

Written Copy: The Good News of the God Who Passes Over Us in Mercy

Midweek Lent #3

Wednesday, March 11th, 2026

Text: Exodus 12:12-14

¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt ¹⁴ "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

Exegetical Statement

As the 10th and final plague that the LORD will bring upon all in Egypt the Destroyer will slaughter all the firstborn people and animals of Egypt as the LORD brings judgment upon them and shows them their gods are false. He is the One True God of all humankind. The people of Israel, whom He has claimed as His children, are just as worthy of this judgement as the Egyptians. But the LORD protects them from it by commanding them to apply the blood of a spotless and perfect lamb slaughtered and consumed by them. This blood, applied to the door posts on either side and the lintel across the top, outlining the shape of a cross, protects all those eating inside from the Angel of Death, who passes over them. Israel is commanded to keep celebrating this Passover festival meal for the generations to come to remind them of how their LORD passed over them and saved them from death by His mercy.

Focus Statement:

Our Lord, in His mercy, has given us the blood of His sacrificial lamb, Jesus Christ, shed on the cross for the forgiveness of all of our sins. That blood is applied to our minds and our hearts in baptism, making His blood “for me”, when the sign of the cross, from where Christ’s blood flowed, is made upon my heart and mind, marking me one redeemed and saved by the Lamb of Sacrifice, Jesus Christ. This is given to me in the Sacrament of Baptism. Through my participation in the Lord’s Supper, I am invited to eat Jesus’ fulfilment of the Passover Meal with Him, not just once a year, but every time the Church gathers for worship to celebrate the Lord’s Supper.

Function Statement:

Why it’s important to know:

We can sometimes forget what our sins earn for us. We must die in this world because of them, but they also earn for us eternal suffering, dying, and separation from God.

What the hearer should do as a result:

Give thanks and utilize the gift of the Lord’s Supper as His means to keep me in faith toward Him who promises to save me from eternal separation, suffering, and death, and instead give to me the Promised Land of eternal life.

Subject Sentence: God Passes Over My eternal punishment by Jesus’ blood

Introduction: Moses and the Road So Far

It's early spring in the year 1446 BC. After a reluctant hesitant start Moses has turned out to be a pretty capable tool in the hands of the Holy Spirit in carrying on the LORD's plan of deliverance for His people. At the LORD's command he has pronounced nine plagues upon Pharaoh, king of Egypt and his people: the Nile turning to blood, swarms of frogs, gnats, flies and locusts, a sickness that killed some of Egypt's cattle, painful boils on the skin of the Egyptian people, a destructive hail storm, and finally, #9, darkness that descended only over the Egyptians for three days.

Some of these plagues seemed to soften Pharaoh's heart and resolve, but in the end, when Moses announces the removal of each plague, Pharaoh once again refuses to let the Hebrews, his slave labor force, leave. Each one of those plagues sent the message to Pharaoh and his people that their gods are not gods at all, and not even Pharaoh can thwart the power of the One True God, the God of Israel.

The 10th Plague: The Destroyer of the Firstborn

Now comes the 10th and final plague, and it's a doozy. The LORD will send the divine agent He calls "The Destroyer" throughout Egypt who will strike down every first-born human being or animal amongst the Egyptians. Every single first-born: that sounds very harsh from the God you and I know as the "God of love", doesn't it?

Yet we need to remember what life is and who is its source: life is the free gift of grace from the LORD. None of us did anything to be deserving of it. No one is deserving of 80 years, 60 years, 20 years, not even one minute. Quite the contrary we do plenty to deserve the opposite: death. Life is the gift He gives to the just and the unjust, and our God is a God of justice: sinful disobedience to His Word and commands warrants death. That is why death entered the world and all of us must face death barring Jesus' return. Not Pharaoh or any of Egypt's gods will be able to save them.

The thing is, the Children of Israel deserve death too. They have disobeyed God in the past and will do so many times in the future. The Apostle Paul gives us these timeless truths **Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**, and **Romans 6:23a For the wages of sin is death**. So how is it that the Israelites can be spared from this tragedy?

