**THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**June 22, 2025**

 “However, the story (of the healing of the demoniac) is not without its negative fallout. Upon hearing what happened to the demoniac and to the herd of swine, the people of that area asked Jesus to leave (vv. 34-37) ...”

 “ ...the reasons for the negative responses are two: fear and economic loss. The fear is evoked by the recognition of a power present which was greater than the power of evil spirits. If it is surprising that there was not unanimous joy at the arrival of a power greater than evil, a moment’s reflection will cause the surprise to subside.

 In the case of the Gadarene demoniac, the people knew the locus of the evil, knew where the man lived, and devoted considerable time and expense trying to guard and control him (v. 29). A community thus learns to live with demonic forces, isolating and partially controlling them. If it is not “spiritualizing” the story too much to say so, this partially successful balance of tolerance and management of the demonic among them also allowed the people to keep attention off of their own lives.

 But now the power of God for good comes to their community and it disturbs a way of life they had come to accept. Even when it is for good, power that can be neither calculated nor managed is frightening. What will God do next in our community? People who understand this fear are best prepared to understand the running fear created by Easter.

**Fred Craddock**

**✠ In the Name of Jesus ✠**

**✠ GATHERING ✠**

**INTRODUCTION**

This Sunday’s texts paint startling pictures of the horrific—the demonic—nature of sin. The church’s repeated celebration of the Holy Communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus "until he comes." It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."

**Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist, died 1931**

*Onesimos was born in Ethiopia. Captured, enslaved, and taken to Eritrea, he was there freed by Swedish missionaries. He translated the Bible into his native Oromo and returned to preach there.*

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)* New Song Praise Band**

 **(Newton, Tomlin, and Giglio)**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*As you are able please rise*

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P: In the name of the Father and of **✠** the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: “Be not far away, O LORD; You are my strength; hasten to help me.” (Psalm 22: 18)

 God is near to those who call upon Him for mercy and help. Let us therefore with

 confidence and hope confess our sins.

*Silence for reflection and meditation is kept*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We are captive to the power of sin and cannot free ourselves. We have not sought**

 **You though You wished to be found by us (Isaiah 65: 1a). We have not called upon**

 **Your name as often as You desire (65: 1b). We have walked in our own ways**

 **instead of in Your paths of holiness and truth (65: 2). We have provoked You to**

 **anger and grief (65: 3). In Your great compassion, have mercy on us. For the sake**

 **of Your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive us. Uphold us by Your Spirit, that we may live**

 **and serve You in newness of life.**

P: “As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ ...

 and if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the

 promise.” (Galatians 3: 27, 29) As Christ’s own, this promise is yours this Day: as a

 called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore

 declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of

 **✠**  the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**THE GATHERING SONG NSB 4 (sung 2x) *All Creation Worships You***

**THE GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated*

**✠ WORD ✠**

**FIRST READING Isaiah 65: 1-9**

*God's silence will be broken in the judgment of Israel's faithlessness. Though certain, this judgment will not be total. As the good are separated from the evil, so a remnant will survive, like the wine that results from the crushing of the grapes*

1I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask,

 to be found by those who did not seek Me

I said, "Here I am, here I am,"

 to a nation that did not call on My name.

2I held out My hands all day long

 to a rebellious people,

who walk in a way that is not good,

 following their own devices;

3a people who provoke Me

 to My face continually,

sacrificing in gardens

 and offering incense on bricks;

4who sit inside tombs,

 and spend the night in secret places;

who eat swine's flesh,

 with broth of abominable things in their vessels;

5who say, "Keep to Yourself,

 do not come near me, for I am too holy for you."

These are a smoke in My nostrils,

 a fire that burns all day long.

6See, it is written before me:

 I will not keep silent, but I will repay;

I will indeed repay into their laps

 7their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together,

 says the Lord;

because they offered incense on the mountains

 and reviled Me on the hills,

I will measure into their laps

 full payment for their actions.

8Thus says the Lord:

As the wine is found in the cluster,

 and they say, "Do not destroy it,

 for there is a blessing in it,"

so I will do for My servants' sake,

 and not destroy them all.

9I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,

 and from Judah inheritors of My mountains;

My chosen shall inherit it,

 and My servants shall settle there.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THE PSALM: Psalm 22: 19-28** **Read responsively**

19But You, O LORD, be not far away;

     O my help, hasten to my aid.

**20Deliver me from the sword,**

     **my life from the power of the dog.**

21Save me from the lion's mouth!

