

Organ Prelude

Praise Song

Welcome

The People Gather

L: We are called by Jesus to be in ministry and mission to this world.

**P: But we wonder if we are going to be able to do this mighty work.**

L: As we listen to Jesus' words of teaching, see the healing ministry, so we must place our trust in the call to go and serve.

**P: Lord, prepare us this day to truly be the disciples You would have us be.**

Hymn

The People Pray

**Lord of mystery and community, You have called us here this day to remind us of the mission journey You set before us. Open our hearts today, O Lord, to feel the powerful strength and love You have for us. Help us to listen, not only with our ears, but with our spirits for Your words of compassion and healing. Enable us to become more faithful disciples for You; for we ask this in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN**

Special Music

The People Confess Their Sin

**Patient Lord, You know us so well. We are fascinated by healing and can talk all day about the miracles, but we do not understand the compassion of Christ. We often say, "Just heal us; or Just make me rich; or Just make things go better at work" or other such deals and then we promise our faithfulness and witness.. But in our hearts, we just don't get it. Please forgive us, Lord, when our greed and fear gets in the way of understanding. Help us to know the transformational power of Your love. Get us ready to be faithful witnesses to You in all that we say and do. It is in Jesus' Name that we pray. AMEN.**

God's Words of Assurance

In the name of Jesus Christ you have been restored. Praise be to God who has given you new life. AMEN.

The Word of God for the People of God

Scripture

Mark 5:1-20

They came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gerasenes.<sup>2</sup> As soon as he got out of the boat, a man with an unclean spirit came out of the tombs and met him.<sup>3</sup> He lived in the tombs, and no one was able to restrain him anymore—not even with a chain—<sup>4</sup> because he often had been bound with shackles and chains, but had torn the chains apart and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him.<sup>5</sup> Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains, he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.<sup>6</sup> When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and knelt down before him.<sup>7</sup> And he cried out with a loud voice, "What do you have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you before God, don't torment me!"<sup>8</sup> For he had told him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"<sup>9</sup> "What is your name?" he asked him. "My name is Legion," he answered him, "because we are many."<sup>10</sup> And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the region.<sup>11</sup> A large herd of pigs was there, feeding on the hillside.<sup>12</sup> The demons begged him, "Send us to the pigs, so that we may enter them."<sup>13</sup> So he gave them permission, and the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs. The herd of about two thousand rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned there.<sup>14</sup> The men who tended them ran off and reported it in the town and the countryside, and people went to see what had happened.<sup>15</sup> They came to Jesus and saw the man who had been demon-possessed, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.<sup>16</sup> Those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and told about the pigs.<sup>17</sup> Then they began to beg him to leave their region.<sup>18</sup> As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged him earnestly that he might remain with him.<sup>19</sup> Jesus did not let him but told him, "Go home to your own people, and report to them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you."<sup>20</sup> So he went out and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and they were all amazed.

Message The First Missionary

Pastoral Prayer

The People Bring Their Gifts

Prayer over the Offering

The People Go into The World

Praise Song

Benediction

Organ Postlude