



## Lectionary Bible Study Our Savior Lutheran, Vero Beach

Lent 3B – March 7, 2021

Live Bible Studies Hosted on Zoom  
Wednesdays @ 10:00 AM

More Info & Link at

[www.OurSaviorELCA.com/BibleStudy](http://www.OurSaviorELCA.com/BibleStudy)

During the season of Lent we will be invited to look at both the appointed Sunday Old Testament readings (always about a covenant relationship between God and God's chosen people) and the appointed Gospel (where Jesus is establishing a new covenant between God and all God's beloved people).

### Exodus 20:1-17

*20 Then God spoke all these words:<sup>2</sup> I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;<sup>3</sup> you shall have no other gods before me.<sup>4</sup> You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.<sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me,<sup>6</sup> but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.<sup>7</sup> You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.<sup>8</sup> Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.<sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work.<sup>10</sup> But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.<sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.<sup>12</sup> Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.<sup>13</sup> You shall not murder.<sup>14</sup> You shall not commit adultery.<sup>15</sup> You shall not steal.<sup>16</sup> You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.<sup>17</sup> You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.*

These verses are the heart of the covenant God established with people of Israel at Mt. Sinai after Moses led them out of Egyptian slavery. With it, God supplies the Law that is meant to govern and shape the people of Israel in the Promised Land.

1. What do you know about the book of Exodus?
2. We often use the phrase “lay down the law.” Does that phrase describe what is happening here? What is the purpose of the law?
3. The first words that God speaks in the passage are words of identification and relationship. I am the Lord **your** God (verse 2; see also verse 5), and they come with the reminder of God’s saving work of freeing them from Egyptian captivity. Does it make a difference that God’s law comes not as a prerequisite for relationship, but rather flows from being in a saving relationship?

### **John 2:13-22**

<sup>13</sup> *The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup> Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup> He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” <sup>18</sup> The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” <sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” <sup>20</sup> The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” <sup>21</sup> But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup> After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.*

1. Jesus calls the Temple a “marketplace.” Why is he so angry? What can we learn from his anger?
2. To prepare for the Passover, people went to the Temple to pray, participate in ritual sacrifices, and to ready themselves to remember God’s saving act of deliverance. To prepare for Easter, the season of Lent invites people into deeper ritual action of prayer, fasting, and giving/serving. When are the disciplines of Lent helpful? When can they become distracting?
3. What can help guide us when tradition, ritual, and piety become more important than what they point towards?