

Augustana Lutheran Church

102 Jonathan Blvd. N., Chaska, Minnesota 55318
Worship: 9:30 AM with Bible Class following the service

Epiphany 3

January 23, 2011

Volume 7, Number 9

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Jesus Praises the Centurion's Faith

Sermon

Matthew 8:1-13

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS in the name of Jesus Christ! Augustana Lutheran Church confesses and practices the full truth of God's Word, a heritage passed down to us by Luther, and confirmed in the public confessions of our church. We believe that the Bible in all its parts is inspired by the Holy Spirit, error-free, and the only source of divine revelation and absolute truth. If you have any questions about such Bible doctrine, or about our congregation, please direct them to Pastor Diers.

General Prayer

Almighty God, whose eyes are upon the righteous and whose ears are open to their prayers, hear now the prayer of thy people and grant unto us all that we need for the health of our souls and bodies.

We praise thee, O God, for the revelation of thy will in the glorious transfiguration of thy Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Through the revelation of this mighty sign in thy holy Word, give to us the faith to behold his eternal deity, and to worship and adore him in sincerity and truth. Grant that we may know him as the Light of the World, our Sun of Righteousness, the manifest image of thine own divine Being.

By the sign of thy voice and command, Lord God, give us a lively faith in the doctrine of thy Son, and a willingness to heed his commandments. In the sign of Moses and Elijah show us that they are blessed who die in the faith of Jesus Christ, for they shall know the power of his resurrection and shall be changed from glory into glory.

As thou didst in anoint thy Son with thy Holy Spirit without measure, let thy Holy Spirit dwell in our bodies and transform our weak, sinful lives with the adornment of righteous works, pleasing to thee, that in word and deed, mind and thought, we might more and more be conformed to the image of thy Son.

Look upon thy church in all places, and grant that we and all who bear the Name of Christ may daily offer up to thee the acceptable sacrifices of repentance, faith, and thanksgiving.

Behold our nation, O God. Deliver it from all workers of iniquity and purge it from all unrighteousness. Have mercy upon us, and by thy great power save and defend us.

For our whole world we pray. Grant that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving help among all nations.

Thou who art nigh unto all them that call upon thee in truth, hear our prayer and by thy mercy grant our petitions for Christ's sake. Amen.

From God the Father, Virgin Born

1. From God the Father, virgin-born
To us the only Son came down;
By death the font to consecrate,
The faithful to regenerate.
2. Beginning from His home on high
In human flesh He came to die;
Creation by His death restored,
And shed new joys of life abroad.
3. Glide on, O glorious Sun, and bring
The gift of healing on Your wing;
To every dull and clouded sense
The clearness of Your light dispense.
4. Abide with us, O Lord, we pray;
The gloom of darkness chase away;
Your work of healing, Lord, begin,
And take away the stain of sin.
5. Lord, once You came to earth's domain
And, we believe, shall come again;
Be with us on the battlefield,
From every harm Your people shield.
6. To You, O Lord, all glory be
For this Your blest epiphany;
To God Whom all His hosts adore,
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Augustana Lutheran Church

Pastor Martin Diers

*Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets
Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Corner Stone*

The Third Sunday After Epiphany

January 23, 2011



Augustana Lutheran Church

<http://augustana.us>

The Ministry of the Word

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OLD TESTAMENT LESSON 2 Kings 5:1-19

Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper. And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife. Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy." And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel." Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy. And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me." So it was, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel." Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean." But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' 'Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?' So he turned and went away in a rage. And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean?'" So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant." But he said, "As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will receive nothing." And he urged him to take it, but he refused. So Naaman said, "Then, if not, please let your servant be given two mule – loads of earth; for your servant will no longer offer either burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to

the LORD. "Yet in this thing may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master goes into the temple of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on my hand, and I bow down in the temple of Rimmon — when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the LORD please pardon your servant in this thing." Then he said to him, "Go in peace." So he departed from him a short distance.

EPISTLE LESSON Romans 12:16-21

Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

GOSPEL LESSON and SERMON TEXT Matthew 8:1-13

When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. And Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. "For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. "But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

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