

CHRIST PACIFIC

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GETTING OUT OF TOWN

In this week's passage, the focus will be on God as our Rescuer. The Lord is our Rescuer who delivers us *from* slavery to sin, death and the devil. He rescues us from slavery, but perhaps more importantly, he rescues us *for* freedom to worship/serve him (Ps 23:3, "He leads us in paths of righteousness for his name's sake").

GOSPEL—WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS HERE?

In Exodus 12, God gave Israel instructions about to commemorate and celebrate God's act of rescue from Egyptian slavery. This ritual is known as the Passover (see 12:12-13, 26-27). What instructions did God give to each Israelite "household" concerning "the lamb" and its "blood" (12:1-13, 21-23)? Why did God require that these instructions be observed as "a perpetual ordinance" (12:24-27)? What is the meaning of the "observance" of this ritual (cf. Ex. 12 with Ps. 80)?

In the Old Testament, the Exodus became the model for understanding who God was and is as the Rescuer of God's people. In the New Testament, God's act of rescue through Jesus' death and resurrection is often referred to as a *new* Exodus. Read 1 Peter 1:13-19. What parallels do you see between this passage and Exodus 12:1-13, 21-27? What role does the "blood of Christ" have in the new Exodus (compare 1 Pet. 1:17-19 with Ex. 12:1-6, 21-23)?

RESPONSE—WHAT CAN I DO FOR OTHERS?

In both the Old and New Testaments, God rescues his people, so that we might worship him and serve others. According to 1 Peter 1:13-16, why does God call us to be "holy in all" our "conduct" (to be "holy" is to be "set apart" by and for God)? How has God set you apart for the sake of serving your friends, family members, neighbors, and co-workers? What specific acts of service are challenging for you to pursue? How do you need encouragement to serve others?

RESPONSE—HOW CAN I WORSHIP GOD?

Like Israel in the Old Testament, we, too, are called by God to praise him for his merciful act of salvation in Christ. Read 1 Peter 2:9-10. What is our identity as "God's people"? What are the reasons and purpose for receiving God's "mercy" in Christ? Consider "the excellencies" of God's character and power as our Rescuer. What moves you to worship about God as your Rescuer?

"The Passover"

For the Israelites, the Passover was part of "the Feast of Unleavened Bread," which is one of three annual festivals (see Ex. 23:14-19) they were commanded to observe. The reason these and other rituals were observed is to teach and to remind God's people of God's deliverance, provision, and blessing. Jesus transformed Passover to be about him (see 1 Cor. 11:23-26). The Church's celebration of communion looks back to God's *new* Exodus through Jesus.