

## TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 27, 2017



### *THE LESSON* Exodus 1:8–2:10

<sup>8</sup>Now a new king came to power in Egypt who didn't know Joseph. <sup>9</sup>He said to his people, "The Israelite people are now larger in number and stronger than we are. <sup>10</sup>Come on, let's be smart and deal with them. Otherwise, they will only grow in number. And if war breaks out, they will join our enemies, fight against us, and then escape from the land." <sup>11</sup>As a result, the Egyptians put foremen of forced work gangs over the Israelites to harass them with hard work. They had to build storage cities named Pithom and Rameses for Pharaoh. <sup>12</sup>But the more they were oppressed, the more they grew and spread, so much so that the Egyptians started to look at the Israelites with disgust and dread. <sup>13</sup>So the Egyptians enslaved the Israelites. <sup>14</sup>They made their lives miserable with hard labor, making mortar and bricks, doing field work, and by forcing them to do all kinds of other cruel work.

<sup>15</sup>The king of Egypt spoke to two Hebrew midwives named Shiphrah and Puah: <sup>16</sup>"When you are helping the Hebrew women give birth and you see the baby being born, if it's a boy, kill him. But if it's a girl, you can let her live." <sup>17</sup>Now the two midwives respected God so they didn't obey the Egyptian king's order. Instead, they let the baby boys live.

<sup>18</sup>So the king of Egypt called the

two midwives and said to them, "Why are you doing this? Why are you letting the baby boys live?"

<sup>19</sup>The two midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because Hebrew women aren't like Egyptian women. They're much stronger and give birth before any midwives can get to them." <sup>20</sup>So God treated the midwives well, and the people kept on multiplying and became very strong. <sup>21</sup>And because the midwives respected God, God gave them households of their own.

<sup>22</sup>Then Pharaoh gave an order to all his people: "Throw every baby boy born to the Hebrews into the Nile River, but you can let all the girls live."

<sup>23</sup>Now a man from Levi's household married a Levite woman. <sup>24</sup>The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that the baby was healthy and beautiful, so she hid him for three months. <sup>25</sup>When she couldn't hide him any longer, she took a reed basket and sealed it up with black tar. She put the child in the basket and set the basket among the reeds at the riverbank. <sup>26</sup>The baby's older sister stood watch nearby to see what would happen to him.

<sup>27</sup>Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe in the river, while her women servants walked along beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds, and she sent one of her servants to bring it to her. <sup>28</sup>When she opened it, she saw the child. The boy was crying, and she felt sorry for

him. She said, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children."

<sup>7</sup>Then the baby's sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Would you like me to go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

<sup>8</sup>Pharaoh's daughter agreed, "Yes, do that." So the girl went and called the child's mother. <sup>9</sup>Pharaoh's

daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I'll pay you for your work." So the woman took the child and nursed it. <sup>10</sup>After the child had grown up, she brought him back to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I pulled him out of the water."

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#### *THE RESPONSE* Psalm 124

<sup>1</sup>If the LORD hadn't been for us—let Israel now repeat!—

**<sup>2</sup>if the LORD hadn't been for us, when those people attacked us**

<sup>3</sup>then they would have swallowed us up whole with their rage burning against us!

**<sup>4</sup>Then the waters would have drowned us; the torrent would have come over our necks;**

<sup>5</sup>then the raging waters would have come over our necks!

**<sup>6</sup>Bless the LORD because he didn't hand us over like food for our enemies' teeth!**

<sup>7</sup>We escaped like a bird from the hunters' trap; the trap was broken so we escaped!

**<sup>8</sup>Our help is in the name of the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

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#### *THE EPISTLE* Romans 12:1-8

<sup>1</sup>So, brothers and sisters, because of God's mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service. <sup>2</sup>Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.

<sup>3</sup>Because of the grace that God gave me, I can say to each one of you: don't think of yourself more

highly than you ought to think. Instead, be reasonable since God has measured out a portion of faith to each one of you. <sup>4</sup>We have many parts in one body, but the parts don't all have the same function. <sup>5</sup>In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith. <sup>7</sup>If your gift is service, devote

yourself to serving. If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. <sup>8</sup>If your gift is encouragement, devote yourself to encouraging.

The one giving should do it with no strings attached. The leader should lead with passion. The one showing mercy should be cheerful.

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#### *THE GOSPEL* Matthew 16:13-20

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Human One is?"

<sup>14</sup>They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

<sup>15</sup>He said, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

<sup>16</sup>Simon Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

<sup>17</sup>Then Jesus replied, "Happy are

you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. <sup>18</sup>I tell you that you are Peter. And I'll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won't be able to stand against it. <sup>19</sup>I'll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven." <sup>20</sup>Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ.