

# Written Copy: The Good News of the God Who Makes a Way for Us

## Midweek Lent #4

Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### Text: Exodus 14:13-14

<sup>13</sup> And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. <sup>14</sup> The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

### Exegetical Statement

The account of the LORD creating a way of escape for the Children of Israel from certain destruction at the hands of Egypt, while ensuring the destruction of the Egyptian pursuers. Israel was boldly marching out from Egypt when their worst fears are realized as they look up and see Pharaoh, all his chariots, horsemen, and army pursuing them. They find themselves boxed in with the Egyptian army on one side and the Red Sea on the other. They cry out and accuse Moses of bringing them out there to die. But the LORD has allowed this to happen to demonstrate His mighty hand of salvation for them and the destruction of their enemies. The Angel of God in the pillar of smoke and fire comes in between the two camps. When Moses stretches out his hand the LORD divides the waters for Israel by a strong east wind. Israel walks through the midst of the sea on dry ground with the water forming a wall on their left and right. When the Egyptians, emboldened to pursue, go after them, the LORD makes their wheels useless, they are thrown into a confused panic, and try to retreat. But then, at the LORD's command, Moses stretches out his staff over the sea, and the waters return to their normal flow, covering over Pharaoh's chariots, horsemen, and army. The Israelites see their dead bodies washed up on the opposite shore. They are delivered from the hand of the Egyptians by the mighty hand of the LORD working through Moses, moving Israel to put their trust in the LORD and His servant Moses.

### Focus Statement:

As hopeless as Israel saw their situation at the Red Sea, even more so is the threat of eternal condemnation over our sin. But we have a God who makes a way for us in the most dire of circumstances through His absolute control over all things. He made the way for Israel to be saved through water while destroying their enemies by the same water. In an even greater act of salvation Jesus Christ made the way for us to avoid eternal death and damnation through His death and resurrection, opening the way for us to have life now and eternal life to come. And He delivers that as His gift of grace through the waters of baptism.

### Function Statement:

#### Why it's important to know:

Do we ever look at a situation in our life and see it as being hopeless, beyond God's power to fix? Do we ever see our sinfulness the same way? Should we?

#### What the hearer should do as a result:

Trust in the empty cross and tomb, and the God who made a way for us and gave it to us in baptism. He may not always remove our troubles in this life, but He will walk with us through them all the way to the safety of eternal life to come.

### Subject Sentence: Through Baptism God Makes a Way to Life for You

## Introduction

When is the last time you heard yourself say something along these lines: “I just don’t know how I’m going to get through this!” “I don’t know what to do!” “I don’t know which way to go!” “Where is God?” “How can He be letting this happen to me?” This would be a time when, whether you openly admitted to yourself or not, you saw your current situation as being beyond God’s ability, or His desire to help you.

It’s even worse when this kind of thing happens right after some blessing has come your way, or right after a spiritual mountain-top experience. Or maybe it just seems like an unbroken line of one problem after another. You are not alone in this. We have all been there one time or another, including myself, and including the Children of Israel.

### When Israel Doubted God’s Saving Power

Imagine what it was like for them. There was that final plague we talked about last week where the Destroyer sent by God killed all the first-born males of Egypt, while sparing the Children of Israel because of the blood of the sacrificial lamb applied to their doorposts. The result of this plague was that Pharaoh finally said the Children of Israel can go. The people of Egypt even sent them on their way with gifts of silver, gold, and clothing. Talk about a mountain top experience! The Children of Israel are now headed out in high spirits, thinking that their troubles are now over.

That mountain top feeling lasted until they got to the Red Sea where they set up camp. They look up to see their worst fears coming true! Here come the Egyptians that they thought they were done dealing with forever. They see Pharaoh, along with all his chariots, his calvary, and army bearing down on them. Israel is trapped! They can’t go forward because the Red Sea is blocking them. They can’t turn around and go back because the Egyptians are blocking the way, and they most certainly are not going to welcome them back on friendly terms.

**Exodus 14:11-12** <sup>11</sup> They said to Moses, “**Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?**” <sup>12</sup> **Isn’t this what we told you in Egypt: Leave us alone so that we may serve the Egyptians? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”**

You can hear the fear and hopelessness in their voices. They don't see any way out of this other than their deaths. What a slap in the face to the LORD, saying that they would rather have remained slaves. They think that all these plagues have done is to increase the bitterness and anger of Pharaoh and his army. They see this situation as being beyond what the LORD either can or will help them with. There is no way out! They are thinking, "***Why did the LORD allow this to happen? Why didn't He stop them from following us?***"

## **The Good News Thru Moses: LORD will provide a Way**

But the LORD through Moses has some great news, Gospel News for His people.

