

Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



Mark 5:1-20
January 28, 2024



Scan with your Smartphone and link to our web page, our
Facebook page, and our YouTube Channel.

GATHERING

- **Prelude** **Roxanne Groff**
- **Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell**
- **Welcome** **Pr Mel Musser**

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Guiding God,

C: We have failed to follow you as we ought. We have not reached out to our neighbors with the selfless and sacrificial love you modeled for us. We have caused harm to others and your creation by our actions and by our unwillingness to act. Forgive us our sins and lead us back onto the path you have trod for the sake of others.

P: In Christ, God meets us where we are and as we are and for his sake, God makes us whole and holy. Go forth to follow Jesus in the knowledge that your sins are forgiven.

C: Amen.

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

* **GATHERING HYMN “Take My Life, That I May Be”**

LBW 406



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

* **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

C: **And also with you.**

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray... Faithful God, your steadfast love endures forever, through all generations. Inspire us through your word to share this love with our neighbors near and far. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: **Amen.**

WORD

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

January 28, 2024

Page 3 of 17

• **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**



Theme: Jesus Performs and Extreme Makeover

Materials: Pictures of Extreme Makeovers

Scripture: Mark 5:1-20

Good morning girls and boys. I hope you all had a great week. I'm so happy to see all of you today! There used to be a television show called, "Extreme Makeover." It was a show about people who were not happy with the way they looked. The TV show gave people an "extreme makeover" and promised they would look better and will feel better about themselves when they're done. Here's a couple of pictures showing you what I mean. There was also an "Extreme makeover" TV show just for houses, in rooms that were once dirty and are now super clean, and sometimes the houses were completely made over like this one where they even added a second floor. Can you think of other places where we see "extreme makeovers?" (People can lose weight, change their jobs, or even move to another city...)

There are many examples in the Bible of Jesus performing extreme makeovers. The big difference is that Jesus wasn't concerned about changing what a person looked like; He was concerned about what was on the inside. When Jesus did an extreme makeover, it was from the inside out. Our Bible lesson today is about one of the people who received an extreme makeover from Jesus.

Jesus and His disciples sailed across the sea of Galilee. When they reached the shore and stepped out of the boat, they were met by a man who was possessed by demons. For many years he had been homeless and naked and lived in a cemetery outside of town. That would be really scary! As soon as he saw Jesus, he fell down before Him and cried, "I beg you, don't torture me!" He said that because Jesus had already commanded the demons to come out of him and he was completely under the control of the demons.

When the demons went out of the man Jesus allowed them to enter the herd of pigs. Then entire herd of pigs ran down the side of the hill into the lake and drowned. The people of the town heard what had happened and went to see for themselves. When they got there they found the man who had been possessed by the demons sitting at the feet of Jesus fully dressed and no longer possessed by the evil spirits. The man's extreme makeover was complete.

Jesus is still performing extreme makeovers today. When we put our trust in Jesus and invite Him to be the ruler of our lives, He will do an extreme makeover on our lives too. The Bible says, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17) That is an extreme makeover!

Dear Father, we thank You for the new life we have in Jesus. Amen.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

January 28, 2024

Page 4 of 17

• **A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Mark 5:1-20**

R: Our scripture reading is from the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 5.

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

5 They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. ² And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. ³ He lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him any more, even with a chain; ⁴ for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. ⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him; ⁷ and he shouted at the top of his voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.” ⁸ For he had said to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!” ⁹ Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He replied, “My name is Legion; for we are many.” ¹⁰ He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. ¹¹ Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding; ¹² and the unclean spirits begged him, “Send us into the swine; let us enter them.” ¹³ So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and were drowned in the sea.

