

Preview for Service of Word and Sacrament, March 1, 2026
The Second Sunday in Lent
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Celebrated
Liturgical Color: Purple
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Tiburon, California

Visit the church website: www.wpctiburon.org, 415-383-5272
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This weekly study guide seeks to help members, friends, and visitors prepare for the upcoming Sunday service and teaching.



Call to Worship (8:30)

One: God of our ancestors,

Many: You set your people free.

One: We join in your liberating work.

Many: We taste your coming way at the communion table.

Opening Blessing (10:00)

God of our ancestors, you set your people free from bondage. We join in your liberating work and meet in love at the communion table where we experience a foretaste of your way to come.

Community Prayer

We remember the stories of our ancestors held in slavery. We celebrate our release and our journey into freedom and your faithfulness along the way, O God. Let us be instruments of your liberating power in our times, shining a light where people are kept down. We pray that you rid us of temptation to return violence for violence, trusting in fierce love. Amen.

Sermon Focus & Title

Spared: Miracles 2

Robert McClellan

We take on an incredibly challenging theme of scripture and faith: violence. Could committing violence be part of what's considered miraculous? Is that faithful? The miracle of the Passover is when God spared the captive Hebrew children from death that was enacted upon their Egyptian captors. The thrust of the story is not that God inflicts violence upon

people or peoples but rather that God is on the side of liberation. Remembering that these stories are written and dreamed up by people to explain their place in history, we see how our ancestors saw God's hand in their origin story. Remembering this story affirms for us what God cares about (freeing people) and what work is ours to do (be faithful, not be vengeful).

Scripture(s)

Exodus 12:21-32

21 Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go, select lambs for your families, and slaughter the Passover lamb. 22 Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood in the basin. None of you shall go outside the door of your house until morning. 23 For the LORD will pass through to strike down the Egyptians; when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over that door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you down. 24 You shall observe this as a perpetual ordinance for you and your children. 25 When you come to the land that the LORD will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this observance. 26 And when your children ask you, 'What does this observance mean to you?' 27 you shall say, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, for he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when he struck down the Egyptians but spared our houses.' " And the people bowed down and worshiped.

28 The Israelites went and did just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron; so they did. 29 At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the prisoner who was in the dungeon and all the firstborn of the livestock. 30 Pharaoh arose in the night, he and all his officials and all the Egyptians, and there was a loud cry in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead. 31 Then he summoned Moses and Aaron in the night and said, "Rise up, go away from my people, both you and the Israelites! Go, serve the LORD, as you said. 32 Take your flocks and your herds, as you said, and be gone. And ask a blessing for me, too!"

Hymns

Your Faithfulness, O Lord, is Sure 42

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land 52

Quotes, Questions & Prompts for Reflection, Discussion, and Prayer

"Any theology that is indifferent to the theme of liberation is not Christian theology."

-James Cone

1. What do you do with the violence of the Bible?
2. Is God neutral?
3. What do you make of the Passover story?
4. What is the invitation of the Passover story for our lives today?
5. How is God active in the world?