     From the horns of wild bulls You have rescued me.

**22I will declare Your name to my people;**

     **in the midst of the assembly I will praise You.**

23You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

     Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

**24For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;**

     **but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

25From You comes my praise in the great assembly;

     I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

**26The poor shall eat and be satisfied.**

     **Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

27All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

     all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**28For dominion belongs to the LORD,**

     **Who rules over the nations.**

**SECOND READING Galatians 3: 23-29**

*For Paul, baptism is a powerful bond that unites people in faith. Those who are baptized experience a radical equality that removes distinctions based on race, social class, or gender.*

23Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. 24Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. 25But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, 26for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. 27As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. 29And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*As you are able please rise*

**THE VERSE** (Sung twice)



**THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 8: 26-39**

*In response to being healed, the Gerasene indicates his willingness to be Jesus' disciple by sitting at Jesus' feet. Unlike the rest of the Gerasenes who, in their fear, asked Jesus to leave, the man who had been healed testified to what Jesus had done for him.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighth chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord!**

26Then Jesus and His disciples arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. 27As He stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met Him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. 28When he saw Jesus, he fell down before Him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have You to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me"--29for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.)

30Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. 31They begged Him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

 32Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So He gave them permission. 33Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

 34When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. 35Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. 36Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed.

37Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So He got into the boat and returned. 38The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ!**

*The assembly is seated*

**THE SERMON**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon*

*As you are able please rise*

**THE HYMN OF THE DAY *Cast Out, O Christ***

**THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

A: God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust

 and hope, we confess our faith.

**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.**

**THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

A: Let us pray that God pour out on us a spirit of grace and petition, as on Jerusalem of

 old, and hear us as we offer up our prayers on behalf of the Church, the world, and all

 those in need.

A: That the Church, children of God through Christ Jesus, might faithfully declare God’s

 mercy and compassion, we pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: That there might be peace in all the world, we pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: That this congregation may seek You continually in prayer and through service and

 witness testify to Your gracious mercy and compassion, we pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: That those afflicted with the demons of despair, addiction, and abuse might be

 protected, healed, and moved to declare how much God has done for them, we pray to

 the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: That the sick and suffering, especially: **David Weiss;** **Fred Weiss; Chris and**

 **Ronwynn Jones; Carol Radke; Martha Schroeder; Lucas Bradshaw; Sue Koziel;**

 **Larry Litchford; and Carol Pauluhn** might be clothed with Your healing love, we

pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: That those celebrating birthdays, especially **Dawn Fitzhugh;** **LouAnn Shebel and**

 **Muriel Jacobi and Helen Hill-Weaver** might grow in grace this day and every day

and be filled with grace for the days ahead, we pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: That the lives of the faithful who have gone before us might serve as models for our

 discipleship until we join them in praising God forever, we pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: O God, deepen our trust in You. Watch over us day and night, and protect us from

 harm’s way. Let us guard one another, that none may be excluded from our fellowship,

 embraced in Jesus Christ our Lord, in Whose name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

**✠ MEAL ✠**

**THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated*

**OFFERING**

**THE VOLUNTARY**

*As you are able please rise*

**THE OFFERTORY 465 *As the Grains of Wheat***

**THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A: Let us pray. Eternal God,

**C: In Christ Jesus we are Your children through faith. Receive these offerings we**

 **bring You out of our love and gratitude. By this holy Sacrament forgive our sins,**

 **release us from the power of evil, and clothe us again in the love and peace of**

 **Christ. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**



P: It is our duty and delight … and join their unending hymn:



P: Blessed are You, God and Father of all.

 Through creation and covenant, prophet and promise You have called us Your own

 and made us Your children.

 You pledged Yourself to Abraham and Sarah and their offspring forever.

 Through the Law You showed Your people the path of life; when they rejected Your

 ways, You did not forsake them but sent prophets to bring them home to

You.

 In the fullness of time You sent Your Son, making us heirs according to the promise

 made to Abraham, and adopting us as Your children through faith.

 In Christ You gather to Yourself all people in an eternal embrace where there is

 neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female.

 In His dying and rising You take away our sin and open us to the gift of everlasting

 life.

 Bounteous God, as You fed Elijah in the wilderness that he might draw near to Your

 holy mountain and come into Your presence,

 Make this Bread for the journey our place of encounter with You.

 Send Your Holy Spirit upon Your Church, and in the strength of this Food draw us

 near to the least and the lost.

