

destroy, and only that so long as the Lord for reasons of his own permits it.)

²¹ They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²² The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. ²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, ²⁴ “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!” ²⁵ “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” ²⁶ The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. ²⁷ 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.” ²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Hymn of the Day: 402 My Faith Looks up to Thee

Sermon: Powerful Words, Powerful Speaker

Offering: *(Please remember to sign the Friendship Register.)*

Distribution Hymn: 431 I Walk in Danger All the Way

Closing Hymn: 735 Speak, O Lord

Ushers: This Week – Dan Stern & Brady Broedlow
Next Week – Nathan Roth

Greeters: This Week – Dave & Andrea Stewart
Next Week – Paul & Vicki Milbrath

Epiphany 4

January
27 & 28, 2018

St. Peter's
Ev.
Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 86,
Helenville,
Wisconsin

Church Tel:
920-674-3307

School Tel:
262-582-3010

Pastor:
Mark Swanson

Principal:
Craig Winkler

Organist:
Ken Neipert

We Welcome You!

Why follow him? Jesus shows his glory by his triumph over the devil. In his own day he sometimes did that openly for many to see. He still does it just as effectively but in a less public, less obvious way. Just as his victory made manifest his glory then, so it does now. Just as then, so now, everything is accomplished through his Word.

Opening Hymn: 333 Abide, O Dearest Jesus

Order of Worship: Service of Word and Sacrament pg. 26

Prayer of the Day:

Lord God, you know that we are surrounded by many dangers and that we often stumble and fall. Strengthen us in body and mind, and bring us safely through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

God's Word for Today:

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (*When God speaks only in the law, there is terror and dread on every hand. Therefore let us hang on every Word of the gospel of the promised greater prophet, by whose Word and work alone we are delivered from the dread wrath of God and called instead into blessed fellowship with him. Yes, and let us not tolerate B anyone who contradicts the message and the messenger that brings us to life and to life eternal. In the Old Testament the penalty for false doctrine was death; for God takes his Word seriously. In the New Testament there is no call for us to kill false prophets. But there remains the call to shun them and dread the dread effect of their words and works. God takes his Word seriously. Woe to those who do not! For they invite the devil's rule and his fate, which Jesus expels when he speaks and we listen.*)

¹⁵ The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. ¹⁶ 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." ¹⁷ The LORD said to me: "What they say is good. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. ²⁰ 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."

Psalm 1: Pg. 64 (*Sung together*)

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (*Christ's coming has freed us from observing the Old Testament ceremonial law. But we are still obliged to follow the moral law. How do we show that we take the moral law seriously? We seek to serve our neighbor, even when that means we give up for a time some of our Christian freedoms in matters of adiaphora. Loving service to our neighbor is, after all, not an adiaphoron. Even beyond matters of adiaphora we therefore want to take care that we do not by our words or actions place a stumbling block to the gospel in front of our neighbor, which the devil will use to turn them from the gospel. Altogether apart from matters of adiaphora, the Christian who by his words or actions causes his neighbor to think that God is not serious about his Word in either the law or the gospel helps the devil harden the heart of the neighbor against the gospel. Could there be a greater harm to the conscience of our neighbor? Could there be a greater crime against the love of Christ for our neighbor? Don't find yourself hindering the Savior in his work of revealing his glory and the glory of the gospel to those around you.*)

Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ² The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. ³ But the man who loves God is known by God. ⁴ 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. ⁵ For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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. ⁸ But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. ⁹ Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ 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? ¹¹ So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. ¹² When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³ 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.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is on me; he has anointed me to preach good news. Alleluia.

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28 (*The devil is quiet when false doctrine is taught. But as soon as Jesus appears with the gospel, the devil is enraged and does all that he can to hinder the message. Here he does it by confessing what on the surface is the truth; but he does it with evil intent, to hinder the work of the glorious gospel. Who, after all, wants to be confessed by the devil? At the very least the confession of the demons would confuse people. But Jesus silences the devil and drives him away, while the devil in leaving demonstrates that his only power is to hurt and*