

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Raising Up a Prophet
January 31 & February 1, 2015

AS WE GATHER

Whom do you listen to? As we listen to those around us, we often need to use some sort of filter to get at what is actually going on. What is that politician *really* saying? What does my spouse *actually* want me to do? We seemingly cannot trust every word from anyone in this world! In our service today, however, we will see someone whom Moses urges us to listen to. God has raised up prophets we can trust, and the greatest of these prophets is Jesus. Listen to Him!

WELCOME

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12, NIV)

FELLOWSHIP GREETING

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #682 "God of the Prophets, Bless the Prophets' Sons"

God of the prophets, bless the prophet's sons;
Elijah's mantle o'er Elisha cast.

Each age its solemn task may claim but once;
Make each one nobler, stronger than the last.

Anoint them prophets, men who are intent
To be Your witnesses in word and deed,
Their hearts aflame, their lips make eloquent,
Their eyes awake to ev'ry human need.

Anoint them priests, strong intercessors they,
For pardon and for love and hope and peace,
That, through their pleading, guilty sinners may
Find Jesus' mercy and from sin release.

Anoint them kings, yes, kingly kings, O Lord.
Anoint them with the Spirit of Your Son.
Theirs not a jeweled crown, a blood-stained sword;
Theirs, by sweet love, for Christ a kingdom won.

Make them apostles, heralds, or Your cross;
Forth let them go to tell the world of grace.
Inspired by You, may they count all but loss
And stand at last with joy before Your face.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 56:10–13*

Pastor: In God, whose word I praise,

People: **in the LORD, whose word I praise,**

Pastor: in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.

People: **What can man do to me?**

Pastor: I must perform my vows to you, O God;

People: **I will render thank offerings to you.**

Pastor: For you have delivered my soul from death,

People: **yes, my feet from falling,**

Pastor: that I may walk before God

People: **in the light of life.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Jesus speaks with authority. He expects us to listen to Him. Yet, far too often, we choose to listen to others. We choose to listen to our sinful natures, the world, or the temptations of the devil. Though we confess that Jesus is our Lord, too often we do not bow to His authority. Therefore, let us confess our sins:

People: **Father in heaven, I confess my sins to you: I have not listened to you as I should. I have listened to others who have led me to sin. I have sinned against you in action. I have sinned against you in my thoughts. I have sinned against you in my desires. I pray that, for Jesus' sake, you would have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Pastor: Jesus speaks with authority. He spoke with absolute authority when He announced, "It is finished!" He has paid for your sins in full, for every sin of thought, desire, and action. And so in His name, 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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Pastor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

People: (sung)

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength
and honor and blessing and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever.
Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, you raised up your Son as a Prophet, to speak to us your perfect Word. Grant us the will to listen to Him as One who speaks with authority in our lives; 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)

8:00 BAPTISM of Nora Ruthann Mowery

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☩ **WORD** ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 18:15–20* (God will raise up a prophet.)

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. For this is what you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the Lord our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die." The Lord said to me: "What

they say is good. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers: I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death."

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 8:1–13* (For us there is one God.)

Now about food sacrificed to idols; We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. But the man who loves God is known by God. So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin. I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.

8:00 JR HIGH CHOIR ANTHEM *"A Joyful Song of Praise"*

10:30 CHOIR ANTHEM *"Days of Elijah"*

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 1:21–28* (Jesus heals the man possessed by an evil spirit.)

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out. "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!" said Jesus sternly, "Come out of him!" The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. The people were all so amazed that they

asked each other. "What is this? A new teaching - and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him." News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #658 "Preserve Your Word, O Savior"

Preserve Your Word, O Savior, To us this later day.
And let Your kingdom flourish; Enlarge Your Church, we pray.
O keep our faith from failing: Keep hope's bright star aglow.
Let nothing from truth turn us While living here below.

Preserve, O Lord, Your honor, The bold blasphemer smite;
Convince, convert, enlighten The souls in error's night.
Reveal Your will, dear Savior, To all who dwell below,
Great light of all the living, That all Your name may know.

Preserve, O Lord, Your Zion, Bought dearly with Your blood;
Protect what You have chosen Against the hellish flood.
Be always our defender When dangers gather round;
When all the earth is crumbling, Safe may Your Church be found.

Preserve Your Word and preaching, The truth that makes us whole,
The mirror of Your glory, The pow'r that saves the soul.
Oh, may this living water, This dew of heav'nly grace,
Sustain us while here living Until we see Your face.

Preserve in wave and tempest Your storm-tossed little flock;
Assailed by wind and weather, May it endure each shock.
Stand at the helm, our pilot, And set the course aright;
Then we will reach the harbor In Your eternal light.

