

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
 Year of the Lord 2019
 Luke 4

**“Holy Spirit, Light Divine, shine upon this heart of mine;
 Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day!”
 “Let me see my Savior’s face; let me all HIS beauties trace!
 Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to
 Thee!”**

Luke 4:31–44 And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, “Ha! 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 Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. And they were all amazed and said to one another, “What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon’s house. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. And demons also came out of many, crying, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, but he said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.” And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

In the Name of Jesus:

Lord, have mercy upon us! Christ, have mercy upon us! Lord, have mercy upon us!

Why, my dear ones, does the liturgy coach us and teach us and urge us and plead with us and sing into us this three-fold—CONFIDENT!—appeal to Christ our Lord to ‘throw us a bone!’ To pardon us—WITHOUT...any...reference...to...US?! Let us hear from HIM!

“I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.”

His ‘purpose’ came clear the day the demons possessed the best of the best and Christ the Lord was condemned to death.

Take comfort, friends of Jesus, that the Spirit has opened to us our opposing team’s playbook, cover-to-cover. Their goal never changes: remove the Son of Man from the throne of the Kingdom of God— AH! ‘The Kingdom of God, as THEY SEE IT!’ Their weapon, their play on the field, their ONLY recourse: twist all the words The Holy Spirit breathes out for our life and salvation; twist them into words of accusation and killing.

⁶⁶ When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, ⁶⁷ “If you are the Christ, tell us.” But he said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, ⁶⁸ and if I ask you, you will not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.” ⁷⁰ So they all said, “Are you the Son of God, then?” And he said to them, “You say that I am.” ⁷¹ Then they said, “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.” ¹

‘From...His...own...lips!’ My Friend! Your Friend!
HE...condemned Himself that Day, by taking the words that hell means for judgment and that final howl of despair—‘You have

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 22:66–71). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

said so!’—and by taking their fiercest attack, the innocent man was executed, Barabbas was set free by popular acclaim and the King of the Jews was voted down.

My dear ones: this attack of men is NOTHING to God! Nor is the attack of ugly, underworld sprites and fairies! But men CAN scare poor sinners like me, you—don’t be afraid to admit at least THAT! And the puppet-masters pulling the strings of men’s mouths and hearts and nasty/pointy fingers scare us too.

PRACTICAL INSERT HERE: you want PRACTICAL, friends? YOU, are not that much better than I am! And I pull away daily and much from those who I KNOW ignore God’s Law of Love, and display little or no love for me. And YOU do the same, says the Law of God! Against WHOM are we working with our pulling away then?

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” ²

Who’s demon-possessed NOW?! In WHOM do devils make their comfy home? (Aren’tcha glad you done made it to church today?!)

Sooo....since the demons cannot touch Heaven, touch God in His Glory—but only US, who KNOW His revealed will of LOVE—attachment to the One UTTERLY attached to us—

The Lord, my God be praised! My Life, My Light from Heaven!
My Maker, Who to me, has soul and body given!
My Father, Who will shield, and keep me day by day!
And make...each...moment...yield: new blessings on my way!

Each new challenge of LOVE...against Love...belying Love...you and I take as a doorway to a NEW BLESSING, nicht wahr?

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 15:1–2). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Beloved? Christians? Friends? What MAN, what DEVIL could ever make us FROWN?!

The fires of the Pit made Simon's mother-in-law too warm to serve that day. He cooled that fire and she rose and she served. And gave us—that nameless, dear, holy woman!—gave us a pattern after which to strive until we DROP!

LOVE—inspired of God and so unafraid of men because ALL they can be are men:

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never FAILS...

Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

He IS Love; WE...is...brushed off of Love by the faintest whisper from the abyss; or heat. What is God going to do with us? Saint Luke recorded it for us, for the nations! Hear the Spirit of Jesus:

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" ³

³ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 2:8–14). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

The Spirit in Luke reveals that it was demons shrieking out Who He is and What He had come for: their destruction! But they spoke, as in every age, through the mouths and lips and hearts and fierce eyes of men! As when the apostles were condemned; as when the Holy, Roman and Apostolic Church solemnly excommunicated Doctor Martin Luther and all his abominable adherents! (That's US! Little happy-dance here!) As when men FILL the bookstores and airwaves and print and every conceivable means of reaching US with their VIOLENCE—to turn God's Love never-failing to fear which leads to sin. (That's wicked abandonment in sin; but WORSE, deluded, religious SELF-ESTEEM! 'I have a REAL relationship with Jesus! Don't you?! OH! And the SUN shines only on YOU, just FOR YOU, too! I see!)

But notice that first demon, in the man, in CHURCH! In the synagogue. 'You have come to destroy US!' And we're called to prayer-ful watching!

Who's the 'US,' Christians? Does the demon from the pit dare speak for any man?

Lord, have mercy upon us! Christ, have mercy upon us! Lord, have mercy upon us!

The BIBLICAL view of things, dear friends, is that all men—ALL!—are already halfway down the lion's throat! Speaking AS...HE...SPEAKS! And who is in most danger? Well, where did the Son of Man hear the loudest, shriek-y-est voices? Synagogue and temple and a religiously sanctioned place one Friday, that men 'called The Skull.'

And so, if we have ears to hear today, we hear who needs first and most to learn to pray again—to be given the very WORDS that turn on the mercy of the God we barely know, and make Him our Father for certain: so says the Son of man, the Son of God, the Christ, the Chosen One, our Lord!

11 Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ² And he said to them, ⁴ “When you pray, say:

“Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread,

⁴ and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation.” ⁵

Who’s in danger, dearly baptized? Thank God HIS washing is what HE says it is; no other man; nor man’s god and prince the devil. THIS KING calls us cleansed; and so, we are. And all we are left with is that WORD! (Thank You JESUS! Look for NOTHING ELSE!)

Who is in desperate need of His Body and His Blood to save them? Well, who is in the cancer ward? Cancer people! The healthy do not need a doctor! The sick do! I have not come to call righteous people! I have come to call sinners, to repent of the lies they have heard to their despair; and to learn again that My Father, their Father, My God, their God, is LOVE!

¹⁴ And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” ¹⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” ¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. ⁶

**AGAIN!!! Go ahead and READ yer BAH-BULLS!
WHAT...HASTA...HAPPEN...HERE?**

⁴ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 11:1–2). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁵ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 11:2–4). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁶ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 22:14–20). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

WHAT...MUST...HAPPEN after these words of unbelievable Grace! That GOD, in our Flesh, GIVES Himself to us, His Body to eat and His Blood to drink that so that everything sad comes untrue?! What must happen in this place, haunt of demons?

²¹ But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. ²² For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!" ²³ And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

²⁴ A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest.⁷

That is Luke, chapter 22, verse 24. The reason the so-called Christian bookstore is filled with such books; the reason Antichrist dresses in white while befouling the nations with his religion of works. But, worst of all: the Spirit raised up Luther and the Lutheran Church. WHY? Because there were STILL men and women, WORSE to come! (I hafta think again, this morning, that y'all just don't pay me enough to preach this!)

Leaving us, the Holy Spirit's Church, in the happiest...possible...place! Praying and singing and pleading and living out the words that come from Love and lead to Love unfailing; Attachment OF God that knows no end! Words no man need earn, but given words from Heaven. As He has given to us:

Lord, have mercy upon us! Christ, have mercy upon us! Lord, have mercy upon us!

And the Kingdom of God has come to us! Even come to US, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

⁷ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 22:21–24). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.