



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

JESUS' AMAZING AUTHORITY

And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him" (Mark 1:27 ESV). Today at International Lutheran Church we witness the Epiphany that Jesus truly is the Son of God. His authority is not built on putting others down, but in coming to do what the Son of God loves - the will of His Father. We see that clearly in the gospel lesson for today as Jesus enters the synagogue to teach the people there, and us a lesson of what it means for the Kingdom of God to come.

At the end of Moses' life and ministry as the prophet of God and before the people crossed over into the Promised Land, God revealed to him that another prophet would come. This prophet would be raised up from among their brothers, but He would be different. His words would be the very words of God. His will would be the very will of God. God did send His prophets and they spoke the Word of God, but not until that day in Capernaum had the people ever heard anyone like this Prophet. It didn't take long for them to recognize His special charisma. Was it His teaching style? Was it how He could engage the hearer in ways that invited their response? Certainly, the parables that Jesus told help us to see how He put things in such a way that even the child could understand, and yet leave the wise pondering the deep meaning and ways of God. His authority was like no other. Mark does not tell us exactly what Jesus said, but he does note the powerful and immediate response it created. "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are - the Holy One of God!" But what happened next restored not only the man, but us as Jesus commanded the unclean spirit to be silent and to come out of the man. Jesus is not any ordinary teacher. At His word the demons shake! It is no wonder that this would spread like a wildfire and many would be brought to Him to heal and free them from the bondage that oppressed them.

In his explanation to the second petition of the Lord's Prayer, Luther reminds us of the personal nature of the kingdom of God with these words: "The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also." Jesus' teaching - His authority - was not something that was meant to puff us up but to free us from our sin and bondage to Satan. His ability to command the unclean spirits should not amaze us. He is the Son of God whose presence brings with Him the freedom from Satan's tyranny. What was long lost is now

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

ANYTIME Worship Service
(to be available online prerecorded)

9:00 a.m.
and 11:00 a.m. *Socially Responsible Services*

7:00 p.m. Bible Study - (regularly scheduled at
9:00 a.m.; to be available
online livestream)

THIS WEEK

Wed., 2/3 Bible Study
(to be available online livestream)

restored in the Son of God, the Son of Man, this Jesus of Nazareth. He did indeed come to destroy the work of Satan, but not in the way any demon could ever understand. His method was to take our sin and hell upon Himself and die the death of our destruction upon the cross - the rejection of the Father so that death, Satan, and every unclean and evil spirit would be defeated and cast out once and for all. Yes, our sin for His holiness, our bondage for His freedom. There is no teacher like this One.

St. Paul is no anti-intellectual when he says, "knowledge puffs up, but love builds up" (1 Corinthians 8:1 ESV). He is only stating the truth. Without love for our neighbor and care for our brother, all the knowledge in the world will save no one. Using our "authority" or "position" to "school others" will only leave them and ourselves trusting in our own selves. The freedom that is ours in Christ and in His kingdom, however, moves us to service and care for our neighbor, our sister, our brother, even our enemy in ways we cannot even begin to understand. God's Kingdom and His authority are made manifest simply in the forgiveness of sins and the release from bondage for all those caught and trapped in the tyranny of Satan's lies.

This is the message that needs to spread throughout the world. In Jesus we are forgiven! In Jesus we are free to serve! Yes, Jesus' amazing authority not only calms our troubled hearts, but also calls us all to spread the word that in Him we are released and freed to serve and care for one and all.

Pastor Carl

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE SERVICES

We will once again begin ILC's *Socially Responsible Services*. Current regulations allow for 10% capacity, meaning few slots for each worship. If you plan to attend, please sign up early, preferably before 12:00 noon on Saturday. The registration link is in the electronic version of *The Messenger*.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER?

Every week, various people are involved in the worship service as readers and singers. Please let us know at seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com if you would like to assist in one of these ways.

MEN'S GROUP FELLOWSHIP

On Saturday, February 6 the ILC Men's Group will meet online. All men all welcome to join in from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The link is in the electronic version of *The Messenger*.

ILC OFFERINGS RECORD FOR LOCAL TAXES

If you need a donations statement for local taxes, please let us know by sending an email to seoulilc.church@gmail.com.

FLOWERS

If you would like to purchase flowers for beside the altar in order to honor or gift to someone, the cost is ₩35,000 for a potted arrangement. Please write to seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com with any questions or requests.



GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

ONLINE GIVING

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN FAITHFULLY MAKING USE OF ONLINE GIVING.

Though we are not meeting in person, church operations still continue and to that end we encourage you to make use of offering your tithes and gifts via online giving. Giving in this way will be recorded for your personal end-of-year giving statement.

If you are unable or do not wish to give electronically, you may hold your offerings until we resume our normal worship schedule.

CITIBANK 260-00497-243-01

READINGS

January 31: Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

OT	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
NT	1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Gospel	Mark 1:21-28

February 7: Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

OT	Isaiah 40:21-31
NT	1 Corinthians 9:16-27
Gospel	Mark 1:29-39