

Narrative Lectionary - Year 2 - Week 23 JESUS AND THE GERASENE DEMONIC

4th Sunday After Epiphany January 28, 2024

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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ALTAR FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:



CHRIS MASON AND SUE WALKER IN MEMORY OF THEIR FATHER ROY ROBERTS

THE GOSPEL OF ST. MARK SERVICE

Worship in a traditional order drawing words from Mark's Gospel. Mark is the focus of Year 2 in the Narrative Lectionary.



Baptism of Jane Josephine Bolger

Daughter of Ron & Olivia Bolger (see insert)



Invocation (Based on Mark 1:1-8)

- P: John the Baptist appeared, baptizing people in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- C: God had announced this through the prophet Isaiah:
- P: "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,"
- C: And all the people were going out to be baptized by John in the Jordan River. They were confessing their sins.
- P: And John said, "I have baptized you with water, but the One who comes after me will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."
- C: This is Jesus, the Son of God, our Lord, the Christ, the Messiah.
- P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.

Confession (Mark 1:15,2:17,7:14-23)

- P: Jesus began His ministry, preaching and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand;
- C: repent and believe in the gospel."
- P: When Jesus knew that some thought they were already righteous, without sin, He said to them "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.
- C: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."
- P: [Jesus] called the people to Him and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand."

 And He calls us now, "Hear me, all of you, and understand."
- C: We have come to hear and repent.
- P: Jesus says, "There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."
- C: We repent and believe in the Gospel of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins.



Absolution (Forgiveness) (Mark 2:5,10, 5:34; 10:52)

P: And when Jesus saw the faith of the paralytic brought for healing by his friends, He said, "My son, your sins are forgiven."

C: Because Jesus has authority on earth to forgive sins!

P: And Jesus said to the woman who reached out to touch Him for healing,

"Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

And Jesus said to the man born blind but had now received sight,

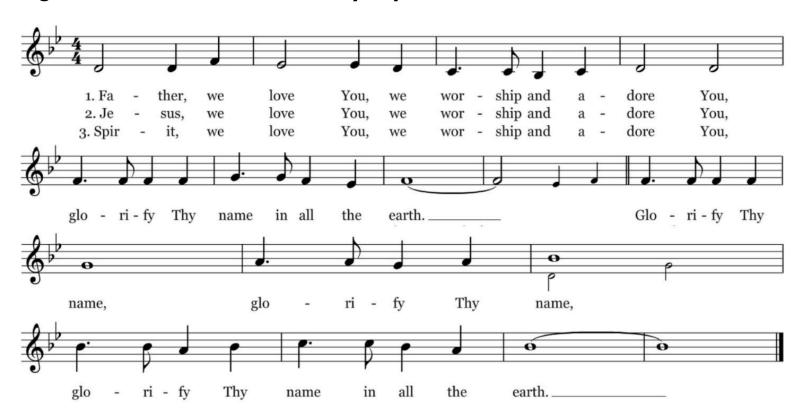
"Go your way; your faith has made you well."

Therefore, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I say to you: "Your sins are forgiven, your faith has made you well." I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Song of Praise

Glorify Thy Name



Collect (Prayer of the Day)

God of healing, when someone in your world suffers, you suffer as well. Restore your world and heal your children so that no one needs to suffer any longer. Amen.

P: Let us pray.

C: Amen.

Anthem

Alleluia, Praise the Lord

Adult Choir

• Use the anthem's music and words to help you to meditate on God's Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

Alleluia, Praise the Lord

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord.

We come to His house with hearts full of love to honor His Holy name.

We enter His presence with joy and thanksgiving to praise the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord.

Todays Narrative Lectionary Reading

Mark 5:1-20 (ESV)

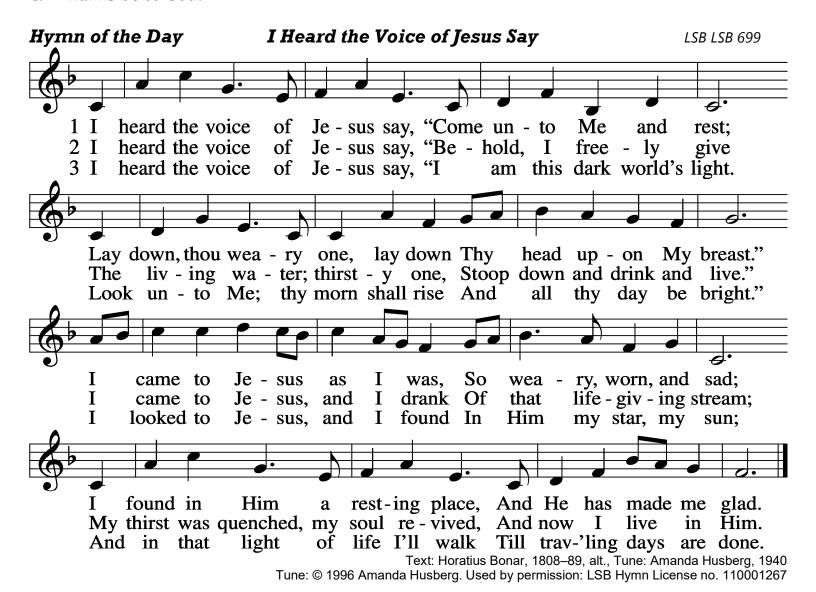
¹They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. ²And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. ³He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, 4 for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. 5Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and bruising himself with stones. ⁶And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. ⁷And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." 8For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" 9And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." 10 And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. 11 Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, ¹² and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." ¹³So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out, and entered the pigs, and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and were drowned in the sea.

