



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Galilee Ministry Part 2—Mark 6-8

February 7, 2021

10:30 Service of the Word

Today we're going to experience the better part of three chapters from Mark's gospel. They cover Jesus' second tour through villages in Galilee and surroundings. There are two great feeding miracles and many people cured and healed. Ironically the Pharisees come to him and ask him for a sign from heaven to test him! They aren't satisfied with his response and by the end of the reading we see the clouds of the crucifixion beginning to loom.

Welcome to worship today!

This order of worship is designed to accompany what is happening live on Zoom. In order to make things work smoothly please keep your computer's microphone off unless you have a speaking part. It may be helpful to use a headset or earbuds to minimize feedback. You are welcome to use the chat feature to ask questions or provide feedback. Following worship we will have a time for those who would like to chat.

† GATHERING †

Announcements

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray...

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

† WORD †

Introduction to the Reading

First Reading: Mark 6:30-44

A: ³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. ³⁵When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; ³⁶send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.” ³⁷But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?” ³⁸And he said to them, “How many loaves have you? Go and see.” When they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” ³⁹Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. ⁴¹Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴²And all ate and were filled; ⁴³and they took

up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn Now Thank We All Our God
(For music see Hymn 840 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.**

2. **Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.**

3. **All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.**

Text: Mertin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878. Music: Johann Cruger, 1598-1662

Second Reading Mark 6:45-56

B: ⁴⁵Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray.

⁴⁷When evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. ⁴⁸When he saw that they were straining at the oars against an adverse wind, he came towards them early in the morning, walking on

the sea. He intended to pass them by. ⁴⁹But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out; ⁵⁰for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” ⁵¹Then he got into the boat with them and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, ⁵²for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened. ⁵³When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Prayer

P: Let us pray.

C: Lord, you bring comfort, safety, and healing to all who call on you. Bless our lives with the same goodness so that we can rejoice and be glad in who you made us. Amen.

Third Reading Mark 7:1-23

D: Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them.³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,
‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’
⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”
⁹Then he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition! ¹⁰For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever speaks evil of

father or mother must surely die.’ ¹¹But you say that if anyone tells father or mother, ‘Whatever support you might have had from me is Corban’ (that is, an offering to God)— ¹²then you no longer permit doing anything for a father or mother, ¹³thus making void the word of God through your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many things like this.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

¹⁷When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸He said to them, “Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, ¹⁹since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) ²⁰And he said, “It is what comes out of a person that defiles. ²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Dialog

P: Lord, we are your people and we search for meaning in our lives.

C: We find meaning in faith and traditions and rituals.

P: Many of these things serve us well.

C: But some of them do not.

P: Like the Pharisees before us, sometimes we make the ritual more important than its purpose.

C: Without knowing it, we start to seek meaning in the wrong places.

P: Speak to us so that we may hear.

C: And open our ears so that we may listen.

P: Teach us again how you would have us live.

C: Fill our lives in the way only you can fill.

P: Give us meaning that builds our confidence.

C: Let us know that our worth dwells securely in you.

Fourth Reading Mark 7:24-37

E: ²⁴From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed

down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. ³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 39

F: I said I will not sin!

**I will curb my tongue
and muzzle my mouth
when the wicked confront me.**

**I kept silent, would not say a word,
yet my anguish grew.**

**It scorched my heart
and seared my thoughts
until I had to speak.**

Lord, what will become of me?

How long will I live?

Let me see how short life is!

**You give me a brief span of time;
before you, my days are nothing.**

**People are but a breath: they walk like shadows;
their efforts amount to nothing; they hoard, but others gain.**

Why do I wait for you, Lord?

**You are my hope
to save me from my sins;
do not make a fool of me.
I will keep quiet.
I have said enough,
since all this is your doing.
Stop tormenting me;
you strike and I grow weak.
You rebuke us for our sin,
eat up our riches like a moth;
we are but a breath.
Lord, hear my prayer,
my cry for help.
Do not ignore my tears,
as if I were alien to you, a stranger like my ancestors.
Stop looking so hard at me,
allow me a little joy
before I am no more.**

***Fifth Reading* Mark 8:1-10**

G: In those days when there was again a great crowd without anything to eat, he called his disciples and said to them, ²“I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. ³If I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way—and some of them have come from a great distance.”⁴His disciples replied, “How can one feed these people with bread here in the desert?”⁵He asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven.”⁶Then he ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground; and he took the seven loaves, and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute; and they distributed them to the crowd. ⁷They had also a few small fish; and after blessing them, he ordered that these too should be distributed. ⁸They ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. ⁹Now there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. ¹⁰And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring
(For music see Hymn 691 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring
to place upon your table.
We do not worship as we ought
but only as we're able.**
- 2. The vines were planted, seeds were sown.
They grew in your good pleasure.
What once was common, daily food
becomes a holy treasure.**
- 3. Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares
we lift in prayer before you.
Lord, by your grace now come to us,
as humbly we adore you.**

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957, copyright 1990 Augsburg Fortress. Music: English fold tune, arr. Alice Parker, b. 1925, copyright 1995 Augsburg Fortress

Sixth Reading Mark 8:11-21

H: ¹¹The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, asking him for a sign from heaven, to test him. ¹²And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, “Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation.” ¹³And he left them, and getting into the boat again, he went across to the other side.