 Make this bread and cup holy that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Your

 Son, Jesus Christ,

 Who, in the night ... “Do this for the remembrance of Me.”

 As often as we eat ...we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.



P: Everlasting God, in Whom deep calls to deep, You speak Your Word of life into

 the fullness of silence.

 Calm the fury of destruction around any caught up in tornado or hurricane, earth-

 quake or fire.

 Come to those who yearn for peace or protection.

 Quiet every troubled spirit and strengthen every soul cast down.

 Silence in us all clamoring for attention that is not Your own.

 Give us courage to hear the sound of sheer silence, that we may know Your still,

 small voice.

 Bring us at last into Your holy presence and gather us with Your saints around the

 altar of Your praise,

 When all who belong to Christ shall be one in You, eternal Father, in the power of

 the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.

**C: Amen!**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

P: As disciples who follow Jesus on the way to the Kingdom, with persevering faith let us

 pray:

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.**

 **Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

 **Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive**

 **those who sin against us.**

 **Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

 **For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever.**

 **Amen.**

**INVITATION TO THE MEAL**

P: This is the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world Blessed are those who

 are called to the Supper of the Lamb. God’s holy gifts for God’s holy people. Come,

 for all is now ready.

*The assembly is seated*

**THE DISTRIBUTION *Lamb of God***



**HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION 843 *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness***

 **NSB 100 *What the Lord Has Done in Me***

 **ELW 496 *One Bread, One Body***

 **ELW 574 *Here I Am, Lord***

*As you are able please rise*

**THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**C: Amen.**

**THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

A: Let us pray. Almighty God, guide and protect Your people who share in this sacred

 mystery. Deliver us from all evil and harm, and by Your Spirit, help us to grow daily

 into the fullness of Christ. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**✠ SENDING ✠**

**THE BENEDICTION**

P: Almighty God: Father, Son, **✠** and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING SONG NSB 98 *We Will Glorify***

**THE DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace and declare how much God has done for you.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

***✠ To God Alone Be Glory✠***

This week, during the Sending Hymn, the bookmark parament from the lectern (from where the Readings and Prayers are read) will be removed signifying the retiring of this set of paraments. It will remain empty until next week’s service.

 **Next weekend on June 28-29** we will be dedicating new green paraments in memory of Maxine Powell’s 40-year service on Altar Guild. They were donated by Pastor Ralph and Gayle Kuespert (Maxine’s daughter), along with about $2000 in memorials from the congregation and $500 from the Altar Guild. There will be several stages to the replacement of the old paraments and placing of the new.

The Meditation is from *Luke: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching.* Fred

 Craddock. (Nashville: John Knox Press, 1990) 117.

The musical setting of the liturgy, “Now the Feast and Celebration” by Marty Haugen, is

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The Eucharistic Prayer is adapted from *With One Voice.* Leader’s Edition. (Minneapolis:

 Augsburg Fortress Publishing House, 1995) 127.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Please remember to mail your offering to the Church Office** at 818 Franklin Street, Michigan City, IN 46360**.** Another alternative is to give on-line through Tithe.ly. Please see your closure letter for information on how to set up a Tithe.ly account.

 **St. Paul Members are reminded to have** a loved one contact the office if you are hospitalized. Many times, the Pastor doesn’t know someone is in the hospital. If you call and leave a message, please tell us at which hospital the patient is located.

**Birthdays: Dawn Fitzhugh (6/24); Lou Ann Shebel (6/24); Muriel Jacobi (6/25);**

**and Helen Hill Weaver (6/26)**

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Larry Litchford, Sarah McNabb, Carol Radke, Jeanie Boatman Shepple, Nolan Wilson, Debbie Martin, Mark Tannehill, Brian Wiseman, Kathy Stein, Danielle Schnell, Jan Paholski, Laura Dovey, Grace Romine and David Weiss.

 **OFFICE HOURS:** Libby will be in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; volunteers will cover Tuesdays and Thursdays.

  Monday & Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.

 Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

 Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

 **If you are listening to the worship broadcast on the radio and would like to watch the Sunday morning service live stream follow these steps:**

(1) If you have You Tube available on your TV, search for

 **St. Paul Lutheran Church Michigan City, IN.**

(2) The direct link on the computer is

 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5AIPNaKr3QN50984jGOa1g>.

    (3) This link is also on the main page of the church’s website in

 the church section and will continue to be posted weekly on the St.

 Paul Facebook page.