¹⁴The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. ¹⁶And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the

demon-possessed man and to the pigs. ¹⁷And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region. ¹⁸As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. ¹⁹And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." ²⁰And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



Sermon

Lost Anything Lately?

Confession of Faith from Mark 8:27-30, 9:31,10:33-34,12:10-11,16:6-7

- P: When Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" Peter answered:
- C: "You are the Christ."
- P: meaning the Messiah, the Anointed One, coming to save God's people.
- C: Did Jesus come with His glory and power?
- P: No, not during His first coming. He told the disciples many times how the Lord's salvation would be accomplished: "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise."
 - And again: "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. ³⁴And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise."

This fulfills Psalm 118 which says:

- C: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes."
- P: So we believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus just as He told us and as the angel declared to the women when they went early to the tomb on Easter: "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."
- C: This is our Resurrection hope.

Jesus has told us that He will return again to take us to be with Him forever. We will see Him, just as He told us. Amen.

Offering Preface (based on Mark 10:42-45,12:41-44)

- P: Come, now, and offer your lives in service to the Lord. Jesus said, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them."
- C: But it shall not be this way among us!

Whoever would be great among us must be a servant to others, and whoever would be first among us must be servant of all. For even Jesus did not come to be served but to serve,

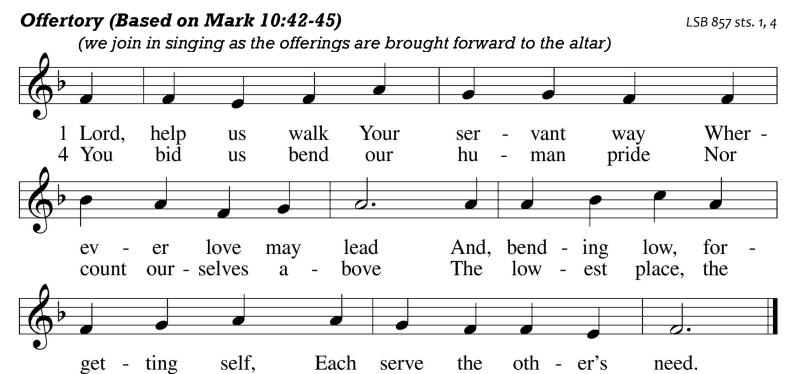
P: and to give his life as a ransom for many.

When you come to bring financial offerings to the ministry of the Lord, remember what the Lord Jesus taught while watching the poor widow come to the Temple with her offering. She came and put in two small copper coins, which adds up to a penny.

- C: Jesus said this widow put in more offering than all the others.
- P: The others gave out of their abundance, their extra wealth,
- C: But out of her poverty, the widow put in everything she had, all she had to live on.
- P: Come, give to the Lord from your heart and as a servant. Amen.

Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.



Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

mean - est

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

That

task

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

waits

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Benediction (Blessing) (Based on Mark 5:34; 10:52)

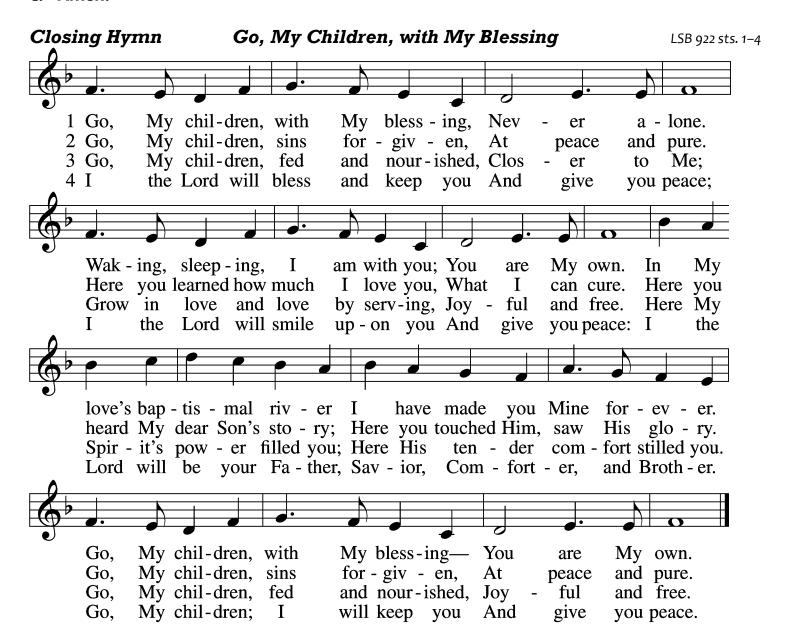
P: As you have already heard this day, the words of Jesus which He spoke to others while here on Earth, these are words which He speaks to you as well today:

"My children, your sins are forgiven."

"Go your way; your faith has made you well."

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



Announcements

Today's Guest Pastor Pastor Stewart Schulz

Pastor Stewart Schulz is retired and lives in Lake in the Hills, IL. He is a graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and has graduate degrees from Princeton Seminary and the University of Colorado at Boulder. He has served congregations in New Jersey, Colorado, and Illinois. In his ministry he has served as circuit visitor, guest professor at Concordia seminary, and intentional interim and vacancy pastor (since 2015). He and his wife are the parents of three children and the grandparents of six.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28
IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM) — 9AM
FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM
EDUCATION HOUR 10:30-11:30AM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

In-Person Worship (In Gym w/Communion) – 9AM Fellowship 10-10:30AM Education Hour 10:30-11:30AM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11
IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM) — 9AM
FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM
EDUCATION HOUR 10:30-11:30AM

CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SCHEDULE. USHERS, READERS, AND VARIOUS OTHER VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP AND COMMUNION. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR ONE OF THOSE ROLES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE AT OFFICE@BETHELGURNEE.ORG.

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