



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Exorcisms and Healings

February 17, 2019

10:30 Holy Communion

How do you understand evil? What about devils and demons? In today's gospel we read a collection of accounts where Jesus casts out demons, heals people, and restores them to fullness of life. To some it sounds like a fairy tale. Others try to rationalize it all. Some accept it as simple historical truth. Indeed, God's reign is breaking into the world and things are changing. Even though Luke's gospel doesn't give us definitive answers on evil and demons, he makes it clear that nothing can stand in the way of God's coming kingdom.

Welcome to worship today!

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

Nursery care is available during the service. Please see one of the ushers if you need more information.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn There is a Balm in Gilead
(For music turn to Hymn 614 in the Red Hymnal)

Refrain:

**There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.**

- 1. Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. *Refrain***
- 2. If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all."
*Refrain***
- 3. Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,
and if you lack for knowledge, he'll ne'er refuse to lend.
*Refrain***

Text and Music: African American Spiritual

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,
who creates us and forms us,
who redeems us and calls us,
who unifies us and sends us.

C: Amen.

P: Gathered in God's presence, let us confess our sin.

(A moment of silence for reflection)

P: Mighty and loving God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We seek our own way to fulfillment.

We cause division rather than create unity.

In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us.

Let the words of our mouths,

**the thoughts of our hearts,
and everything that we do
be filled with faith, hope, and love.**

Amen.

P: Hear the voice of Jesus:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives.”

In the name of Jesus the Christ, I proclaim to you that your sins are forgiven and you are released. The joy of the Lord is your strength, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever.

C: Amen

Hymn of Praise Now the Feast and Celebration
(For music turn to Hymn 789 in the Blue Hymnal)

Refrain

**Now the feast and celebration,
all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom
praise and glory forevermore!**

1. **Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God.** *Refrain*
2. **Power and riches, wisdom and might,
all honor and glory to Christ forever.** *Refrain*
3. **For God has come to dwell with us,
to make us people of God;
to make all things new.** *Refrain*

Text and music: Marty Haugen; Copyright 1990 GIA Publications Inc.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity. We pray through that same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns forever.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Isaiah 58:6-9a

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 49:1-19 (*read responsively*)

A: Everyone, take heed,
all the world, listen,
high and low,
rich and poor alike.

**C: I have wisdom you need to hear.
I see to the heart of things,
I tune my ear to the truth
and set my insight to music.**

A: Why should I be afraid in bad times
when enemies surround me,
disdainful in their power,
arrogant in their wealth?

**C: We cannot save ourselves,
cannot set things right with God;
the price is too high,
well beyond our means.**

A: There is no escaping death,
no avoiding the grave.
Look, even the wisest die.

Fools and idiots perish with them,
and others claim their wealth.

**C: The grave is the only home
where they settle for good,
even if their land
still bears their name.**

A: No matter how great,
no one sees the truth:
we die like beasts.

**C: Here is the fate of those
only concerned for themselves:
they go straight to Sheol.**

A: Death shepherds them
right into the grave,
where flesh is eaten up
and earth consumes them.

**C: But I know God will rescue me,
save me from the grip of death.**

A: Do not worry about wealth,
when someone else becomes rich.

**C: You cannot take it to your grave,
wealth is worth nothing in death.**

A: No matter how wealthy,
no matter how many tell you,
“My, how well you have done,”

**C: the rich all join the dead
never to see light again.**

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Finally, brothers and sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus that, as you learned from us how you ought to live and to please God (as, in fact, you are doing), you should do so more and more. ²For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from fornication; ⁴that each one of you know how to control your own body in holiness and honor, ⁵not with lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶that no one wrong or exploit a brother or sister in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, just as we have already told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. ⁷For God did not call us

to impurity but in holiness. ⁸Therefore whoever rejects this rejects not human authority but God, who also gives his Holy Spirit to you.

⁹Now concerning love of the brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anyone write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰and indeed you do love all the brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, beloved, to do so more and more, ¹¹to aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we directed you, ¹²so that you may behave properly toward outsiders and be dependent on no one.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Psalm 49:2)

C: Alleluia. I have wisdom you need to hear. I see to the heart of things, I tune my ear to the truth and set my insight to music. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Luke 4:31-44

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 4th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus] went down to Capernaum, a city in Galilee, and was teaching them on the sabbath. ³²They were astounded at his teaching, because he spoke with authority. ³³In the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴“Let us alone! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ³⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” When the demon had thrown him down before them, he came out of him without having done him any harm. ³⁶They were all amazed and kept saying to one another, “What kind of utterance is this? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and out they come!” ³⁷And a report about him began to reach every place in the region. ³⁸After leaving the synagogue he entered Simon’s house. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked him about her. ³⁹Then he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately she got up and began to serve them. ⁴⁰As the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various kinds of diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on each of them and cured them. ⁴¹Demons also came out of many, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Messiah. ⁴²At daybreak he departed and went into a deserted place.

And the crowds were looking for him; and when they reached him, they wanted to prevent him from leaving them. ⁴³But he said to them, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose." ⁴⁴So he continued proclaiming the message in the synagogues of Judea.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day We Cannot Measure How You Heal
(For music see Hymn 103 in the Songbook Binder)

1. **We cannot measure how You heal
Or answer every sufferer's prayer
Yet we believe Your grace responds
Where faith and doubt unite to care
Your hands though bloodied on the cross
Survive to hold and heal and warn
To carry all through death to life
And cradle children yet unborn**

2. **The pain that will not go away
The guilt that clings from things long past
The fear of what the future holds
Are present as if meant to last
But present too is love which tends
The hurt we never hoped to find
The private agonies inside
The memories that haunt the mind**

3. **So some have come who need Your help
And some have come to make amends
As hands which shaped and saved the world
Are present in the touch of friends
Lord let Your Spirit meet us here
To mend the body mind and soul
To disentangle peace from pain
And make Your broken people whole**

Apostles' Creed

A: 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 †

Offering

Hymn of Thanksgiving 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

A: Let us pray: God of all creation,

C: all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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:

(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.**

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. You will receive bread from the communion assistant. If you need gluten free wafers please ask the assistant distributing bread. You may receive wine from either the common cup or in an individual glass. If you would like to receive in a glass please pick one up from the tray as you approach the altar rail. White grape juice is available in the individual glasses for those who do not wish to take wine. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

617 *We Come to You for Healing (Red Hymnal)*

611 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus (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:

We thank you, O God, that you have fed us at your banqueting table with bread and wine beyond compare, the very life of Christ for us. Send your Spirit with us now, that we may set the captive free, use your gifts to build one another up, and in everything reflect your glory revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

‡ SENDING ‡

Blessing

P: The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you now and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn You Are Mine
(for music see Hymn 581 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **I will come to you in the silence,
I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice,
be still and know I am here.**
2. **I am hope for all who are hopeless,
I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light,
come and rest in me.**

Refrain

**Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine.**

3. **I am strength for all the despairing,
healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free,
and all will know my name. *Refrain***
4. **I am the Word that leads all to freedom,
I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name, embracing all your pain.
Stand up, now walk and live! *Refrain***

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Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Acolyte	Abbie Bullwinkle
Altar Care	Beth Perdan
Communion Assistants	Helen Crown and Sally Mansfield
Nursery Care	Kristi Bullwinkle
Counters	Babette Huber and Burdie Gillern
Coffee Hour	Sue Kaufmann

Worship assistants for next Sunday, February 24, 2019

Greeters and Ushers	Tim and Liz Brown
Acolyte	Olivia DeLeon
Nursery Care	Laura Stroup
Counters	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour	<i>Please sign up!</i>

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