

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



Demonic Possession

A certain house in a certain movie in Amityville, NY, is for sale again, this time for \$850,000. This calls up our memories of many movies a while back about demon possession and how it might be portrayed today. Hollywood does its best to scare us, but perhaps the reality of the situation is even more scary!

The poor man was loaded with demons. Not one, mind you, but many. Their encounter with Jesus

and their subsequent demise is one of the better “action stories” that Scripture has to share. Recall that the pigs were considered unclean by all people in that day, so the fact that Jesus cast the demons into this pack of pigs was logical, unclean spirits into unclean animals. No need to call any authorities!

While the details are fascinating, the actions of our Lord lead us to understand His ultimate mission—that is to say restoration. The man, removed from family, forced to live alone in a filthy desolate place, and on top of all that he was possessed by hundreds of demons. Jesus gives this man his present and his future back. Again, the goal of Jesus’ work is restorative. The man is now given over to telling everyone he meets about the blessings and glory of the Lord who made him whole again.

While we don’t always actively talk of demonic possession in our culture, there is no mistake about the fact that there are many things that function in the similar manner as do the demons. There are actions and addictive behaviors that hold us captive that also remove us from a healthy existence into a place of desolation. Sometime we find ourselves completely lost, and we ourselves recognize that we are useless without the help of God. Like the demoniac, there is no way out of our mess, without the intervention of the Divine into our situation. Only then are we restored!

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME

Pre-Service Music, Welcome, and Announcements

CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

In this Pentecost Season, we confess to You, O Lord – our division, for we are not gathered together as Your people in one place; our fear of the rush of your Spirit in our lives and what it might call us to do or to be; our desire for a monolingual society, even when you allowed the early church to transcend all language, not favoring one over another; our actions that can be like the crowds that taunt and torment, mocking those who are filled with your Spirit that burns like fire and rushes like wind. For the times we have done this, we know we need to offer our confession to Almighty God:

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by the things we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In this Pentecost season, Lord – help us to let down our barriers to your Spirit; guide us over to live lives filled with joy, abandon, and faithfulness; and create in us new hearts to be new people who worship only You. As a result of the love of God, the work of Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go and sin no more, that the rest of your life might be pure and holy and modeled after our Lord Jesus in all we say and all we do, we pray and celebrate this Easter joy in His Holy Name, **Amen.**

HYMN 18 Immortal Invisible 1,4

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison): **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. Amen.**

Alleluia. Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you. Alleluia.

FIRST LESSON 1 Kings 19:1-15

New International Version (NIV)

Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.”

Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, Lord,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.” He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.” So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. There he went into a cave and spent the night.

And the word of the Lord came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

The Lord said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram.

THE SECOND LESSON: Galatians 3:23-29 New International Version (NIV)

Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 8:26-39 New International Version (NIV)

They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.

Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.

A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and he gave them permission. When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.

The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

The Gospel of our Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

SERMON "Victory over Oppression"

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

SERMON HYMN: 293 Just As I Am 1,3,6

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: 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 into hell. 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERING:

After the consecration of the Offering, we will sing the Doxology:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

-PRAYERS OF PRAISE, WORDS OF INSTITUTION, LORD'S PRAYER

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE COMMUNION BLESSING

HYMN 303 Softly and Tenderly 1,4

THE BENEDICTION & THE DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. **Thanks be to God**

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WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN! Thank you for joining us as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are happy you are here! As a

kindness to one another, **please place your cell phones on muted** for the time we are together in worship. If you are a visitor, let us know you are here!

HAPPY FATHERS DAY! We give God thanks for the blessings of the family and celebrate with everyone the blessing of our fathers specifically! Enjoy the day!

SUMMER NEWSLETTER COMING SOON! If you have items you'd like included in the next newsletter, by all means please forward them quite soon to Jeanne Keyser, who is our newsletter editor. We are thinking it would be published later in June but now would be a good time to get those articles started!

OUR NEXT BIBLE STUDY will be taking place this coming week on June 22 at 10:00 AM as we will wrap up our discussion on the last two chapters of the book of Galatians. Please come to that with at least those two chapters read. On June 29, we will begin our "Summer of Psalms" Bible study that will feature a number of psalms, some familiar and some maybe not so familiar. Please take time to join us if you are able!

IN OUR PRAYERS: Please us a prayer request card if you have a specific prayer request this morning. It is our joy and our privilege to share in these petitions to Almighty God. If you have them ready before the service, hand them to Pastor when you have them completed, otherwise give them to the ushers at the time the offering is collected.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, LCMC

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Worship Time: Sunday 10 A.M.

Bible Study Twice Monthly, Wednesdays at 10:00 AM

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