

Sermon followed by Service

January 30, 2022

Luke 4:38-44

You've been there, haven't you? You're going down the steps into the cellar, you take a sniff - musty, stale. If you were spelunking in a cave, it would be the smell of an adventure. But in the cellar, it's more like a smell of death, a stale mustiness working its way through everything down in that dank darkness. You've sniffed it, even tasted it - haven't you? - stale mustiness?

What does that have to do with our lesson? Nothing, well, almost nothing. In our lesson we don't taste or even smell stale mustiness, we see mustness, the mustness of Jesus.

What do I mean by the mustness of Jesus? Look and listen to Jesus in our lesson. It's early in his ministry. At the beginning of the chapter, Jesus follows the Holy Spirit's lead and goes out into the wilderness to do battle with Satan. He's focused on what God gave him to do; he doesn't let Satan distract him with comfort and convenience; he doesn't let Satan distract him with the good life, the easy life, the me-life. No, Jesus is here to do what God gives him to do - and he puts Satan in his place. Then Jesus heads north to Galilee; he goes to Nazareth where he grew up. Again, we see the mustness of Jesus - on the Sabbath he goes to the synagogue as was his custom. To gather with the people of God to hear and share the Word of God - that was a must. Even when the people didn't want to hear what Jesus had to say. In Nazareth, they try to chase Jesus off and throw him off the cliff, but Jesus just walks on through. He couldn't be stopped; he

wouldn't be stopped. Here, there, he kept on preaching and teaching. And the people were amazed at the authority of his teaching - there is a mustness in his Word.

What mustness do you hear in the word of Jesus?

On the day of our lesson, Jesus is in the synagogue preaching, teaching, living the life. What life? Not the life of the world, but living the life of God, doing what God gave him to do. After teaching in the synagogue, after casting out an evil spirit and amazing the people with the mustness of his word - **“even the evil spirits have to obey him”** - Jesus goes to Simon Peter's house.

Peter's mother-in-law has a high fever. With the mustness of his Word, Jesus rebukes the fever and it leaves. And Peter's mother-in-law - now there is a mustness in her. She gets up and just has to do for Jesus and the others.

How have you been blessed by Jesus' mustness for you?

How has Jesus' mustness for you worked in you a mustness for Jesus?

How does your mustness for Jesus show in your life?

After that, what are we told? **“When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, ‘You are the Son of God!’ But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Christ.”** It could have been, it should have been time for Jesus to sit back and relax. But his preaching, his teaching, his work was paying off - people were coming to him for help. So with a mustness, Jesus did what he was here to do - he showed the love of his

Father and healed the sick. With a mustness, Jesus did what he came to do - he put Satan in his place and cast out Satan's demons.

Did you notice? Did you notice this about Jesus' mustness? His patience, his heart for people? Sometimes when we're feeling a mustness - "I've got people to see and things to do." Sometimes when we're feeling a mustness - "We need to get this right." Sometimes when we're feeling a mustness, we steer into the fast lane with a drive that turns brisk and brusque with a bite, that morphs from shepherd of sheep to driver of cattle. Did you notice Jesus' patience, his heart for people? Jesus didn't settle for convenience or efficiency; he reached out and touched each one; he reached out and laid his hands on each one to heal them. He didn't just have a mustness to get things done; he has a mustness to personally, carefully love each and every one of us.

When our mustness for Jesus turns brisk and brusque and with a bite, when our mustness for Jesus morphs from shepherd to sheep to driver of cattle - what does the love of Jesus invite and compel us to do?

