

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

January 30, 2022

We remember how Epiphany reinforces that Jesus is true God, although at times He only appears to be a mere, mortal man. Also, the truth that Jesus is true God reinforces that He is the Light of the world (John 8:12), the only saving light for sinners living in the darkness of sin (Acts 4:12; John 14:6). We teach that Jesus had three offices as part of His saving mission: Prophet, Priest and King. As God's ultimate Spokesman, Jesus stands out as unique from any other human prophet. All human prophets had to proclaim to their hearers, "This is what the LORD says." Jesus, however, proclaimed, "This is what I say as the LORD" (Review Jesus' claim last week as He read from Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:14-21).

Our readings today show a similarity and yet a contrast. In the Old Testament, the LORD called and equipped Jeremiah to be His prophet. In the Epistle lesson, God "calls" and equips all Christians with various gifts to serve in various roles as His spokespeople in His Church. In the Gospel, Jesus identified Himself as THE Prophet of God and Luke related how He faithfully carried out this office despite how humans reacted.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 109, "Matins."

Hymns: 168, 471, 153 (1-5), 278

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 1:4-10. The LORD chose Jeremiah, even before birth, to be His prophet. As His true prophet, the LORD sends Jeremiah to faithfully and truthfully proclaim a message to an unwilling people to hear with hearts of faith.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 78. The LORD's word remains most precious to us, as it reveals the way to everlasting life (*Supplement*).

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13. Paul explains how God's saving love will demonstrate itself in our lives and even offers a few practical examples of such godly love.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he anointed me to preach good news. Alleluia. (Luke 4:18a, EHV)

Gospel: Luke 4:20-32. Jesus announced to His hometown crowd that He is true God, the fulfillment of prophecy...God's "Word made flesh" (John 1:14). Those who heard and fully grasped His testimony rejected Him and tried to kill Him.

Sermon Text: Jeremiah 1:4-10

Theme - "Listen To The LORD's Prophet"

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: What evidence does Jeremiah offer to legitimize his call from the LORD?
- Old Testament: All of the LORD's called people can feel inadequate to serve in the LORD's work. Despite how humans feel, how does the LORD give His human ambassadors assurance, especially as we witness in the case of Jeremiah?
- Old Testament: In connection with how the LORD calls and provides the necessary gifts to those He calls, review the similar situation in connection with the LORD's call to Moses in Exodus 3-4:17.
- Epistle: What's the Lord's point through Paul's "body" analogy of the Christian Church?
- Epistle: How would we define what the "greater" gifts to the God's Church are?
- Epistle: Why is "love" the greatest gift? (See 1 John 4:10, 16-18)
- Gospel: What did Jesus mean when He claimed to be God's Prophet? (See John 1:1, 14; Hebrews 1:1-2; 2:1)

Announcements:

+ Please join us for Bible class on Sunday mornings at 8:00 a.m. We are studying the Book of Psalms.

+ Confirmation class: 3:15-5:00 p.m. at the church on Friday.

+ Sunday school on Sunday mornings from 8-8:30 a.m.

Jeremiah 1:4-10 – The word of the LORD came to me. Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I set you apart. I appointed you to be a prophet to the nations. But I said, "Ah, LORD God! I really do not know how to speak! I am only a child!" The LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone to whom I send you and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, because I am with you, and I will rescue you, declares the LORD." Then the LORD stretched out his hand and touched my mouth. The LORD said to me: There! I have now placed my words in your mouth. Look, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and to tear down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant. (EHV™)

1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13 – You are the body of Christ, and individually you are members of it. And God appointed in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then miracles, healing gifts, helpful acts, leadership abilities, kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all miracle workers? Do all have healing gifts? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly seek the greater gifts. And now, I am going to show you a more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men

and of angels but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and know all the mysteries and have all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I give up my body that I may be burned but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient. Love is kind. Love does not envy. It does not brag. It is not arrogant. It does not behave indecently. It is not selfish. It is not irritable. It does not keep a record of wrongs. It does not rejoice over unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never comes to an end. But if there are prophetic gifts, they will be done away with; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be done away with. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, but when that which is complete has come, that which is partial will be done away with. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put away childish things. Now we see indirectly using a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, just as I was fully known. So now these three remain: faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love. (EHV™)

Luke 4:20-32 – He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began to tell them, “Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” They all spoke well of him and were impressed by the words of grace that came from his mouth. And they kept saying, “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” He told them, “Certainly you will quote this proverb to me, ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ Do here in your hometown everything we heard you did in Capernaum.” And he said, “Amen I tell you: No prophet is accepted in his hometown. But truly I tell you: There were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut for three years and six months, while a great famine came over all the land. Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow of Zarephath, in Sidon. And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was healed except Naaman the Syrian.” All those who were in the synagogue were filled with rage when they heard these things. They got up and drove him out of the town. They led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. But he passed through the middle of them and went on his way. He went down to Capernaum, a town of Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbath. They were amazed by his teaching, because his message had authority. (EHV™)