

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

He Speaks with Authority!

February 2 & 3, 2013

AS WE GATHER

In the Epiphany Season we see Jesus continuing to reveal Himself to foes and followers alike. In today's Gospel an unclean spirit discloses more about Jesus than He wants; Jesus silences the unclean spirit. Jesus astounds those who witness the exorcism. God's Word in Christ is always effective; that is the absolute assurance God gives Jeremiah when He calls him to be a prophet. Jeremiah needed the gifts of the Holy Spirit to carry out his ministry, and so do we. Paul's letter to the Corinthians reveals that God's best gift for us through the Holy Spirit is that gift of love---a profound gift that shapes our faith and witness among believers and nonbelievers.

10:30 PRESERVICE BELL ANTHEMS *"Jubilate"* *"Thy Strong Word"*

WELCOME

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8

MINISTRY MOMENT

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #901 "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

Open now thy gates of beauty; Zion let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty Waits for Him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place, Filled with solace, light, and grace!

Gracious God, I come before Thee; Come Thou also unto me.
Where we find Thee and adore Thee, There a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter Thou; Let it be Thy temple now!

Here Thy praise is gladly chanted; Here Thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted, Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be Fruitful unto life in me.

Thou my faith increase and quicken; Let me keep Thy gift divine,
Howsoe'er temptations thicken; May Thy Word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life, As my comfort in all strife.

Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee; Let Thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near Thee While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God, our Father.

People: **Lord of heaven and earth, we confess that we have not relied on you for the strength we need to resist temptation, to profess our faith amid this secular world, to love one another in your name, or even to believe that each of our sins is actually forgiven. By ourselves we are helpless to overcome our grievous faults, but enveloped in your grace we can turn and walk in your ways. Strengthen our faith, forgive us, and renew in us a desire to be your holy people, guided by your Word and proclaiming it in love to the people around us.**

Pastor: Our heavenly Father is our rock, our refuge; Jesus is our ever-present Savior and our Lord; His Holy Spirit remains our comforter, our companion providing the gifts we need to amend our sinful lives. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh, the very same Jesus Christ our Lord, 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.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAISE #578

"Thy Strong Word"

Stanzas 1,4,6

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; At Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run.

Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

From the cross Thy wisdom shining Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth All Thy bright redeeming light.

Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.

Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, you know we live under so many seemingly powerful authorities.

People: Keep us mindful daily that your Word carries the authority to forgive sin, to conquer evil, and to announce your gracious Gospel;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Jeremiah 1:4-19 (*Jeremiah is called to be a prophet.*)

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." "Ah, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' 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, "Now, 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 came to me: "What do you see, Jeremiah?" "I see the branch of an almond tree," I replied. The LORD said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled." The word of the LORD came to me again: "What do you see?" "I see a boiling pot, tilting away from the north," I answered. The LORD said to me, "From the north disaster will be poured out on all who live in the land. I am about to summon all the peoples of the northern kingdoms," declares the LORD. "Their kings will come and set up their thrones in the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem; they will come against all her surrounding walls and against all the towns of Judah. I will pronounce my judgments on my people because of their wickedness in forsaking me, in burning incense to other gods and in worshiping what their hands have made. "Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them. Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land—against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land. They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 12:31b--13:13 (*The greatest gift is love.*)

And now I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

8:00 MEDLEY

"Good News" "Lead Me, Lord"

Children's Choir

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 4:31-44 (*Jesus speaks with authority.*)

Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath began to teach the people. They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority. In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an evil spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, "Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" "Be quiet!" Jesus said sternly. "Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him. All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What is this teaching? With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out!" And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area. 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. 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. 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 preach 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. (Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #842

"Son of God, Eternal Savior"

Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race,
You our Head, who, throned in glory, For Your own will ever plead;
Fill us with Your love and pity, Heal our wrongs and help our need.

As You, Lord, have lived for others, So may we for others live.

Freely have Your gifts been granted; Freely may Your servants give.