¹⁴ The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵ They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. ¹⁶ Those who had seen what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine reported it. ¹⁷ Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighborhood. ¹⁸ As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. ¹⁹ But Jesus refused, and said to him, “Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you.” ²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

C: **Praise to You, O Christ** (*Spoken*)

• **SERMON**

Pr. Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God Our Father and from the one who makes us whole, Jesus Christ our Savior, amen.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

I know most of you have heard the old joke about this story of Jesus sending the demons into a herd of pigs—history’s first recorded recipe for “Deviled Ham”... (SLIDE) Sorry, I just couldn’t resist... I had to start off with a joke because this sermon topic is so deadly serious. Who, in this room, or worshipping with us online lives without pain? I’m not just talking about physical pain, although I would never discount your physical pain, I want us to think deeper about the pain of suffering. There are all kinds of pain other than the kind where I hit my thumb with a hammer. So many of us suffer in silence with the sorrow, grief, and loneliness we carry around each and every day. (SLIDE)

In our scripture reading for today Mark provides us with the perfect description of a demoniac. He lived among the dead, which means he was a social outcast. No one would want to associate with him. He was tormented. He regularly broke chains. He howled to express his pain and suffering. He was filled with self-loathing so much that he bruised himself with stones. Other people could not restrain him. He was a threat to himself, to others and, to society. The man pictured in this story by Mark is a combination of all the pain and suffering every one has experienced at some time. Since he was suffering from a combination of everything that plagues humanity, we can all find something in this demon possessed man we can identify with.

When we look at each other we see people who appear on the surface to be fairly well put together, but when we look in the mirror we can't hide the pain we carry. When we first moved here from Alaska we lived about four or five houses down the street from another family that also attended our Church in Fairborn. The dad was a Lieutenant Colonel, the mom a nurse. We had a lot in common. More than we realized at first. PJ and I both assumed this family had everything we thought was ideal. By this time, I already knew I would never make Lt Colonel, but still, Kevin and I became good friends. At the same time, PJ and Lynn were both nurses and also became good friends. They had two children a boy and a girl. In school, their kids seemed to have it all together. I think it's safe to say we envied them because they seemed to have such a perfect life. I'm so happy God put Kevin and Lynn in our lives. I've learned so much about not judging people from them. When we got to know them, I discovered there was so much more beneath the surface. What appeared to be the ideal family, we soon learned was just a façade covering as much pain and sorrow as we, or any other family I knew at the time. I don't think Kevin and Lynn or Mel and PJ are too much different than most or all other families. We all struggle with some type of brokenness, pain, or sorrow. The only difference between our families today and this man in our scripture lesson is we do a lot better at covering up our brokenness. The demon possessed man who was forced to live in the cemetery couldn't cover

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

up his brokenness. We gloss over our deep angst and cover up everything that might even give the appearance of a problem, but we're just as demonized as this tomb dwelling man. The difference is most of us are still smiling on the outside.

The man in our text for today was not only an outcast, but he was also a threat to others. He had done things to break the relationships he had with family and friends. There's great guilt in the way we seem to most often hurt the ones we love the most. We all need forgiveness and healing. No one escapes the torments of life. We're tormented by memories. We're enslaved by secrets. We're driven by fears that we are so bad, we've come to believe we're unlovable—not even God can or will love us. The truth is, we *are* that bad. Not one of us in this room is untouched by the stench of Sin. The good news is that Jesus comes directly into the tombs where we suffer and none of us is beyond the healing touch of our Savior, Jesus Christ. God is in our healing whether it's physical, emotional, social, or psychological. Jesus responds to our need. In our Bible text, the demon sought Jesus out. It's a fact of the healing process that we must admit our need to God in order for God to minister to us at the place of our need and to heal us. That's why we begin almost every Worship service with the Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness. Before we open ourselves up to pray; before we hear God's Word in scripture, song, or sermon; and before we receive God's Blessing, we first confess our sin and our sinful nature to God and to one another. We acknowledge we are

as broken as the Gerasene Demoniac and there's nothing we can do to fix our condition. Perhaps the sin-sick condition of the demon possessed man was a little more obvious, okay, a lot more obvious, but that just makes our situation that much more insidious.

