



# **BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** | York, Nebraska

*February 5, 2023*

## **THEME OF THE DAY: MANY VOICES, ONE SAVIOR**

There are many voices in this world which lead us to believe we can't do the work of evangelism. These are the same voices that can tempt us to fall into sin and believe that God would never love a sinner like us. But God's Word silences all of these voices. As we see in our Gospel reading for today, there were thousands of demons possessing a man, but they couldn't stand up to the single voice of Jesus. His voice cuts through all of the evil influences of this world.

Because of this everyone can proclaim the one true Savior! As we go out into the world, we aren't carrying an empty message, but the powerful Word of God. This Word has the power to cut through unbelief and create faith in the hearts of those who hear it. So, with our many voices we can go and point others to the one true Savior.

**Preaching Minister**

Pastor Joel Prange

**Presiding Minister**

Pastor Justin Wilkens

**Organist/Pianist**

Kathy Bremer

## **Acknowledgments**

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## **The Service, Setting One (page 154 in Christian Worship 21)**

### **Hymn: 900 Lift High the Cross**

*Stand*

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

**Amen.**

### **Confession**

*CW 154*

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **Lord, Have Mercy**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

### Glory Be to God

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



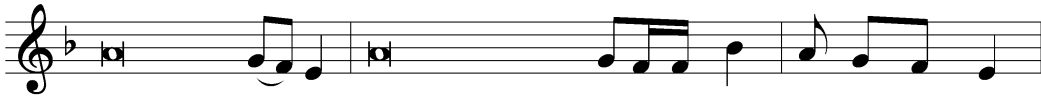
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



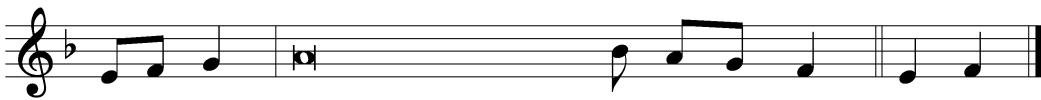
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your disciples to proclaim your coming. Bless all the missions of your church, and enable your workers to gather in your harvest. Through them, show your love to the helpless, enlighten those in darkness, assist those in peril and need, and at last bring all your children home to yourself; you live and reign, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Jonah 3:1-10*

*Jonah reluctantly obeyed the Lord in going to preach to the city of Nineveh, and God greatly blessed his work.*

<sup>1</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: <sup>2</sup> "Get up. Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you."

<sup>3</sup> So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh just as the word of the Lord had commanded. Now Nineveh was a great city to God. It required a three-day walk. <sup>4</sup> Jonah walked through the city for a day, and he called out, "Forty more days and Nineveh is going to be overthrown!"

<sup>5</sup> The men of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least. <sup>6</sup> When word reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, took off his royal robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. <sup>7</sup> Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh.

By the decree of the king and his leading officials:

Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything. Do not let them eat food or drink water. <sup>8</sup> Instead, let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call fervently to God. Let them turn from their evil way and from the violence that is in their hands. <sup>9</sup> Who knows? God may turn and relent. He may turn from his burning anger so that we will not perish.

<sup>10</sup> When God saw their actions, that they had turned from their evil way, God relented from the disaster which he said he would bring on them, and he did not carry it out.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day: 96- In Front of Hymnal: Let the Heavens Rejoice

## Second Reading

*Romans 10:8-15*

*Paul states that those who call on the name of the Lord will be saved. And the only way for someone to call on His name, is for someone to bring them the Gospel message..*

<sup>8</sup> But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith that we are proclaiming. <sup>9</sup> Certainly, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and it is with the mouth that a person confesses, resulting in salvation. <sup>11</sup> For Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."

<sup>12</sup> So there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives generously to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> Yes, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

<sup>14</sup> So then, how can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one about whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without a preacher? <sup>15</sup> And how can they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news of peace, who preach the gospel of good things!"

The Word of the Lord.

### Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### Gospel Acclamation

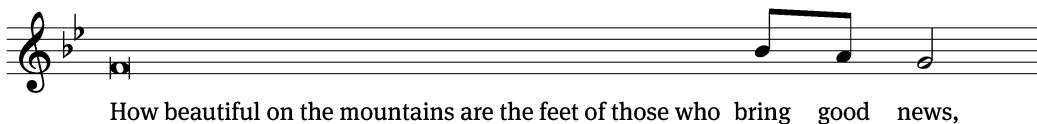
*Isaiah 52:7*



*Refrain*



*Tone*



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### Gospel

*Mark 5:1-20*

*Jesus is confronted by a man who was possessed by many demons, and it is Jesus' voice alone that conquers this evil influence.*

<sup>1</sup> They went to the other side of the sea, into the region of the Gerasenes. <sup>2</sup> As soon as Jesus stepped out of the boat, a man with an unclean spirit came out of the tombs to meet him. <sup>3</sup> The

man lived in the tombs. Nobody could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. <sup>4</sup> For he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he pulled the chains apart and broke the shackles in pieces. Nobody had the strength to subdue him. <sup>5</sup> Night and day, in the tombs and in the mountains, he was constantly crying out and cutting himself with stones. <sup>6</sup> When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down in front of him. <sup>7</sup> He cried out with a loud voice, "What do I have to do with you, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you to swear by God not to torment me." <sup>8</sup> For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"

<sup>9</sup> Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"My name is Legion," he replied, "because we are many." <sup>10</sup> He begged Jesus repeatedly that he would not send them out of the region.

<sup>11</sup> There was a large herd of pigs there feeding on the hillside. <sup>12</sup> The demons begged him, "Send us to the pigs so we may enter them."

<sup>13</sup> Jesus gave them permission. The unclean spirits went out and entered the pigs. Then the herd of about two thousand pigs rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned. <sup>14</sup> Those who were feeding the pigs ran and reported this in the city and the countryside.

People came to see what had happened. <sup>15</sup> When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons sitting there clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. <sup>16</sup> Those who had seen it described for these people what had happened to the demon-possessed man, and they told them about the pigs. <sup>17</sup> They began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

<sup>18</sup> As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to stay with Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But Jesus would not let him. Instead, he told him, "Go home to your people, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how he had mercy on you."

<sup>20</sup> The man left and began to proclaim in the Decapolis everything Jesus had done for him. And everyone was amazed.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**Hymn of the Day: 745 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying**

**Sermon:** *Mark 5:1-20 "Many Voices, One Savior"*

**Creedal Hymn: 940 We All Believe in One True God**



## **Prayer of the Church**

Eternal God and Father, we thank you for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, and for fellowship with believers in our congregation and our synod.

**Help us rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and use them faithfully.**

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, Lord Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

**Awaken us to opportunities to proclaim your message of love.**

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

**Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

*Silent prayer*

Keep in your care those who are enduring chronic pain and incessant unhappiness, those enduring rejection and struggling with poverty, those mourning the loss of someone they loved. [Especially bless... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Bring healing and help and comfort and calm to everyone in distress.

**Move us to act alone or join with others to provide help and support.**

Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

**Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.**

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

**Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.**

## **Offering**

**Offering Hymn: 381 The People Who in Darkness Walked**

*sts. 1, 5*

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

**Hymn: 906 May God Bestow on Us His Grace**

## **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today:** 9:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School, 10:30 AM Worship. 12:00 PM Potluck with presentation afterwards

**Sunday:** 9:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School, 10:30 AM Worship and Communion

### **Joint Mission Festival: Meal and Presentation**

Our potluck meal with Grace will begin at 12:00 downstairs in the basement. Following the meal, Pastor Prange will lead us in a presentation on his work as a home missionary in Dickinson, North Dakota.

### **Council Meeting**

The next council meeting will take place on February 12<sup>th</sup> following our worship service.

### **WELS Regional Youth Night**

The next WELS regional Youth night will take place on Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:30 at Mount Olive in Lincoln. Please register using this link:

<https://forms.gle/wdYpFQ9oRc6qWHSG6>

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