

biblical
MONSTERS

Midweek #4

WELCOME and RELATIONSHIPS of PEACE

OPENING HYMN “My Song is Love Unknown” [LW 91, v. 1-2, 7]

INVOCATION

P: In your baptism, you received the sign of the cross on your forehead and on your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ, the crucified.

C: The sign of the cross always reminds us who we are and to Whom we belong.

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

C: Amen. We are marked with God’s name, and we now live under the sign of the cross! Amen.

SCRIPTURE 1 Samuel 28:3-25 [NIV]

³Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in his own town of Ramah. Saul had expelled the mediums and spiritists from the land. ⁴The Philistines assembled and came and set up camp at Shunem, while Saul gathered all Israel and set up camp at Gilboa. ⁵When Saul saw the Philistine army, he was afraid; terror filled his heart. ⁶He inquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him by dreams or Urim or prophets. ⁷Saul then said to his attendants, “Find me a woman who is a medium, so I may go and inquire of her.” “There is one in Endor,” they said.

⁸So Saul disguised himself, putting on other clothes, and at night he and two men went to the woman. “Consult a spirit for me,” he said, “and bring up for me the one I name.” ⁹But the woman said to him, “Surely you know what Saul has done. He has cut off the mediums and spiritists from the land. Why have you set a trap for my life to bring about my death?”

¹⁰Saul swore to her by the LORD, “As surely as the LORD lives, you will not be punished for this.” ¹¹Then the woman asked, “Whom shall I bring up for you?” “Bring up Samuel,” he said.

¹²When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out at the top of her voice and said to Saul, “Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!” ¹³The king said to her, “Don’t be afraid. What do you see?” The woman said, “I see a ghostly figure coming up out of the earth.”

¹⁴“What does he look like?” he asked. “An old man wearing a robe is coming up,” she said. Then Saul knew it was Samuel, and he bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. ¹⁵Samuel said to Saul, “Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?” “I am in great distress,” Saul said. “The Philistines are fighting against me, and God has departed from me. He no longer answers me, either by prophets or by dreams. So I have called on you to tell me what to do.”

¹⁶Samuel said, “Why do you consult me, now that the LORD has departed from you and become your enemy? ¹⁷The LORD has done what he predicted through me. The LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hands and given it to one of your neighbors—to David.

¹⁸Because you did not obey the LORD or carry out his fierce wrath against the Amalekites, the LORD has done this to you today. ¹⁹The LORD will deliver both Israel and you into the hands of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The LORD will also give the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines.”

²⁰Immediately Saul fell full length on the ground, filled with fear because of Samuel’s words. His strength was gone, for he had eaten nothing all that day and all that night. ²¹When the woman came to Saul and saw that he was greatly shaken, she said, “Look, your servant has obeyed you. I took my life in my hands and did what you told me to do. ²²Now please listen to your servant and let me give you some food so you may eat and have the strength to go on your way.” ²³He refused and said, “I will not eat.”

But his men joined the woman in urging him, and he listened to them. He got up from the ground and sat on the couch. ²⁴The woman had a fattened calf at the house, which she butchered at once. She took some flour, kneaded it and baked bread without yeast. ²⁵Then she set it before Saul and his men, and they ate. That same night they got up and left.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “GHOSTS & WITCHES”

OFFERING

“Two Lenten Hymn Settings”

arr. John Behnke

Organ

PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN “Doxology”

LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER

C: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

POSTLUDE “Postlude in G Minor”

André Raison

SERMON: *John Vawar, Mosaic Missionary*

LITURGIST: *Rev. Morgan Hamilton*

Five Worldviews				
	Reality	Man	Truth	Values
Naturalism Atheism Agnosticism Existentialism	<p>The material universe is all that exists. Reality is "one-dimensional." There is no such thing as a soul or a spirit. Everything can be explained on the basis of natural law.</p>	<p>Man is the chance product of a biological process of evolution. Man is entirely material. The human species will one day pass out of existence.</p>	<p>Truth is usually understood as scientific proof. Only that which can be observed with the five senses is accepted as real or true.</p>	<p>No objective values or morals exist. Morals are individual preferences or socially useful behaviors. Even social morals are subject to evolution and change.</p>
Pantheism Hinduism Taoism Buddhism much New Age Consciousness	<p>Only the spiritual dimension exists. All else is illusion, maya. Spiritual reality, Brahman, is eternal, impersonal, and unknowable. It is possible to say that everything is a part of God, or that God is in everything and everyone.</p>	<p>Man is one with ultimate reality. Thus man is spiritual, eternal, and impersonal. Man's belief that he is an individual is illusion.</p>	<p>Truth is an experience of unity with "the oneness" of the universe. Truth is beyond all rational description. Rational thought as it is understood in the West cannot show us reality.</p>	<p>Because ultimate reality is impersonal, many pantheistic thinkers believe that there is no real distinction between good and evil. Instead, "unenlightened" behavior is that which fails to understand essential unity.</p>
Theism Christianity Islam Judaism	<p>An infinite, personal God exists. He created a finite, material world. Reality is both material and spiritual. The universe as we know it had a beginning and will have an end.</p>	<p>Humankind is the unique creation of God. People were created "in the image of God," which means that we are personal, eternal, spiritual, and biological.</p>	<p>Truth about God is known through revelation. Truth about the material world is gained via revelation and the five senses in conjunction with rational thought.</p>	<p>Moral values are the objective expression of an absolute moral being.</p>
Spiritism and Polytheism Thousands of Religions	<p>The world is populated by spirit beings who govern what goes on. Gods and demons are the real reason behind "natural" events. Material things are real, but they have spirits associated with them and, therefore, can be interpreted spiritually.</p>	<p>Man is a creation of the gods like the rest of the creatures on earth. Often, tribes or races have a special relationship with some gods who protect them and can punish them.</p>	<p>Truth about the natural world is discovered through the shaman figure who has visions telling him what the gods and demons are doing and how they feel.</p>	<p>Moral values take the form of taboos, which are things that irritate or anger various spirits. These taboos are different from the idea of "good and evil" because it is just as important to avoid irritating evil spirits as it is good ones.</p>
Postmodernism	<p>Reality must be interpreted through our language and cultural "paradigm." Therefore, reality is "socially constructed."</p>	<p>Humans are nodes in a cultural reality – they are a product of their social setting. The idea that people are autonomous and free is a myth.</p>	<p>Truths are mental constructs meaningful to individuals within a particular cultural paradigm. They do not apply to other paradigms. Truth is relative to one's culture.</p>	<p>Values are part of our social paradigms as well. Tolerance, freedom of expression, inclusion, and refusal to claim to have the answers are the only universal values.</p>