The next morning, he didn't sleep in. He had a mustness about his day. He got up before bright and early and went off alone to pray. Peter, the disciples, and more, hunted Jesus down. They wanted Jesus to stay. Sounds like a win, doesn't it? After being chased out of Nazareth, being chased down to stay in Capernaum must have been a welcome change. But Jesus had a restless mustness inside him. He couldn't stay put: "**I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.**" "I must" ... not just do good things, not just do right things, not just do easy things, not just do what people want. "**I must preach the good**

news to others too, because that is why I was sent.” It’s easy to get caught up in doing nice things, good things, right things, and to let ourselves slide on why we are here - to share the Good News of the kingdom. Jesus didn’t let his mustness slide. Jesus didn’t let his mustness get put off to the side. Jesus kept his mustness alive - **“I must preach the good news of the kingdom to others also.”**

How’s your mustness? Have you been a Christian so long that your mustness is getting musty and stale? Have you let COVID coop you up or wear you down so your mustness for God is slipping or sliding? It’s easy to feel worn down and cooped up and let COVID be an excuse ... because we all know that you can catch COVID from making a phone call or sending a note to check in on someone you haven’t seen in a while, right? It’s easy to put our mustness for Jesus off to the side, even on the slide, so we can rest and recuperate, but we want to watch out. It’s easy to rest with the world and forget to re-charge with Jesus. It’s easy to let our mustness for Jesus turn musty and stale. Sometimes musty and stale can be refreshed and renewed. But sometimes people let musty and stale get so set in themselves that what are they good for? Nothing but the burning pit of hell.

What is the difference between resting with the world and re-charging with Jesus?

Thank God for Jesus’ mustness. When you think of Jesus saying “must,” what comes to mind? The “must” of the cross. **“The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected ... that he must be killed and after three days rise again.”** Jesus had a mustness in him, a must to love God, a must to love you, a must that he couldn’t put off to the slide, a must that he wouldn’t let slide, a must he took all the way to the cross. On the way to the cross, what did he do? He took the

musts that we've put off to side, the musts we've let slide; he's taken our mustiness and staleness. He took it all as his own and was cursed and crushed and tossed out as though he were musty and stale. Now, with Jesus, God calls you forgiven, and he sees you with mustness, not mustiness; he sees you with the mustness of Jesus. And by his Spirit, he refreshes and renews us to live like Jesus - to live the life God has for us.

About a month ago we began this new year at the baptism font. Baptized, we get to live a new life with God. Baptized, we get to live a life of new starts together with God. So, do you sense a staleness, a mustiness in your life with God? Let's make this year a year of new starts. Look to Jesus, refresh, renew, and live with the mustness of Jesus - "I have a life to live with God!" Amen.

How are you using your baptism to live a life of new starts this year?

What is the biggest challenge to living a life of new starts?

What may be a solution for those challenges?

In what ways has your mustness for Jesus become musty?

In what ways has our St. John mustness for Jesus become musty?

Seeing our mustiness and seeing Jesus' mustness, what do we do?

What does Jesus do?

Then what? Now what?

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Family Connecting in Christ



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The Service

OPENING HYMN

“O Christians, Haste”
Hymn 901

O Christians, haste, your mission high fulfilling,
to tell to all the world that God is light,
that he who made all nations is not willing
one soul should perish, lost in shades of night.

Refrain

Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace,
tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.

Behold how many thousands still are lying
bound in the dreary prison-house of sin
with none to tell them of the Savior’s dying
or of the life he died for them to win.

Refrain

Proclaim to ev’ry people, tongue, and nation
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;
tell how he stooped to save his lost creation
and died on earth that they might live above.

Refrain

Send heralds forth to bear the message glorious,
give of your wealth to speed them on their way;
pour out your soul for them in prayer victorious;
O Christians, haste to bring the brighter day!

Refrain

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

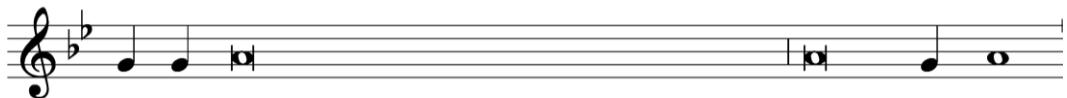
Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

CW p. 174



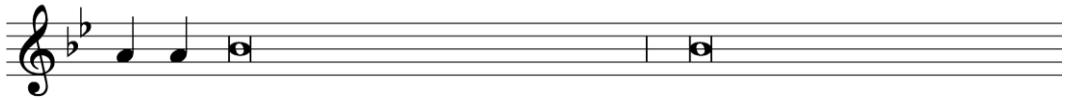
In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of



God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST (CHOIR)

CW p.176

The choir sings the first refrain and verses. The congregation joins on the following refrains.