SERMON "When Jesus Is In Our Midst" Mark 1:21-28

(Rise)

5:00 & 10:30 HYMN #953 "We All Believe in One True God"

We all believe in one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Everpresent help in need, Praised by all the heav'nly host;
All He made His love enfolds, All creation He upholds.

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We all believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son,
Who descended from His throne And for us salvation won;
By whose cross and death are we Rescued from all misery.

We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who from both in truth proceeds,
Who sustains and comforts us In all trials, fears, and needs.
Blessed, holy Trinity, Praise forever be to Thee!

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS 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 number. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

After each petition:

Pastor: let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Pastor: . . . one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

5:00 & 10:30 THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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)

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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.

HYMN #620 "Jesus Comes Today with Healing"

Jesus comes today with healing, Knocking at my door, appealing,
Off'ring pardon, grace, and peace. He Himself makes preparation,
And I hear His invitation: "Come and taste the blessed feast."

Christ Himself, the priest presiding, Yet in bread and wine abiding
In this holy sacrament, Gives the bread of life, once broken,
And the cup, the precious token Of His sacred covenant.

Under bread and wine, though lowly, I receive the Savior holy,
Blood and body, giv'n for me, Very Lamb of God from heaven,
Who to bitter death was given, Hung upon the cursed tree.

God descends with heav'nly power, Gives Himself to me this hour
In this ordinary sign. On my tongue His pledge receiving,
I accept His grace, believing That I taste His love divine.

Let me praise God's boundless favor, Whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call. Wedding garments He provides me,
With a robe of white He hides me, Fits me for the royal hall.

Now have I found consolation, Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul. God, my shield from ev'ry tremor,
Cleanses me from sin and error, Makes my wounded spirit whole.

HYMN #618 "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

I come, O Savior, to Thy table, For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able To satisfy and make me whole:

Refrain:

Lord, May Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!

Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see Who,
Lord, to Thee in faith are turning; So I, a sinner, come to Thee. *Refrain*

Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never, For Thou my faithful shepherd art: *Refrain*

Weary am I and heavy laden; With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden my heart, for I am now Thy guest. *Refrain*

What higher gift can we inherit? It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and Spirit, The covenant of hope and grace. *Refrain*

HYMN #631 "Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face"

Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen;
Here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
Here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav'n;
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,
Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv'n.

This is the hour of banquet and of song;
This is the heav'nly table spread for me;
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong
The brief bright hour of fellowship with Thee.

I have no help but Thine; nor do I need Another
arm but Thine to lean upon.
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
My strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone.

Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:
The blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord, my God.

Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;
Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.

Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O God the Son, the Prophet who speaks for His Father, we thank you that you have given us forgiveness and the strengthening of our faith in this Sacrament. We ask that you keep us steadfast in your Word. By your authority, rule in our hearts and minds, so that we live for you! Through God the Father, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #411 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.
In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.
I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father.
In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart Lord Jesus.
I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus.
In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Preacher	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Liturgist	Pastor Harold Bender
Lectors	Laurel Privatt, Grant Gundersen
Acolytes	Riley Hoeg, Abbey Hoffman, Sydney Kadolph
Organist	Roger Gottschalk
Jr High Choir Director	Shannon Krueger
Choir Director	Nancy Hoelke
Music Coordinator	Kim Woller

LUTHERAN EDUCATION WEEK

We give thanks to God for blessing our Lutheran schools throughout our nation as well as our school at St. Paul's, which has been providing a Christian education for 88 years. We give thanks to the members of our congregation, who out of love for Jesus, give of their offerings to support our families, students, and teachers that are blessed to have a Christian education and to share God's Word in this special ministry.

We asked the 5th & 6th grade classes to write what was special to them about a Lutheran education here at St. Paul's. The following are a few thoughts from two students. "Lutheran education is a chance to learn about God freely. Having a Religion class dedicated to learning about Christ. St. Paul's means always coming to see my friends, and having teachings about God in a judgment free zone about faith. At St. Paul's we can connect things we learn about in other classes with religion. Lutheran education gives us the chance to be able to have a better chance of staying in the faith."

"I know that I am blessed to be able to go to a Lutheran school like St. Paul's. I am blessed, because many other schools are not permitted to teach the students about God. Lutheran schools are focused on sharing God's Word with others. Going to St. Paul's is a blessing. St. Paul's always makes sure that we are in God's Word, and that we know that Jesus is the true Savior."

To God be the Glory for all He has done, as we live for Jesus and share the light in a world overcome by sin and darkness.