

Midweek of Lent 4
March 18, 2026
8:30am and 6:00pm

Healing from Demons

AS WE GATHER

We talked about angels during Midweek of Lent 1. Tonight, we will talk about the darker side of the story—that is, demons. Demons are fallen angels who rebelled against God and His giving of Himself to us. Demons, with Satan chief among them, seek to undermine everything God is and does, even today. In our sermon tonight, we will hear how Jesus heals a man with a demon (Mark 5:1–13) and how that work of healing continues today.

431 Not All the Blood of Beasts

- 1 Not all the blood of beasts
On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace
Or wash away the stain.
- 2 But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,
Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name
And richer blood than they.
- 3 My faith would lay its hand
On that dear head of Thine,
While as a penitent I stand,
And there confess my sin.
- 4 My soul looks back to see
The burden Thou didst bear

When hanging on the cursèd tree;
I know my guilt was there.

- 5 Believing, we rejoice
To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice
And sing His bleeding love.

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Stand

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of
the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Joel 2:13; Matthew 16:24;
Isaiah 53:5, alt.*

P Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious
and merciful,

**C slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast
love; and He relents over disaster.**

P Jesus said, "If anyone would come after Me,

**C let him deny himself and take up his cross
and follow Me."**

P Christ was wounded for our transgressions;

C He was crushed for our iniquities.

PSALM

Psalm 71:1–8

P In You, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be
put to shame!

**C In Your righteousness deliver me and rescue
me; incline Your ear to me, and save me!**

P Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may
continually come;

**C You have given the command to save me, for
You are my rock and my fortress.**

P Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.

C For You, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth.

P Upon You I have leaned from before my birth;

C You are He who took me from my mother's womb.

P My praise is continually of You.

C I have been as a portent to many, but You are my strong refuge.

P My mouth is filled with Your praise,

C and with Your glory all the day.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Sit

READING

Romans 8:9–11

P A reading from the eighth chapter of Romans.

⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

READING

Mark 5:1–13

P A reading from the fifth chapter of Mark.

¹They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. ²And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. ³He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, ⁴for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and bruising himself with stones. ⁶And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before Him. ⁷And crying out with a loud voice, he said, “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 was saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!” ⁹And Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He replied, “My name is Legion, for we are many.” ¹⁰And he begged Him earnestly not to send them out of the country. ¹¹Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, ¹²and they begged Him, saying, “Send us to the pigs; let us enter them.” ¹³So He gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out, and entered the pigs, and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and were drowned in the sea.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

PASSION READING

Mark 15:6–32

P The Passion of Our Lord according to St. Mark,
the fifteenth chapter.

⁶Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. ⁷And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. ⁸And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. ⁹And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered Him up. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. ¹²And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³And they cried out again, "Crucify Him." ¹⁴And Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify Him." ¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.

¹⁶And the soldiers led Him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. ¹⁷And they clothed Him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on Him. ¹⁸And they began to salute Him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹And they were striking His head with a reed and spitting on Him and kneeling down in homage to Him. ²⁰And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the purple cloak and put His own clothes on Him. And they led Him out to crucify Him.

²¹And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry His cross.

²²And they brought Him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). ²³And they offered Him wine mixed with myrrh, but He did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified Him and divided His garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. ²⁵And it was the third hour when they crucified Him. ²⁶And the inscription of the charge against Him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷And with Him they crucified two robbers, one on His right and one on His left.

²⁹And those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰save Yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked Him to one another, saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. ³²Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with Him also reviled Him.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY

P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

P In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

C Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

Sit

544 O Love, How Deep (v. 1-4)

- 1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
Beyond all thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take
Our mortal form for mortals' sake!
- 2 He sent no angel to our race,
Of higher or of lower place,
But wore the robe of human frame,
And to this world Himself He came.
- 3 For us baptized, for us He bore
His holy fast and hungered sore;
For us temptation sharp He knew;
For us the tempter overthrew.
- 4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;
For us His daily works He wrought,
By words and signs and actions thus
Still seeking not Himself but us.

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SERMON

OFFERING

Stand

LITANY

- P In peace let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.

- P For the peace from above and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P 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:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P For this holy house and for all who offer here their
worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P For all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the
church, and for all the people, let us pray to the
Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P For all public servants, for the government and
those who protect us, that they may be upheld
and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray
to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P For those who work to bring peace, justice,
health, and protection in this and every place, let
us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P For those who bring offerings, those who do good
works in this congregation, those who toil, those
who sing, and all the people here present who
await from the Lord great and abundant mercy,
let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P For favorable weather, for an abundance of the
fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us
pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**

P For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C Thanks be to God.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, You came into this created world to conquer sin and death.

C By Your victory over the tempter as one of us, strengthen our faith whenever it is under duress.

P Hear us, Jesus Christ, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER (8:30AM)

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER (6:00PM)

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have

graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

BENEDICTION

**P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be
gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give
you peace.**

891 O Light Whose Splendor

- 1 O Light whose splendor thrills and gladdens
With radiance brighter than the sun,
Pure gleam of God's unending glory,
O Jesus, blest Anointed One;**
- 2 As twilight hovers near at sunset,
And lamps are lit, and children nod,
In evening hymns we lift our voices
To Father, Spirit, Son: one God.**

3 In all life's brilliant timeless moments,
Let faithful voices sing Your praise,
O Son of God, our Life-bestower,
Whose glory lightens endless days.

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