

Christ Lutheran Church

127 N. Spring St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601
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June 2021

“HEAR my cry, O God; attend to my prayer. From the end of the earth I will cry to You, when my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For You have been a shelter for me, a strong tower from the enemy. I will abide in Your tabernacle forever; I will trust in the shelter of Your wings. (Psalm 61:1-4)

These are the words of David in a time when he was being pursued by an enemy. We remember the times when King Saul relentlessly pursued him through the wilderness, trying to kill David despite his innocence; or the time after David was on the throne, when his own son Absalom was trying to kill him and take over his throne. As David flees into the wilderness, he feels pushed to the end of the earth. As His heart is overwhelmed with trouble and sorrow, He calls out to God: *"Lead me to the rock that is higher than I."*

There are times when we may feel pushed to the ends of the earth, pursued by an enemy we cannot seem to escape. Maybe it is the stress of work, financial pressures, illness that plagues us, thoughts that hound us through the dark hours of the night, people that seem to have it in for us... Our enemy Satan loves to pursue us, pointing to our sins, shooting flaming arrows of accusation to bring us down in despair, telling us: "God can't love you or forgive you after all you've done. Surely He is punishing you through your troubles." Sometimes it seems that everything is working against us.

But when our heart grows overwhelmed with trouble and sorrow, we can call out to Him who is our strength and salvation and pray: *"Lead me to the rock that is higher than I."* Concerning *"the rock,"* Jesus says: *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock"* (Matthew 7:24-25).

Jesus is our rock-solid foundation. Nothing can shake Him. As we hear His words and put them into practice by believing what He says, we build our house, our entire life, on this Rock. And what has He told us in His words? He has saved us from our worst enemies. He has defeated our enemy Sin – removing all our guilt from us on the cross to give us God's full forgiveness. He has defeated our enemy Death – dying on the cross in our place to win our eternal life. He has defeated our enemy Satan – crushing his head to free us from slavery to him and give us the freedom of God's children.

Therefore, though the trials we face may feel like torrential rains coming down, hurricane-force winds beating against our house, and swirling floods rising up to wash away our footing – yet, Jesus remains our rock-solid foundation. He makes us stand firm on His unchanging promise of eternal life. He enables us to pray: *"You have been a shelter for me, a strong tower from the enemy."*

With David we also pray with confidence: *"I will abide in Your tabernacle forever; I will trust in the shelter of Your wings."* Surely we will abide with the Lord in perfect safety and peace forever in heaven. Yet even now, we take refuge in the shelter of His wings. As a hen gathers her chicks under her wings so nothing can come between her and her little ones, so in His infinite love and compassion God has taken us under His wing, protecting us so nothing can come between us and Him.

Renewed by God's promise of salvation in Christ, we can pray confidently with David: *"Truly my soul silently waits for God; from Him comes my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation"* (Psalm 62:1-2).

The Lord strengthen you by His promise and give you peace and joy in His care,
Pastor Smith

Does Moses Matter?

June 2021

“No smoke of incense or other savor will be so offensive to Satan as your occupying yourself with God’s commandments and words, speaking, singing and thinking concerning them. This is truly the consecrated water, the sign which Satan avoids and which puts him to flight.”
(Dr. Martin Luther, *Large Catechism*)

It is no surprise that the devil hates the Word of God intensely. He has waged war on that sacred Word since the conversation with our first parents in Eden. He is well-aware of its importance in the relationship of Man to God.

Likewise, the unbelieving world loves to despise this Word, because it sanctifies us before God through faith in Christ. These enemies of the Gospel will find any way possible to undermine the authority of Scripture, even from inside the visible Church. They know that any attack on the Word is an attack on Christ, who is the Word made flesh.

One place where such assaults have become routine is in questioning the long-standing historical consensus that Moses authored the first five books of the Bible. To undermine him as author damages the credibility of the Old Testament, along with the New Testament writers, and ultimately Jesus Christ Himself.

Among professors in many universities and seminaries today, it has become commonplace to deny that Moses wrote Genesis through Deuteronomy (the Pentateuch). Claims are made that all of the Old Testament was written at a time much closer to the first century, cobbled together by editors who were crafting a legendary past. By these skeptical accounts, the Jewish people were not God’s chosen nation, but a nation that invented itself around a made-up god.

These so-called scholarly denials downplay the miraculous events recorded for us in the Great Exodus from Egypt, such as the crossing of the Red Sea or the night of the Passover. At the feet of such scholars many Christians have either lost their faith or had it deeply shaken. As Christ Himself warns, false teaching that undermines the Scriptures will never do anything but cause harm to His faithful.

What a wonderful survey of the Old Testament our Lord Himself must have provided to the two travelers on the road to Emmaus when we are told,

“Beginning with Moses and all the prophets He explained to them what was said in all of Scripture concerning Himself.” (Luke 24:27) As St. John writes, “The Law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” (John 1:17)

This is why we continue to “search the Scriptures” (John 5:39) that testify about Christ our Savior, so that we may possess the eternal life that He graciously gives us in these sacred pages. “Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” (Romans 15:4)

No Old Testament person is mentioned in the New Testament more than Moses. Jesus and His apostles present Moses as a man of history, a prophet of God, and a forerunner of the Messiah. Jesus is that Messiah, or Savior, who came to fulfill what Moses wrote. As Jesus told His disciples after rising from the dead, “all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” (Luke 24:44) The Letter to the Hebrews demonstrates in detail how Moses’ writings align with the life and work of Jesus Christ, who gave Himself as the atoning sacrifice for all our sins.

How blessed are we in that hope!

Rev. Don Moldstad is the chaplain and a professor of Religious Studies at Bethany Lutheran College.

Learn More:

www.els.org/apologetics

To discover the connections between archaeological research and the books of Exodus and Joshua, watch “**Why Does Moses Matter to Christians?**” live on June 23–24 or later via free online archives: www.blc.edu/2021-moses.

June 2021 Christ Lutheran Church						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>June</i>		1	2	3	4	5 Rummage Sale (9:00 am – 2:00 pm)
		6 <i>Pentecost 2</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM Happy Birthday Ashlyn Smith	7	8	9 Happy Birthday Kelly Ruiz	10
13 <i>Pentecost 3</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM	14	15	16	17 Happy Anniversary Pastor & Maria Smith	18 Happy Birthday Margaret Howard	19
20 <i>Pentecost 4</i> <i>Father's Day</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship 9:30 AM Synod Sunday	21 Happy Birthday Barbara Walker	22 Happy Anniversary Randy & Jackie Bednar	23	24	25	26
		Evangelical Lutheran Synod Convention – Mankato, MN				
27 <i>Pentecost 5</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship 9:30 AM	28	29	30 Happy Birthday Dale Hauck	<i>“Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For You have been a shelter for me, a strong tower from the enemy.” Psalm 61:2-3</i>		

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127 North Spring Street
Klamath Falls, OR 97601**

June 2021 Newsletter

Upcoming Dates:

Saturday, June 5 (9:00 am to 2:00 pm)

Rummage Sale

at Christ Lutheran Church in Klamath Falls, OR

Saturday, June 12 (3:00 pm)

Ordination and Installation of Rev. Roger Emmons
at Grace Lutheran Church in Redmond, OR

Monday-Thursday, June 21-24

Evangelical Lutheran Synod Convention
at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, MN

Friday-Saturday, September 24-25

Circuit 12 Women's Missionary Rally
at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Grants Pass, OR