**Exodus 14:13-14** <sup>13</sup> But Moses said to the people, "**Don't be afraid. Stand firm and see the LORD's salvation that he will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians you see today, you will never see again.** <sup>14</sup> **The LORD will fight for you, and you must be quiet.**"

That is certainly Gospel News. Israel: you do absolutely nothing. You stand firm in faith and watch the LORD fight for you. This is not just a sneaky escape in the middle of the night. This is the LORD saving them from their enemies forever. He will accomplish salvation for you.

And the LORD does this in a mighty way, in a way that no one would've ever expected or thought possible. Whoever heard of people walking straight through the sea with the water piled up on either side of them? But that is what the Angel of God does through Moses. He first comes in between the army of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Then, working through Moses outstretched staff, the waters are divided so completely that Israel walks through on dry ground! Can you imagine seeing the waters like a wall on either side of you, as you pass through them safely to the other side.

But then what happens? Here come the Egyptians! They are entering into the sea following Israel. Can you imagine what Israel is now thinking as this happens? "***LORD, why are you letting them follow us? Why couldn't you have just kept them on the other side of the sea and let us get away? What kind of escape is this?***"

What kind of escape is this? What kind of salvation is this? This is how the LORD makes a way of salvation that is not just for now, but for the days to come. This is the LORD luring the entire Egyptian army to follow Israel into the sea. You would think there should be natural fear and trepidation with that water being a wall on either side. But this is all designed and worked out by the LORD God who controls all things, including the water and the seas, and even Pharaoh and his army of unbelievers. This is the LORD putting an end to Israel's enemy forever.

At just the right time, the LORD acts to clog the wheels of the chariots, and to throw this trained army into confusion. And then, at the command of the LORD, Moses stretches out his hand, and that wall of water comes crashing down and the water returns to its normal place. The LORD, as only He could, has made a way, not just for Israel to escape, but has made the way to save them from their enemies. And the proof of that is the dead bodies washed up on the opposite shore. That certainly is great news for Israel.

## **The Good News of the Way of Salvation Jesus Opened**

But there is even greater news for us today! The LORD has opened a way of salvation for all humankind through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Without Jesus we would all face a horrible enemy far worse than the Egyptians. We would face life apart from our Lord's guiding and protecting hand now, and an eternity of suffering and dying in eternal damnation.

**John 14:6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

But out of the greatest love there is Jesus came to open the way for us doubting sinners to be welcomed into His presence. Salvation can only be found in God the Father's presence. In Him there is salvation from all that would desire to do to harm and separate us from Him. And the way into His mighty presence is through the faith Jesus Christ and all He has done to save us from condemnation now and for eternity. He opened the way by allowing the enemy to have its way with Him. He took upon Himself all the sins that condemn us to eternal separation from God. And in His suffering and death in your place, He removed them from you forever. That is the truth from the mouth of God Himself.

Because of all Jesus has done for all mankind, the way to life has been opened up. He is the way to a life lived under God's mighty protective hand now, and life eternal lived with Him forever where no enemy, no evil, no sin can ever touch you.

## **The Good News of How You Receive That Salvation**

How do you receive that wonderful salvation? That also is great news! You don't do anything for it, you do not earn it, you do not deserve it. It comes to you as the free gift from your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Just as Israel was saved through water, salvation came to you in your baptism. In your baptism the way that Jesus made for all men was given to you, it is yours personally. In baptism you received Jesus' victory over all the enemies that would condemn you eternally: sin, death, and the devil. Jesus won that victory and gave it to you in your baptism. And He is at work to keep you steadfast in that faith now through the Word and Sacrament.

## **How Is God Making a Way in Your Life?**

Since you have received this Good News by faith, take a look at your life through the lens of that good news. How has the Lord made a way for you in your life? How might He be doing so today?

What are those situations in your life right now that you are stressing over? What are those things that keep you up at night? What are those things that you don't see any way out of? What are those things that you either secretly or openly doubt that God can help you with, or that make you wonder if He even wants to?

Are any of them really too difficult for the God who made a way of escape for His Children Israel? Are any of them beyond the power of God the Son who supernaturally became a man so He could save you from sin, death, and hell? Are any of them beyond your Savior who worked supernaturally in water to give you all that He earned through His death and resurrection?

### **Conclusion**

Remember how God works in ways that are beyond our understanding and expectation. He did so at the Red Sea. He did so at the cross. He doesn't always remove the difficult things from our life. But He does promise to walk with us through those problems, just as He walked through the Red Sea with the Children of Israel. By faith He will lead you and guide you through the problems of this world, all the way to the world to come where you will never have to face the enemies, the struggles, and the temptations ever again. That is because you have the God Who Makes a Way for You. His name is Jesus Christ. Amen.