¹⁴Now the disciples had forgotten to bring any bread; and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. ¹⁵And he cautioned them, saying, “Watch out—beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod.” ¹⁶They said to one another, “It is because we have no bread.” ¹⁷And becoming aware of it, Jesus said to them, “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? ¹⁸Do you have eyes, and fail to see? Do you have ears, and fail to hear? And do you not remember? ¹⁹When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?” They said to him, “Twelve.” ²⁰“And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?” And they said to him, “Seven.” ²¹Then he said to them, “Do you not yet understand?”

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Video *A Cosmic Adventure Through Science & Faith* Episode 4

Seventh Reading Mark 8:22-38

I: ²²They came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him. ²³He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, “Can you see anything?” ²⁴And the man looked up and said, “I can see people, but they look like trees, walking.” ²⁵Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. ²⁶Then he sent him away to his home, saying, “Do not even go into the village.” ²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness
(For music see Hymn 843 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Praise the One who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light;**

**praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
turning blindness into sight.**

**Praise the One who preached the gospel,
healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.**

**2. Praise the One who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the One who drove out demons
with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand;
from the well comes living water
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

**3. Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory;
praise the One who makes us one.**

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955. Text copyright 1987 Hope Publishing Company. Music: J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

Response to the Word

P: Let us confess our faith with the Apostles' Creed.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Installation of Church Council Members

✠ **PRAYER** ✠

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. These three petitions will be read by people in the congregation:

A: We pray for the health of people around the globe, especially for the people of Ethiopia and India; for international health organizations; for local and national medical services; and for school officials and teachers facing the pandemic. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

B: We pray for the church's many ministries of healing; for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains; for those serving in prisons, camps, and institutions. Be with the missionaries we support: the Rev. Karen Anderson in Chile and the Rev. Matthew Nickoloff in Rochester. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

E: We pray for a halt to the pandemic; for all who have contracted Covid-19; for health workers; for the prompt distribution of vaccines; and for all who today will die from the virus. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

The pastor concludes the prayer:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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**

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter keep in you peace.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness
(for music see Hymn 396 in the Red Hymnal)

Refrain **Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness
calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
wind, wind on the sea.**

**1. You moved on the waters,
you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains
from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing;
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.”**

Refrain

2. You swept through the desert,

**you stung with the sand
and you goaded your people
with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.**

Refrain

**3. You sang in the stable,
you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence
when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.**

Refrain

**4. You call from tomorrow,
you break ancient schemes,
From the bondage of sorrow
all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
With bold new decisions, your people arise.**

Refrain

Text and music: James K. Manley; Copyright 1978 James K. Manley

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Announcements

Office Hours

Pastor Jon anticipates being in the office:

Monday – morning and afternoon

Tuesday –afternoon

Wednesday –morning and afternoon

Thursday - morning

He can be available other times by appointment. Please call the church: (585) 924-5192 or pastor's cell: (585) 281-3595

Church Playground – Girl Scout Gold Project Can & Bottle Collection

Kelsey Sackett is working to replace the church playground for her Girl Scout Gold Award project. Please consider donating your deposit bottles and cans to help pay for it. A collection bin is in the old entrance room.

Offering Envelopes

2021 offering envelopes are available on a table in the gathering area. You can stop by church and pick yours up. If you need access to the building and don't remember the code for the key please ask Pastor Jon.

Ash Wednesday Worship

Ash Wednesday is February 17. We will be having worship by Zoom at 7:00pm. The details of this year's service haven't been finalized yet but there is no way to do communion or have the imposition of ashes.

Mid Week Lenten Worship

Wednesdays in Lent the Genesee Finger Lakes Conference pastors are putting together an online worship series called Created for Community. The worship service itself at 7:00pm and goes until about 7:30. After that the worshippers will be split into two groups. One group will have time for questions and discussion with the worship leaders. The other group will explore a different prayer technique or discipline. The services will use the Zoom platform and our own Jim Spawton will be managing it. You will receive the Zoom link in your email during the weeks of Lent.

WAIT. ISN'T
CLEANLINESS
NEXT TO
GODLINESS?

MAYBE....



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BUT JESUS IS ABOUT A **GODLINESS**
THAT IS BORNE OUT IN RELATIONSHIPS
OF LOVE FOR GOD AND NEIGHBOR.



AND CLEANLINESS

IS ONLY **NEXT** RIGHT.
TO THAT!



MARK 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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IF I LET THE SINFUL
STUFF INSIDE OF ME
OUT, IT MAKES ME
UNCLEAN.



THAT'S RIGHT.



BUT IF I KEEP IT **INSIDE**
AND ACT LIKE IT'S NOT
THERE, THAT MAKES
ME A **HYPOCRITE**.
TOO.



THAT DOESN'T LEAVE
ME A LOT OF
WIGGLE ROOM.



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MARK 7:1-23

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**“Where can I reach you if I want to
repent, reverend?”**

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