

*2nd Sunday After Pentecost*

*Fathers' Day*

*June 19, 2022*

*Mark 2:4 Adaptive Worship Service*



1812 North Highland Avenue

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Ministers: The People of Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor: Rev. Jefferson Cox

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Welcome! This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."

There are a few things to know about this service: you are not required to stand at any point though you can move around anytime you want or need, prayer slips are available for your prayers to be included in Prayer Time, and Holy Communion is served with gluten-free bread and grape juice.

## GATHERING SONG

### *All Are Welcome*

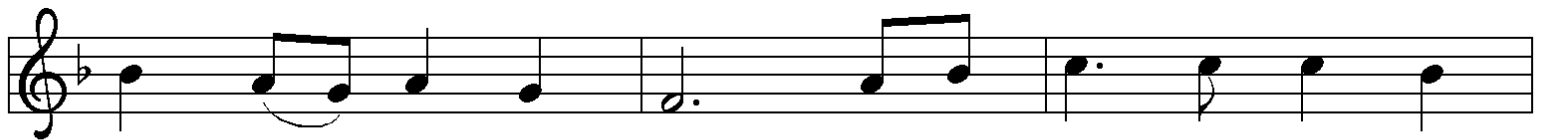
Verses 1 & 4



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of



Christ shall end di - vi - sions: All are wel - come,



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen  
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## **GREETING**

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

**Congregation: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Worship Leader: Let us pray. O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING**

### **Galatians 3:23-29**

*Introduction to the Lesson: For Paul, baptism is a powerful bond that unites people not only with God but with other believers. Those who call themselves children of God experience a transformation that removes prejudices of race, social class, or gender in favor of true unity in Christ.*

Reader: 23 But before the time for faith came, the Law kept us all locked up as prisoners until this coming faith should be revealed. 24 And so the Law was in charge of us until Christ came, in order that we might then be put right with God through faith. 25 Now that the time for faith is here, the Law is no longer in charge of us.

26 It is through faith that all of you are God's children in union with Christ Jesus. 27 You were baptized into union with Christ, and now you are clothed, so to speak, with the life of Christ himself. 28 So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between

slaves and free people, between men and women; you are all one in union with Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are the descendants of Abraham and will receive what God has promised.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL**

### **Luke 8:26-39**

Introduction to the Lesson: *Jesus' mission includes foreigners and his authority extends to the casting out of demons. Some who witness Jesus' work are seized with confusion and fear, but the man who was healed is commissioned to give testimony to God's mercy and power.*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke in the 8th chapter.

**Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.**

26 Jesus and his disciples sailed on over to the territory of Gerasa, which is across the lake from Galilee. 27 As Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a man from the town who had demons in him. For a long time this man had gone without clothes and would not stay at home, but spent his time in the burial caves. 28 When he saw Jesus, he gave a loud cry, threw himself down at his feet, and shouted, "Jesus, Son of the Most High God! What do you want with me? I beg you, don't punish me!" 29 He said this because Jesus had ordered the evil spirit to go out of him. Many times it had seized him, and even though he was kept a prisoner, his hands and feet tied with chains, he would break the chains and be driven by the demon out into the desert.

30 Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"My name is 'Mob,'" he answered—because many demons had gone into him. 31 The demons begged Jesus not to send them into the abyss.

32 There was a large herd of pigs near by, feeding on a hillside. So the demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and he let them. 33 They went out of the man and into the pigs. The whole herd rushed down the side of the cliff into the lake and was drowned.

34 The men who had been taking care of the pigs saw what happened, so they ran off and spread the news in the town and among the farms. 35 People went out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were all afraid. 36 Those who had seen it told the people how the man had been cured. 37 Then all the people from that territory asked Jesus to go away, because they were terribly afraid. So Jesus got into the boat and left. 38 The man from whom the demons had gone out begged Jesus, "Let me go with you."

But Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 "Go back home and tell what God has done for you."

The man went through the town, telling what Jesus had done for him.

*After the reading...*

Worship Leader: The gospel of the Lord. **Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE—From Sundays and Seasons**

### **What Is Your Name?**

There is in Cairo an eerie, demonic site, terrifying to the human soul. Far into the chaos and noise of the city that never slumbers, there is another city—“the city of the dead.” A vast tangle of tombs and mausoleums that, through the windows of tour buses, remains grim, distant, and quiet is, at close encounter, not a place of repose at all. It is a wretched, loud, busy, suffering place lived in by Cairo’s least and lowliest.

But there is no need to travel to Egypt to see the grim scene. Cities of the dead are all around us, if we care to look—places where the condemned, dirtied, ridiculed, blamed, and broken spend their demonized days living as if dead in cells and wards, beneath plastic and cardboard, in rust and garbage, among decay and rot, forgotten and lonely. There, beyond our windows, so used to their own condemned life, the most they hope for is to be left alone. “I beg you, do not torment me” (Luke 8:28). “I beg you.” The gospel says “beg”!

