

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
1600 S. Main St.
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54937-9235

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE May the message of the Risen Savior give you comfort and confidence throughout this life until we enjoy that life which is really life in heaven.

Thank you for joining us for worship. If you have any questions about our service or practice, please feel free to ask one of the ushers or a pastor.

HOLY COMMUNION Today we have the privilege of receiving Christ's true body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Through this sacrament the Holy Spirit seals to us the *forgiveness of sins, life and salvation* for the strengthening of our faith. Scriptures also teach that as we commune together, we are *publicly testifying* to a complete unity of faith based on a confession of all of God's Word. For this reason, we respectfully request that all of those who are not members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or our sister Evangelical Lutheran Synod, please speak with one of the pastors *before communing* with us. Thank you.

SERVICE THEME Through the Word, the Lord Crushes Evil

ORDER OF WORSHIP *Setting One* | 154-170

OPENING HYMN *Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You* | 871

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, heavenly Father, you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, into this world to destroy the works of the devil and protect us poor people against such an evil foe. Uphold us in all affliction by your Holy Spirit so that we may have peace from such enemies and remain forever blessed; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 43:8-13

The LORD calls us to be his witnesses to the truth that there is no God except for him. He alone can save us from every evil.

Bring out the people who are blind, though they have eyes, and the people who are deaf, though they have ears. ⁹Let all the nations be gathered together, and let peoples be assembled. Who among them has declared this? Who has made known to us the former things? Let them produce their witnesses to show that they were right, so that people can hear and say, "This is truth." ¹⁰You are my witnesses, declares the LORD. You are my servant, whom I have chosen, so that you may know me and believe in me, so that you will understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, and after me there will not be another. ¹¹I, yes I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is no savior. ¹²I myself declared it. I brought salvation, and I announced it. It was not some strange god among you. You are my witnesses, declares the LORD, and I am God. ¹³Indeed, from the first day, I am he. There is no one who can deliver anyone from my hand. I act, and who can reverse it?

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

2 Timothy 1:3-10

Our vocations are different: apostle, pastor, parent, grandparent. Yet, God uses all these unique vocations to put us in positions to testify to the life-giving gospel, who delivers us from evil.

I thank God, whom I serve with a clean conscience as my ancestors did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day. ⁴When I remember your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I remember your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am convinced that it also lives in you.

⁶For this reason I am reminding you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷For God did not give us a timid spirit, but a spirit of power and love and sound judgment. ⁸So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Instead, join with me in suffering for the gospel while relying on the power of God. ⁹He saved us and called us with a holy calling, not because of our works, but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, ¹⁰and it has now been revealed through the appearance of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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GOSPEL

Luke 8:26-39

Using only his words, Jesus demonstrates his authority over the evil one.

They sailed down to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across from Galilee. ²⁷When Jesus stepped ashore, a man from the town met him. He was possessed by demons and for a long time had not worn any clothes. He did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, “What do I have to do with you, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don’t torment me!” ²⁹For Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. In fact, the unclean spirit had seized him many times. He was kept under guard, and although he was bound with chains and shackles, he would break the restraints and was driven by the demon into deserted places.

³⁰Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

He said, “Legion,” because many demons had gone into him. ³¹They were begging Jesus that he would not order them to go into the abyss. ³²A herd of many pigs was feeding there on the mountain. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and he gave them permission. ³³The demons went out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

³⁴When those who were feeding the pigs saw what happened, they ran away and reported it in the town and in the countryside. ³⁵People went out to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus’ feet. He was clothed and in his right mind, and the people were afraid. ³⁶Those who saw it told them how the demon-possessed man was saved. ³⁷The whole crowd of people from the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were gripped with great fear.

As Jesus got into the boat and started back, ³⁸the man from whom the demons had gone out begged to be with him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹“Return to your home and tell how much God has done for you.” Then he went through the whole town proclaiming what Jesus had done for him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

By Grace I’m Saved | 575

“The Only Reasonable Man in the Incident concerning the Man Possessed by Legion”

Pastor Boehringer

NICENE CREED

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PRESENTING OF OUR OFFERING

THE SACRAMENT

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DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Our Father, Throned in Heaven Above | 720
My Faith Looks Up to Thee | 811

CLOSING HYMN

If God Had Not Been on Our Side | 866

If God had not been on our side and had not come to aid us,
our foes with all their pow’r and pride would surely have dismayed us,
for we, his flock, would have to fear the devil’s wolves, both far and near,
who rise in might against us.

Their furious wrath, did God permit, would surely have consumed us
and as a deep and yawning pit with life and limb entombed us.
A hellish storm would o’er us roll from Satan, who desires our soul
and seeks to overwhelm us.

Blest be the Lord, who foiled their threat that they could not devour us.
Our souls, like birds, escaped their net; they could not overpower us.
The snare is broken—we are free! Our helper and our strength is he
who made the earth and heavens.

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ORGANIST

David Koepsell

GREETERS

8:00 ~ Travis & Brindah Birkholz
10:00 ~ Deb Jaeger