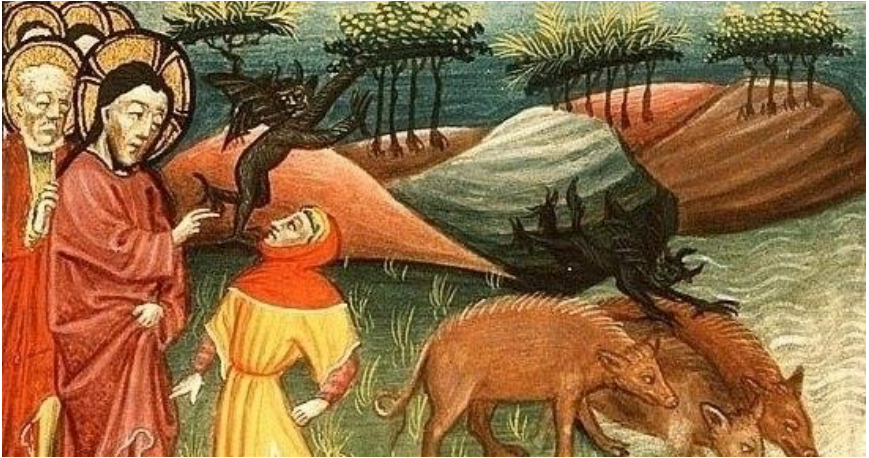




St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Jesus' Miracles – Mark 5

January 21, 2024

10:30 Holy Communion

In last week's gospel reading we had a series of parables about the kingdom of God. In this week's reading we have a series of miracles. Jesus displays power over the forces of nature, over mental illness, physical illness and even death. When we read all of these miracles together we realize there is a pattern to them. And we realize that each helps us to interpret the other.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn As the Deer Runs to the River
(For music turn to Hymn 331 in the Red Hymnal)

1. As the deer runs to the river,
parched and weary from the chase,
we have come from hurt and hurry,
thirsting for your healing grace.

Refrain Jesus, source of living water,
may we drink of you and live!

2. When your Israel crossed the desert
where no stream or spring was seen,
Moses struck the rock, and water
flowed for them, refreshing clean. *Refrain*

3. “Come and drink,” Isaiah summoned,
“all who for God’s mercy plead!
God’s forgiveness, like a fountain,
flow to satisfy your need.” *Refrain*

4. Christ, we come from desert places,
deepest thirst unsatisfied.
Lead us to waters flowing
from the cross on which you died. *Refrain*

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr. 1923-2007, Music: David Hhurd, B. 1950, Text copyright 2002 GIA Publications, Inc. Music copyright 1983 GIA publications, Inc.

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: God, our rock and refuge,

C: we pour out our hearts before you.

We have known you but have not always loved you.

**We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.**

Remember your covenant.

Renew your creation.

Restore us,

that we might proclaim your good news to all.

Amen.

P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise How Small Our Span of Life

(For music see Hymn 636 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **How small our span of life, O God,
our years from birth till death:
a single beat within the heart,
the catching of a breath,
a drop within the ocean's deep,
a grain upon the shore,
a flash of light before we sleep
to see the sun no more.**

2. **And yet our speck of life is spanned
by your infinity;
our tick of time on earth is caught
in your eternity.
While suns and stars spin endlessly
through depths of cosmic space,
while aeons roll and ages pass,**

you hold us in your grace.

- 3. O Christ, you left eternity
to plunge in time's swift stream,
to share the shortness of our span,
our mortal lives redeem.
You filled your cross-closed years with love;
you loved us to the end
and touch us with your risen life
that ours may time transcend.**
- 4. We thank you, God, for kindling faith
that lights our transient years,
illuminating our pilgrimage
through mists of doubt and fears;
for hope that sees a life beyond
the swiftly passing days;
for love, both human and divine,
that lifts our hearts to praise.**

Text: Herman Stuempfle Jr., 1923-2007. Copyright 1993 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: English Traditional

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray.

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the way of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

Scripture Poetry Psalm 65:1-9 (*read responsively*)

B: Praise is yours, God in Zion.

Now is the moment to keep our vow,
for you, God, are listening.

**C: All people come to you
bringing their shameful deeds.
You free us from guilt,
from overwhelming sin.**

B: Happy are those you invite
and then welcome to your courts.