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to his peo - ple on earth.

Last time only

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Refrain

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

Refrain

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING*Jeremiah 1:4–10*

The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

“Alas, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.”

But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.

Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY*Psalms 71A**Refrain*

God is my strong sal - va - tion; what foe have I to fear?

Tone

In you, LORD, I have taken / refuge;

let me never be / put to shame.

In your righteousness, rescue me and de- / liver me;

turn your ear to me and / save me.

Be my rock of / refuge,

to which I can / always go.

Refrain

Since my youth, God, you have / taught me,
and to this day I declare your / marv'ulous deeds.
Even when I am / old and gray,
do not forsake / me, my God,
till I declare your power to the next gener- / ation,
your mighty acts to all who / are to come.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 4:43



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God,
because that is why I was sent.

Refrain

GOSPEL

Luke 4:38–44

Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.

At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. But he said, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.” And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

Hymn 517

Praise the one who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;
praise the one who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the one who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands with the Father's word of peace.

Praise the one who blessed the children with a strong, yet gentle, word;
praise the one who drove out demons with the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the one who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water, quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

Let us praise the Word incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose victorious that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done;
let us praise the true Redeemer, praise the one who makes us one.

SERMON

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER

M: May this be a time, O Lord, for confession and repentance. Forgive us for the apathy that harms our faith and hinders our works. Forgive us for boasting of our past achievements and for blaming others for our present problems. Rid us of indifference to public worship and Bible study. Destroy the distrust that plagues us, and shatter every thought and word that harms the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace.

C: **Create in us pure hearts, O God, and renew steadfast spirits within us.**

M: Let this be a time, O Lord, when you renew us again by Word and sacrament, when you reform our hearts and minds, and when you restore to us the joy of fellowship and service. Grant to us in this age and in this place the courage, steadfastness, and dedication of those who have gone before us.

C: **May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our fathers; may he never leave us nor forsake us.**

M: Let this be a time, O Lord, when we recommit and reconsecrate ourselves to the ministry of the gospel. Let us find joy in our unity, zeal for our work, and success in our labor.

C: **May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us, that his ways may be known on earth, his salvation among all nations. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)

(Individually packaged wafers are gluten-free.)

PREFACE

CW p.183



The Lord be with you.



And al - so with you.



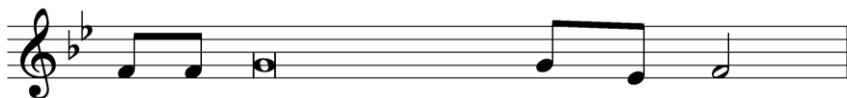
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

CW p.184

The musical score is written on seven staves of music in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!"

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
san - na in the high - est!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my T body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my T blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

JESUS, LAMB OF GOD

CW p.186



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
 Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us your peace.

DISTRIBUTION (CHOIR)

“Across the Lands”
Hymn 549

*You're the Word of God the Father from before the world began.
 Ev'ry star and ev'ry planet has been fashioned by your hand.
 All creation holds together by the power of your voice.
 Let the skies declare your glory, let the land and seas rejoice!*

Refrain

*You're the author of creation, you're the Lord of ev'ry man,
 And your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

*Yet you left the gaze of angels, came to see and save the lost,
 And exchanged the joy of heaven for the anguish of a cross.
 With a prayer you fed the hungry, with a word you calmed the sea,
 Yet how silently you suffered that the guilty may go free! **Refrain***

*With a shout you rose victorious, wresting vict'ry from the grave,
 And ascended into heaven, leading captives in your way.
 Now you stand before the Father, interceding for your own;
 From each tribe and tongue and nation you are leading sinners home! **Refrain***

PRAYER

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and T give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Hymn 932

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from his dwelling take leave. The supper is ended;
O be now extended the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us;
his love shall unite us to work for God's kingdom and answer his call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face. Our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring, embracing his children of each tribe and race.
One bread that has fed us, one light that has led us
unite us as one in his life that we share. Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

OFFERING

*If you prefer online giving, you may scan this code
with your mobile device.*



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