And it will always be available on the radio broadcast Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m.

on WEFM (95.9), and on the local cable access station #99 for the previous week’s

service on Sundays at 4:00 p.m. and the current service on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

and Fridays at 8:30 p.m.

**Sunday’s lessons are Acts 12: 1-11; Psalm 87: 1-3, 5-7; II Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18; John 21: 15-19** for those of you who like to study them in advance.

**To send e-mail to the church office**, please use the following addresses:

Pastor Mark Reshan: seniorpastor@stpaulmichigancity.com

Church Office Secretary (Libby Pollock): churchsecretary@stpaulmichigancity.com

Church Treasurer (Karen Fleming): finance@stpaulmichigancity.com

 **2025 Church Council:**

Mark Reshan - Pastor

 Janet Bakken – President

 Donna Knoll – Vice President

 Judy Hunt – Secretary

 Karen Fleming – Treasurer

 Members: Paul Brooks, Diane Egilske, Sue Koziel, Judy Mutchler,

 Jim Schraidt, Trish Sprague

**Worship Attendance:**

**Saturday , June 14, 2025 @ 4:00 p.m. 27**

**Sunday, June 15, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m. 72**

**TOTAL 99**

**ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & MEETINGS**

**JUNE 2025**

**Sunday,** June 22, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m. Pent 2 Worship Service/Sanctuary

 Coffee in St. Paul Room after service

**Monday,** June 23, 2025 @ 2:00 p.m. Finance Comm. Mtg./Luther House

 @3:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting/Luther House

**Wednesday,** June 25, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m. God’s Purls/St. Paul Room

 @4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

 @5:30 p.m. 150th Anniversary Comm. Mtg./Luther House

**Thursday,** June 26, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m. Church Council Mtg./St. Paul Room

**Saturday,** June 28, 025 @ 4:00 p.m. Pent 3 Worship Service/Sanctuary

**Sunday,** June 29, 2025 @9:00 a.m. Pent 3 Worship Service/Sanctuary

 Coffee in St. Paul Room after service HOSTED BY THE ALTAR GUILD

**MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR JUNE 2025**

**The mission of the month for St. Paul Lutheran is the Team Kentucky Storm Relief Fund.** The governor of Kentucky has established this fund to assist those impacted by the severe weather and tornadoes this year. The fund has no administration fees, so every dollar goes to help Kentuckians affected by the historic flooding and sever weather. Governor Beshear has said that the fund will first go towards paying funeral expenses for those lost to the storms, stating that people who have lost so much in a natural disaster shouldn’t have to worry about how to bury their loved ones. Please make checks payable to St. Paul and mark for the June Mission of the Month and place in the offering plate. June noisy coin offering will also support the mission of the month. Thank you for your generosity in helping those affected by this natural disaster as well as your continued prayers for the victims and their loved ones.

**Copies of the minutes from the March 27, 2025 and the May 1, 2025 Church Council meetings are on the back table in the upper Narthex. They were approved by the council via email.**

**FYI:**

In response to the ever rising costs for postage we will be putting your copy

of the “Good News” in your hanging file folder in the narthex each month

from now on. Those of you who are unable to attend services on a regular

basis may still receive your copies through your email address or in the

U.S. mail. If you normally receive your copy of the newsletter via your

email address anyway, nothing will change for you. Thank you so much for

your understanding and cooperation!

 **The Good News Newsletter**: If you have an article or anything you want included in **The Good News** please send it to the following e-mail address: splcgoodnews@gmail.com. Pastor Pamela Thiede will be using this e-mail address to assemble **The Good News** each month. The deadline for getting information to Pastor Pamela will be the 20th of each month.

**CONGRATULATIONS to Rachel and Sarah Sutor on their graduations!**

Rachel graduated Magna Cum Laude from Valparaiso University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Healthcare Leadership, and has been accepted as a direct admit into Valparaiso’s Doctorate program for Occupational Therapy, which she will begin in August. Rachel was an active member of Church Vocations for VU, serves on the University’s Honor Council, is a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa National Collegiate Honor Society, and was a peer tutor, all while working several part-time jobs.

Sarah graduated with Distinction and Academic Honors from Michigan City High School. She has been accepted as a direct admit into the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, Bloomington, which she will begin in August. Sarah is a member of the National Honor Society and held the position of Treasurer; a member of the Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society and held positions of Treasurer and Secretary; a member of the Spanish World Language Honor Society; a member of the Steering Committee; was a starter for the MCHS Volleyball team as well as the captain for the JV team and co-captain for the Varsity team; and also volunteered her time with several school and community programs.