**C: Fill us with the plenty of your house,
the holiness of your temple.**

B: You give victory
in answer to prayer.
You inspire awe, God, our savior,
hope of distant lands and waters.

**C: Clothed in power,
you steady the mountains;**

B: you still the roaring seas,
restless waves, raging nations.

**C: People everywhere
stand amazed at what you do,
east and west shout for joy.**

Gospel Acclamation (Mark 4:41)

C: Alleluia. The disciples said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Mark 4:1-35-5:43

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 4th and 5th chapters.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

On that day, when evening had come, [Jesus] said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.”³⁶ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him.³⁷ A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped.³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”³⁹ He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.⁴⁰ He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?”⁴¹ And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes.² And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him.³ He lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him any more, even with a chain;⁴ for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him.⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with

stones. ⁶When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him; ⁷and he shouted at the top of his voice, "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 had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" ⁹Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion; for we are many." ¹⁰He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. ¹¹Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding; ¹²and the unclean spirits begged him, "Send us into the swine; let us enter them." ¹³So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and were drowned in the sea.

¹⁴The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. ¹⁶Those who had seen what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine reported it. ¹⁷Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighborhood. ¹⁸As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. ¹⁹But Jesus refused, and said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you." ²⁰And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. ²²Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live."

So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." ²⁹Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" ³¹And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" ³²He looked all around to see who had done it. ³³But the

woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?”³⁶But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” ³⁷He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” ⁴⁰And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” ⁴²And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day We Come to You for Healing, Lord
(For music see Hymn 617 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. We come to you for healing, Lord,
of body, mind, and soul,
and pray that by your Spirit, touch
we may again be whole.**
- 2. As once you walked through ancient streets
and reached toward those in pain,
come, risen Christ, among us still
with pow’r to heal again.**
- 3. You touch us through physicians’ skills,
through nurses’ gifts of care,
and through the love of faithful friends**

who lift our lives in prayer.

4. **When nights are long with wakefulness,
through days when strength runs low,
grant us your gift of patience, Lord,
your calming peace to know.**
5. **We come to you, O loving Lord,
in our distress and pain,
in trust that through our nights and days
your grace will heal, sustain.**

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr. b. 1923, Music: Hugh Wilson, 1764-1824, Text copyright 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.

Apostles' Creed

P: We confirm 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.

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. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,

The congregation will respond: **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.

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

† MEAL †

Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord

For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.**

**Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.**

**Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.**

**Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, Holy One,

C: for all good things come from you.

In bread and cup you open heaven to us.

**Meet us at this table,
that we may receive what we seek**

**and follow you Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your

glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

(Isaiah 6:3 - spoken)

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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.

Invitation to Communion

P: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.
Come and see.

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. Please pick up a communion glass as you come forward to the altar. You will receive bread from the communion assistant. (If you need a gluten free wafer please tell the assistant.) The pastor will pour wine into your glass. If you prefer grape juice it is prefilled in the individual glasses. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

700 Bring Peace to Earth Again (Red Hymnal)

722 O Christ Your Heart Compassionate (Red Hymnal)

Communion Blessing After all have communed the pastor will say:

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray: Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
bless you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind
(For music see Hymn 400 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **God of tempest, God of whirlwind,
As on Pentecost descend!
Drive us out from sheltered comfort,
past these walls your people send!
Sweep us into costly service,
there with Christ to bear the cross,
there with Christ to bear the cross.**

2. **God of blazing, God of burning,
all that block your purpose, purge!
Through your church, Christ's living Body,
let your flaming Spirit surge!
Where deceit conceals injustice,
kindle us to speak your truth,
kindle us to speak your truth.**

3. **God of earthquake, God of thunder,**

**shake us loose from lethargy!
Break the chains of sin asunder,
for earth's healing set us free!
Crumble walls that still divide us;
make us one in Christ our Lord,
make us one in Christ our Lord.**

- 4. God of passion, God unsleeping,
stir in us love's restlessness!
Where the people cry in anguish,
may we share your heart's distress.
Rouse us from content with evil;
claim us for your kingdom's work,
claim us for your kingdom's work!**

Text: Herman G. Steumpfle Jr, b. 1923. Copyright 2000 GIA Publications Inc. Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Helen Crown
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Altar Care	Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistant	Gary Boisseau
Counters	Mary and Greg Zuege
Coffee Hour	Sandwiches – Annual Meeting

Worship assistants for next Sunday, January 28

Greeters and Ushers	Linda Flood
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Counters	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour	

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