.

C: Adam and Eve ate the fruit.

P: Abraham and Sarah laughed at God.

C: Moses murdered a man.

P: King David had an affair.

C: Solomon worshipped false gods.

P: Jonah refused to obey and ran away from the work of the Lord.

C: Peter denied the Lord.

P: Thomas doubted the promise and the testimony.

C: Paul persecuted Christians.

P: The list could go on and on. All the heroes of yesterday had their areas of weakness.

**C: But God strengthened them in their weakness, and was able to use them according to
his good and gracious will.**

Hymn: Chief of Sinners

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed his blood for me, Died that I might live on high, lives
that I might never die, As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.

Oh, the height of Jesus' love, higher than the heav'ns above, Deeper than the depths of sea,
lasting as eternity! Love that found me, wondrous thought, found me when I sought him not.

Only Jesus can impart balm to heal the wounded heart, Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to walk with God in the way that Enoch trod.

P: It can happen in a moment. A bad decision,

C: an action we shouldn't have taken,

P: a moment of fear that led to an impulse that was wrong,

C: and failure invades our life.

P: It can happen when things are going great,

C: or it could happen gradually, the result of a series of events that has taken place.

P: Failure invades all of our lives at one time or another.

C: Some failures are minor and are overcome quickly.

P: Others are devastating not only in their effect on us,

C: but in their effect on others.

P: Yet to those who repent, a gracious God offers full and free forgiveness.

C: God strengthens us in our weakness, and is able to use us according to his good and gracious will.

Hymn: Chief of Sinners

O my Savior, help afford by your Spirit and your Word! When my wayward heart would stray, keep me in the narrow way; Grace in time of need supply while I live and when I die.

Prayer of the Day

First Reading ... Exodus 3 and 4 (selected verses):

God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. "Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain." But Moses said to the Lord, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." Then the

Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth?... Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak." But he said, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else."

Second Reading ... Numbers 20:2-13:

Now there was no water for the congregation. And they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. And the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Would that we had perished when our brothers perished before the Lord! Why have you brought the assembly of the Lord into this wilderness, that we should die here, both we and our cattle? And why have you made us come up out of Egypt to bring us to this evil place? It is no place for grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, and there is no water to drink." Then Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell on their faces. And the glory of the Lord appeared to them, and the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle." And Moses took the staff from before the Lord, as he commanded him.

Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?" And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock. And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them." These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarreled with the Lord, and through them he showed himself holy.

Third Reading ... Numbers 21:4-9:

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against

God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Gospel Reading ... John 3:14-18:

(Jesus said:) "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God."

Sermon

Offering

Offering Hymn: God loved the world

God loved the world so that he gave his only Son the lost to save, That all who would in him believe should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, who was made flesh and suffered death; All that confide in him alone are built on this chief Cornerstone.

If you are sick, if death is near, this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; that is the firmest ground of faith.

Prayers

Each petition ends: P: Perfect Son of God,
C: cover us with your holiness that we might live for you.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P: And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.'" So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: Glory be to Jesus

Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains Poured for me the life-blood from his sacred veins!

Grace and life eternal in that blood I find; Blest be his compassion, infinitely kind!

Blest through endless ages be the precious stream Which from endless torment did the world redeem!

Abel's blood for vengeance pleaded to the skies; But the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries.

Oft as earth exulting wafts its praise on high, Angel hosts rejoicing make their glad reply.

Lift we, then, our voices, swell the mighty flood, Louder still and louder praise the precious blood!

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