

A worship service on walls

Compiled by Tammy Alexander

Gathering and praising

- STS 53 Here to the house of God
we come
STS 52 Whatsoever you do
HWB 176 Comfort, comfort
O my people

Scripture readings

Luke 10:25–37, Psalm 31

Sermon ideas

The origins of the “Hebrew” people were not primarily racial or ethnic. Biblical scholars believe the biblical term “Hebrew” was a designation for outsiders—vagrants and vagabonds—people who were an inconvenience and, occasionally, an overt threat to ruling authorities. Thus, the Hebrew is one who crosses borders, who has no social power and no legal claim on resources or status, whose desperate efforts of sheer survival push them to ignore the boundaries of assigned bounty.

In 2007, Manuel Jesus Cordova had snuck across the border from Mexico, and came upon a 9-year-old boy alone and injured in the desert. The boy and his mother had been in a single-car accident on a remote road and his mother had been killed. Cordova gave the boy his sweater and some chocolate and built a fire, which drew the attention of the border patrol. Cordova was initially honored for the rescue but later arrested and deported back to Mexico.

This story is not meant to romanticize those who enter the U.S. without documentation. No doubt that within the ranks of immigrants—documented or undocumented—there are the same proportion of saints and scoundrels as are already here. But his story serves as a reminder that each immigrant has a name and a history. They are not simply statistics.

—Excerpted from “Out of the House of Slavery” Bible study by Ken Sehested at Prayer & Politik, prayerandpolitik.org

Responding

- STJ 69 *Cuando el pobre*
STS 115 Beauty for brokenness

Praying

Jesus, you also were a migrant walking from town to town speaking of and making manifest the kingdom of God. Forgive us for the moments when we have not offered proper hospitality, like Joseph offered you, to the migrants in our local and global communities. Forgive us for the moments we have pushed their presence to a tomb of despair. May we become awakened to the depths of the human experience, family loyalty, and courage of the migrant’s journey embracing their hopes and gifts and the joy of your resurrection together! Amen.

—“The Migrant’s Way of the Cross”
by Father Simon C. Kim

Sending

HWB 419 Lead on, O cloud
of Presence