Yours the gold and Yours the silver, Yours the wealth of land and sea;

We but stewards of Your bounty Held in solemn trust will be.

Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of love and Prince of Peace;

Hush the storm of strife and passion, Bid its cruel discords cease.

By Your patient years of toiling, By Your silent hours of pain,

Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, Stem our selfish greed of gain.

Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race;
By Your praying, by Your willing That Your people should be one,
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition: Here on earth Your will be done.

SERMON *"Gracious Giving . . . and Gracious Living"* Colossians 3:15-17

8:00 RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

(Rise)

NICENE CREED (*inside back cover of hymnal*)

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

10:30 BELL ANTHEM DURING OFFERING *"Son of God, Eternal Savior"*

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Response at the end of each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Pastor: . . . through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace + of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first. (5)

10:30 BELL ANTHEM

"Alleluia"

HYMN

"Savior, Thy Dying Love"

TLH #403

Savior, Thy dying love Thou gavest me;

Nor should I aught withhold, Dear Lord, from Thee.

In love my soul would bow, My heart fulfil its vow, Some offering bring Thee now,
Something for Thee.

O'er the blest mercy seat, Pleading for me,

My feeble faith looks up, Jesus, to Thee.

Help me the cross to bear, Thy wondrous love declare, Some song to raise or prayer,
Something for Thee.

Give me a faithful heart, Likeness to Thee,

That each departing day Henceforth may see

Some work of love begun, Some deed of kindness done, Some wand'rer sought and won,
Something for Thee.

All that I am and have, Thy gifts so free,

In joy, in grief, through life, Dear Lord, for Thee!

And when Thy face I see, My ransomed soul shall be Thro' all eternity
Something for Thee. Amen.

HYMN #584 "Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing"

Faith and truth and life bestowing, Open now the Scriptures, Lord,

Seed to life eternal sowing, Scattered on the wind abroad.

Let not hearts, Your Word receiving, Like a barren field be found,

Choked with thorns and unbelieving, Shallow earth or stony ground.

May the Spirit's pow'r unceasing Bring to life the hidden grain,

Daily in our hearts increasing, Bearing fruit that shall remain.

So in scripture, song, and story, Savior, may Your voice be heard.

Till our eyes behold Your glory Give us ears to hear Your Word.

HYMN #523 "O Word of God Incarnate"

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,

O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:

We praise You for the radiance That from the hallowed page,

A lantern to our footsteps, Shines on from age to age.

The Church from You, dear Master, Received the gift divine;

And still that light is lifted O'er all the earth to shine.

It is the chart and compass That, all life's voyage through,

Mid mists and rocks and quick-sands Still guides, O Christ, to You.

O make Your Church, dear Savior, A lamp of burnished gold
To bear before the nations Your true light as of old!
O teach Your wan-d'ring pilgrims By this their path to trace
Till, clouds and darkness ended, They see You face to face!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have again assured us of the forgiveness of our sins as we have received the body and blood of our Lord, the Word in the flesh, in this sacrament. Rule in our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit, we pray, that we may proclaim His authority over all sin and evil; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you, now and forever.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #924 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing, Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Your love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us; O refresh us, Trav'ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration For Your Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of Your salvation In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful To Your truth may we be found.

Savior, when Your love shall call us From our struggling pilgrim way.
Let not fear of death appall us, Glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever Reign with You in endless day.

Preacher	Pastor Harold Bender
Liturgist	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Lectors	Pat Mundstock, Jim Laux, John Ficken
Acolytes	Kaylee Quillen, Nathaniel Gottschalk, Hailey Kadolph
Organist & Children's Choir Director	Roger Gottschalk
Bell Choir Director	Jan Schneider
Music Coordinator	Kim Woller

*Next weekend is our
Consecrated Stewards Celebration Weekend*

Dr. Robert Lessing, a professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will be our special guest preacher. Please note we will be holding **two worship services next weekend: 5:00pm Saturday and 10:00am Sunday.**