The LORD Passes Over Israel in Mercy

The LORD is not going to just make an exception like you, and I might for our friends. He is not going to ignore their sinful disobedience or pretend it didn't happen. The LORD is going to "Pass Over" the houses where the Israelites are gathered because of the blood of the lamb selected, sacrificed, and applied to the doorposts and the lintel across the top of the door to their houses. Because of that blood, applied in the shape of a cross, all who are eating the sacrificial meal inside the house are protected. This is not something that the Israelites earn or deserve. This is a gracious act of love and mercy on the part of the LORD God who has called them, as sinful as they are, to be His precious children.

There was nothing special about that lamb's blood; no magical or supernatural qualities that would protect them from anything. That blood of their sacrificed lamb drew its saving power from and pointed forward to a sacrifice to come.

The Fulfillment of the Passover Seder: The Lord's Supper

Flash forward nearly 1500 years. Twelve Jews and their Rabbi gather in the Upper Room to celebrate the Passover Festival instituted through Moses in Egypt. God's people have kept celebrating this meal once a year as the way to remember the great saving act the LORD accomplished for them in Egypt. They would gather, eat the roasted lamb they had purchased and had sacrificed in the temple. And the story of Moses and the plagues, including the final one and how God passed over their ancestors would be recounted by the head of the household.

That would be how the meal we call The Last Supper would've begun, a Passover Seder. But instead, this one would be called "the Last Supper", but not because it's the last one Jesus would eat with them this side of eternity. He would eat with His disciples after His resurrection. This the Last Passover Supper/Seder because Jesus is going to institute the fulfillment of the Passover Supper we call "The Lord's Supper".

In doing this He is identifying Himself as the fulfillment of the lamb that was sacrificed by God's people. John the Baptist pointed to Jesus of Nazareth as "The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." The blood that Jesus was about to shed on the cross, the blood that would drip down it, that blood is where the blood of the lamb painted on the door post of Israelite homes in Egypt received its power to save them. Jesus shed His blood to forgive the sins of all human beings that have ever lived or will live. His blood is the price that needed to be paid to save mankind from the justice of God, just as Paul declares in **Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

The Blood of the Lamb Painted on the Doorposts of our Hearts

Because of this work of salvation that the Lamb of God did for all mankind, all who are marked by the blood of The Lamb of God will be Passed Over on Judgment Day. We will all suffer death. We all deserve eternal suffering and the eternal dying that is eternal damnation. On Judgement Day the LORD will not ignore our sinful lives. He will pass over the judgement we deserve because Jesus suffered that judgment upon the cross.

The blood of the Lamb of God is not applied to the doorpost and lintel of your house. It is applied in a much more personal way. It is applied to your heart and your mind in baptism through the sign of the cross to mark you as one redeemed by God. The saving power of Jesus blood, applied to your life in the Sacrament of Baptism, is what protects you from what your sin earns for you.

And you and I get to enjoy that fulfillment of the Passover Meal that Christ instituted in the Upper Room every time we gather and celebrate the Sacrament of the Altar, the Lord's Supper, as His Church, His children. He is present as we eat the bread that is His body and drink the wine that is His blood. Through this we remember the greatest act of salvation for us that is Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. Through this meal we are strengthened in our faith unto life everlasting.

By the blood of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world applied to your life in Baptism, and strengthened in your life of faith through the Lord's Supper, we continue to live out our life on this earth as His precious children who can look forward with joy to the Last Day, Judgment Day. On that day our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who will sit in Judgment, will pass over all of our sins we committed and pass over the sentence of eternal damnation we deserve. Instead, He will open the door and welcome us into eternal life.

Conclusion

That's what the blood of the Passover Lamb of God, who is Jesus Christ, does for you and for me. Because it has been applied to your life through baptism, and your faith is being renewed and strengthened in His Supper, you will pass over eternal death to eternal life to come. Through this blood our Lord rescues you from slavery to sin, death, and the devil. May you continue to make use of these ways the Father applies His Son's blood to your heart and your life. May the Holy Spirit continue His work to strengthen you in this faith unto life everlasting. Amen