Here's what I mean... When you or I go to the doctor we can tell the doctor what hurts or where we feel the discomfort. When we take Melanie to the doctor it's much more of a guessing game. She can't tell us or the doctor exactly what hurts. That's sort of how we treat sin in our culture today. We don't talk about it. We cover it up. We pretend it doesn't exist. We even go so far as to call sin not a sin. Sometimes we deny a sin is a sin with good intentions. We want to include everyone so much, we're afraid if we call out a sin the other person will get mad at us and leave our tribe. We've invented all kinds of ways to cover up our brokenness. The end result is we never receive the one thing that can heal us, the love and forgiveness of God. So, we continue to wallow in our sinful nature.

I don't know what demons possess your life. I know Jesus has the power and the authority to cast them out. If you want them to be cast out... If we want them cast out... William Barclay the renown Scottish Biblical Commentator states he would have thought the people of the town would have regarded the whole matter with joy. I mean a very sick man was healed. Instead, they regarded it with terror. Anyone would have thought they would have begged Jesus to stay with

them and show them even more of His amazing power. Instead, they begged Him to get out of their district as soon as possible. The reaction of the people is really no surprise, just take one look at the cost. Two thousand head of pigs were sacrificed in order to heal one demon possessed man. How much more would it cost to heal the whole town? Of course, they were afraid...

We're no different. To live a healthy God centered life what do I have to give up? Excessive Internet Shopping... Over eating... My couch potato existence... If I'm being honest, most of the time I beg Jesus to leave me alone... In this Bible story, they said in effect to Jesus, 'You care for men; we care for swine. You don't count the cost, only the blessings. We care for the property rights of the people in this town. That is where we differ. So, Jesus, get out and leave us alone...' Oh, we may not use language so direct and honest, but we say the same thing. We say of social issues: What has Jesus of Nazareth to do with this? Shut Him up in our churches, but don't let Him out to roam freely in our streets, or into our homes, and especially not into the parts of my inner self that I keep hidden from others... When Jesus is on the loose, he's a dangerous character. He might make some changes in me... in us...

As I begin to wind down, yes there is an eventual end in sight... But first, I have to wonder, who was in more need of healing in this story, the mad man in the tombs or the people of the town... The people of the town weren't insane by

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

ancient or modern standards, but they were suffering from a terrible malady that has cursed humanity from the beginning. They placed property values above human values. They demanded the one Man who could have brought them true spiritual understanding and healing to depart from their midst. Contemplate that tragedy for a while!

We can expand this story to include all of society. There are many legions of demons still to be driven out of our modern civilization. Their number is legion: war, racial discrimination, economic injustice, ignorance, alcoholism, drug addiction, greed, and lust, just to name a few. One thing I know for certain, Christ is adequate to drive them all out. At a time when the irrational and the fanatic make the headlines, and crazy religion is on the rise all over the world, how good it is to know Jesus Christ speaks still speaks words of sweet sanity, and has come to put us in our right minds!

May there be peace on earth, and as the song goes, and let it begin with me.

(SLIDE) Come Lord Jesus; heal us, heal our town, our nation, and heal our world today, Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
 could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
 when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
 all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
 foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

* APOSTLES' CREED

The Nicene Creed is said on all festivals and on Sundays in the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. The Apostles' Creed is said at other times. The Creed is omitted here if the service of Holy Baptism or another rite with a creed is used.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: Trusting in the good news of Jesus Christ, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: You reached out to a man whose behavior was frightening to so many, restoring him to whole-ness. Push us through our discomfort with others' challenges, that we might extend love and grace to all who need it. God our teacher and healer,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Your miraculous creation is at the same time both strong and delicate. Help us to appreciate it's bold beauty, while working to ensure the balance it needs to thrive. God our teacher and healer,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Strengthen all those who work tirelessly to change systems and policies that marginalize those with mental illness or developmental disabilities. Guide our leaders to proclaim a message of inclusivity for all people. God our teacher and healer,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Demons need not be literal to diminish our lives and cause us pain. Cast out all those things we cling to or which cling to us that deprive us of full, healthy lives. Bring wholeness to all who suffer, (*especially...*) God our teacher and healer,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: We remember each day that nine million children in the United States regularly do not have enough food to foster healthy growth and development. In your name, push us to demand an end to food insecurity in one of the world's wealthiest nations. God our teacher and healer,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember all your saints who overcame challenge and even tragedy and credited their enduring faith in you. Let their example inspire that same faith in us as we navigate the pains and trials of everyday life. God our teacher and healer,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Confident that in Christ Jesus you answer prayer, we lift to you all for whom pray, aloud and in our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our savior.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

MEAL

- **OFFERING**

P: As we collect our offering here in person, those worshipping with us through the internet may go to our website located at www.pitsburgtlc.org where you'll find a button labeled "Give to Trinity." You can make your offering to God through our secure website.

