

## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 3, 2017



### *THE LESSON* Exodus 3:1-15

<sup>1</sup>Moses was taking care of the flock for his father-in-law Jethro, Midian's priest. He led his flock out to the edge of the desert, and he came to God's mountain called Horeb. <sup>2</sup>The LORD's messenger appeared to him in a flame of fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was in flames, but it didn't burn up. <sup>3</sup>Then Moses said to himself, Let me check out this amazing sight and find out why the bush isn't burning up.

<sup>4</sup>When the LORD saw that he was coming to look, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!"

Moses said, "I'm here."

<sup>5</sup>Then the LORD said, "Don't come any closer! Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground." <sup>6</sup>He continued, "I am the God of your father, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup>Then the LORD said, "I've clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I've heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain. <sup>8</sup>I've come down to rescue them from the Egyptians in order to take them out of that land and bring them to a good and broad land, a land

that's full of milk and honey, a place where the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites all live. <sup>9</sup>Now the Israelites' cries of injustice have reached me. I've seen just how much the Egyptians have oppressed them. <sup>10</sup>So get going. I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

<sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, "Who am I to go to Pharaoh and to bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

<sup>12</sup>God said, "I'll be with you. And this will show you that I'm the one who sent you. After you bring the people out of Egypt, you will come back here and worship God on this mountain."

<sup>13</sup>But Moses said to God, "If I now come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they are going to ask me, 'What's this God's name?' What am I supposed to say to them?"

<sup>14</sup>God said to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. So say to the Israelites, 'I Am has sent me to you.'" <sup>15</sup>God continued, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever; this is how all generations will remember me.

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### *THE RESPONSE* Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make his deeds known to all people!

<sup>2</sup>**Sing to God; sing praises to the Lord; dwell on all his wondrous works!**

<sup>3</sup>Give praise to God's holy name! Let the hearts rejoice of all those seeking the LORD!

<sup>4</sup>**Pursue the LORD and his strength; seek his face always!**

<sup>5</sup>Remember the wondrous works he has done, all his marvelous works, and the justice he declared—

<sup>6</sup>**you who are the offspring of Abraham, his servant, and the children of Jacob, his chosen ones. . . .**

<sup>23</sup>That's how Israel came to Egypt, how Jacob became an immigrant in the land of Ham.

<sup>24</sup>**God made his people very fruitful, more powerful than their enemies,**  
<sup>25</sup>**whose hearts God changed so they hated his people and dealt shrewdly with his servants.**

<sup>26</sup>God sent Moses his servant and the one he chose, Aaron.

<sup>45b</sup>**Praise the LORD!**

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**THE EPISTLE Romans 12:9-21**

<sup>9</sup>Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold on to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other. <sup>11</sup>Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic—be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord! <sup>12</sup>Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home. <sup>14</sup>Bless people who harass you—bless and don't curse them. <sup>15</sup>Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying. <sup>16</sup>Consider everyone as equal, and don't think

that you're better than anyone else. Instead, associate with people who have no status. Don't think that you're so smart. <sup>17</sup>Don't pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect for what everyone else believes is good.

<sup>18</sup>If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people. <sup>19</sup>Don't try to get revenge for yourselves, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. It is written, *Revenge belongs to me; I will pay it back, says the Lord.* <sup>20</sup>Instead, *If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. By doing this, you will pile burning coals of fire upon his head.* <sup>21</sup>Don't be defeated by evil, but defeat evil with good.

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**THE GOSPEL Matthew 16:21-28**

<sup>21</sup>From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many

things from the elders, chief priests, and legal experts, and that he had to be killed and raised on the third day. <sup>22</sup>Then Peter took hold of Jesus

and, scolding him, began to correct him: "God forbid, Lord! This won't happen to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned to Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are a stone that could make me stumble, for you are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts."

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus said to his disciples, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. <sup>25</sup>All who want to save their lives will lose

them. But all who lose their lives because of me will find them. <sup>26</sup>Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? <sup>27</sup>For the Human One is about to come with the majesty of his Father with his angels. And then he will repay each one for what that person has done. <sup>28</sup>I assure you that some standing here won't die before they see the Human One coming in his kingdom."