He’d had enough—the man could endure no more judgment, no more religious platitudes, no more being the topic of conversation, no more shame, no more chains and shackles. It was—it is—bad enough to be plagued by demons in the cities of the dead, so please, no more torment! I beg you.

“What is your name?” (v. 30). Those four beautiful words stun the ugliness on the hillside. “What is your name?” In that question there thunders a spoken truth: the desire to know, not ignore; to approach, not pass by; to dare, not cower.

“And they were afraid” (v. 35). Those four riddling words confuse the swinish hillside. In that spoken truth there is exposed a question: Afraid of what? Of knowing the banished one? Of approaching the wild one? Of daring to welcome the troubled one home?

What is your name? Legion? No: Child of God.

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

### *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*    *verses 1 & 2*



1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,  
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Worship Leader: Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Prayer Leader: Holy God, you hear the cries of those who seek you. Equip your church with evangelists who reveal the continuous call of your outstretched hands and your promises of a home in you. Lord, in your mercy, **Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: You hear the cries of those who are marginalized or cast out. On this Juneteenth observance, guide us continually toward the end of oppression in all its forms, especially white supremacy. Bring true freedom and human flourishing to all your beloved children. Lord, in your mercy, **Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: You hear the cries of those who suffer. Come to the aid of all who are homeless, naked, hungry, and sick (including all those suffering from violence, terror, and natural disasters, such as the people of Ukraine, Buffalo, and Uvalde, and those impacted by wildfires and COVID-19), and those we name now with our lips or in our hearts, ..... Bring peace to any experiencing mental illness, that they can clearly recognize your loving presence. Lord, in your mercy, **Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Holy God, we remember your saints for their strong faith and witness, even unto death, especially those who rest in our Memorial Garden. Console grieving families. Stir up in us the resolve to end the sin of white supremacy and pursue the courageous path of justice. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty God, with a mother's love and a father's care you have blessed some with the joy and responsibility of children. Today we bless those here and throughout the world who are fathers and pray that you give them gracious love, calm strength, and patient wisdom, that they may teach those under their care to love whatever is just and true and good and that through them their children and the world as a whole may encounter your unconditional love, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Triune God, whose will it is that humans live in community, bless family life everywhere and fill all homes with respect, joy, laughter, and prayer. Strengthen the commitment of all spouses to one another, that they may mirror your covenant faithfulness. Give strength and wisdom to single dads who shoulder the trials of parenthood alone. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Pour out your Spirit on those who are a fathering and nurturing presence for children and our community, such as fathers who have adopted their children, foster fathers, men serving as guardians, and on any who serve as a father figure in any capacity. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: God of Peace, may you comfort those who find this day to be difficult due to a loss of a child or their father, strained relationships between father and offspring, because they have not been able to have children, or for any other reason. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Above all, for the sake of the whole world may you take away the arrogance and hatred that infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and, through our struggle and confusion, work to accomplish your purposes on earth; so that, in your good time, every people and nation may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

*Offerings to the mission and ministry of Grace can be made online at [GraceCLW.com](http://GraceCLW.com) (look for the “Donate” button), or (for now) by mailing a check to Grace Lutheran Church, 1812 N. Highland Ave. Clearwater FL 33755. Thank you for your continued financial support during these uncertain times. You can fill out your attendance form on our website as well.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Prayer Leader: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name.

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray in whichever language is closest to our hearts.

**Congregation: 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.**

## **PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION**

Prayer Leader: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another. **Amen.**

Pastor: Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, help those who go to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, or imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your everlasting presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Congregation: Amen.**



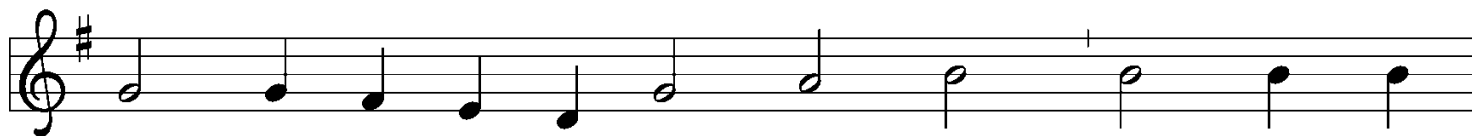
## BLESSING

Worship Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

### *The Doxology*



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all



crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye



heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

## DISMISSAL

Pastor: Together we have heard God's Word and shared in the Lord's Supper, we have given and have been forgiven. Now as this service of worship is ending, this week's service to the world is beginning! Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**