- * **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Let us pray for the offerings we receive this day ... Holy God, we offer now our gifts and our tithes out of what you have generously given to us. Use them for the sake of all who suffer, that the world might know your healing love.

C: **Amen.**

- * **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Let us pray as Jesus taught...

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.**

SENDING

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- * **SENDING BLESSING**

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, bless you and remain with you always.

C: **Amen.**

* **SENDING HYMN** “Oh, For A Thousand Tongues to Sing” **LBW 559**



1 Oh, for a thousand 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,
 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
 4 He breaks the pow'r of can-celed sin; he sets the pris-'ner free.
 5 To God all glor-y, praise, and love be now and ev-er giv'n



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.
 sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
 His blood can make the foul-est clean; his blood a-vails for me.
 by saints be-low and saints a-bove, the church in earth and heav'n.

* **DISMISSAL**

P: Thank you all for joining us to worship our great and gracious God! Thanks also to our Facebook and other social media viewers for joining us as well.

We're glad you're with us today. Until the next time we gather together as God's people to offer our worship and praise, depart in Christ's Love.

C: Seeking, welcoming, and serving all. Amen!

* **POSTLUDE**

Roxanne Groff

Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS023830. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	Mark Oswalt
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

January 28, 2024

Page 15 of 17



Scripture readings for next Sunday, February 4th
Mark 5:21-43

Health Tips for the Week

MIND: Read a nonfiction book.

BODY: Don't forget to floss your teeth.

SPIRIT: Ask others "How may I pray for you?"

This Week @ Trinity – January 28 thru February 4:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, Jan. 28	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
Tues, Jan. 30	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting
Fri, Feb. 2	10:00 am	Youth & Family Ministry Meeting
	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, Feb. 4	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Communion

Save The Date!

Euchre Tournament	Jan 27 @ 6:00 pm
Souper Bowl Sunday (Favorite Sports Team Jersey)	Feb 11 @ 10:30 am
Pancake Supper – Mardi Gras Celebration	Feb 13 @ 6:00 pm
Ash Wednesday Worship	Feb 14 @ 7:pm
Trinity Troops (5 th – 6 th Graders)	Feb 18 After Worship
Lent Midweek Soup Supper/Devotion	Feb 21, 28 Mar 5, 12, 19 @ 6:30 pm
Palm/Passion Sunday	Mar 24 @ 10:30 am
Maundy Thursday Seder Meal	Mar 28 @ 6:00 pm
Good Friday	Mar 29 @ 7:00 pm
Easter Sunday Worship, Breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt	Mar 31 @ 8:00 am & 10:30 am

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

January 28, 2024

Page 16 of 17



Trinity is on the Air at FM 88.3

If you are near the Church on Sunday morning, you can tune in to FM 88.3 at 10:30 AM and hear the sermon from your car.

Holy Communion Delivery Available to ALL:

If you or anyone you know would like to have Holy Communion delivered to a home or place of business, please call Pastor Mel at 937-626-7100. He will bring a prefilled communion chalice including both sanctified wine and a morsel of bread all prepackaged from the Concordia True Vine company. This is a safe way to stay connected to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Trinity Contact Info

Pastor:	Mel Musser
Email:	pastor@pitsburgtlc.org
Cell Phone:	937-626-7100
Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
Email:	secretary@pitsburgtlc.org
Office Hours:	By Appointment
Office Phone:	937-692-5670
Website:	www.pitsburgtlc.org



-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated