

BULLETIN TEMPLATE:

Minnesota Valley Church

Date: Sunday, January 26, 2025

Church Year Date: 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude: Rebekah Olson

HYMN #551 “Standing on the Promises”

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 111:1-4

PASTOR: I will extol the LORD with all my heart

ALL: In the council of the upright and in the assembly.

PASTOR: Great are the works of the LORD;

ALL: They are pondered by all who delight in them.

PASTOR: Glorious and majestic are his deeds,

ALL: And his righteousness endures forever.

PASTOR: He has caused his wonders to be remembered;

ALL: The LORD is gracious and compassionate.

HYMN #526 (vss 1&2, Repeat chorus 2x after second verse.)

“Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: Telling the truth.

Reader: Steve Karban

Old Testament Lesson: *Nehemiah 8:8-10 They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read. 9 Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. 10 Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."*

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body-whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free-and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.

READER: Here ends the reading of God’s Word.

CONGREGATION SINGS: God be praised, for His glad Tidings!

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed- *I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church; the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen*

Gloria Patri: Ambassador Hymnal p. 4 *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

Announcements and Receive Offering

PRAISE AND WORSHIP: Songs to be chosen by Hannah

SERMON: “SATANIC HATRED OF DIVINE TRUTH” Luke 4:16-30 Pastor Tom Olson; *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen*

HOMETOWN: Today our Gospel lesson is the account of Jesus in his home town of Nazareth where he grew up. He is now about thirty years old and he goes to the synagogue and they ask him to read from the sacred Scriptures. He reads the text and tells them what it means. The reaction to the truth that they did not want to hear was extreme.

TODAY: This same truth and this same reaction still happens today all over the world. It is SATANIC HATRED OF DIVINE TRUTH. Even in our own nation there are extreme reactions to the truth.

PARDONED: This week we saw several people released from prison that President Trump pardoned. They were in there for standing up for the truth of the Sanctity of Life...the commandment, “Thou shalt not kill.” People who hate the truth threw them in prison but praise the Lord, these peaceful people were set free! But there is one truth that is hated the most by Satan and that is what we are looking at today from Luke 4...

I. JESUS: THE TRUTH THAT IS HATED

Luke 4:16-21 *He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. 17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." 20 Then 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, 21 and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."*

WAITING: The Jews had been waiting for centuries for this prophecy to be fulfilled.

- They longed for someone to bring good news to the poor,
- they longed for someone to let the political prisoners and unjustly incarcerated free,
- they longed for someone to heal incurable diseases, like blindness,
- they longed for someone to break the bonds of foreign rulers that oppressed them,
- they desired to experience the “Year of Jubilee” when all debts would be forgiven, all slaves set free, all lost land restored to the families that were supposed to own them and have a year of rest.

FULFILLED: Jesus read to them the summary of what they wanted more than anything else. Then He announced that all of this was to be found in Him. He is the Messiah. He is the Savior. He is God in human flesh, born of a virgin. He is the one to trust for salvation now and for all eternity.

IMAGINATION: People like to create a Jesus of their own imagination to follow. He is a nice man who taught comforting things and died an unfortunate death at the hands of people who were jealous of Him. These are all partial truths, but a partial truth is not the same as the whole truth. Just this past month the liberal leader of the Church of England told the Anglican pastors that they were no longer to call Jesus the Messiah. I wonder what they will do with the famous oratorio written by George Fredric Handel called "The Messiah?" I suppose they will give it a new name, like "The Great Teacher."

CREED: The whole truth is clearly spelled out in the Apostles' Creed we recited today. Jesus is God incarnate, crucified, risen and coming again. His sinless atoning blood shed on the cross is the only way to wash away our sins. His blood is the only way God has made to be let us into God's perfect and holy heaven. World peace, healing of diseases, vanquishing of death, the end of pain and sorrow are found in Him.

PERSONAL: I have believed in God my whole life but I never found peace until I met Jesus and saw Him for who he is...my Savior and Lord. The truth that Satan hates is Jesus, the Messiah.

II. PRIDE: THE ROOT OF HATRED OF TRUTH

Luke 4:22-27 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked. 23 Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself! Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'" 24 "I tell you the truth," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his

hometown. 25 I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. 26 Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. 27 And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian."

ROOT: The root of their hatred of truth comes out in their response, "Isn't this Joseph's son?" It is the same response I hear over and over again from people today. They put it this way: Jesus was a great man. Jesus was one of the illuminated teachers of the ages. Muslims say Jesus was a prophet. Mormons say "Jesus was a god and we all are becoming gods."

EXCLUSIVE: Jesus was stating that He is the MESSIAH. He is the one they are looking for. The Bible is perfectly clear that Jesus is conceived by the Holy Spirit,

- Emmanuel, God with us.
- He said, "I and the Father are one."
- He said, "Before Abraham was, I AM."
- Time and again they wanted to kill Him because He said He was God incarnate.

DILUTED: The people wanted a Jesus to be the son of Joseph. They didn't want a Jesus who is God, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Savior of the World, Judge of the world, ruler on the throne of David for all eternity. The world wants a Jesus who is a prophet who says nice esoteric philosophical things that make people feel good. They want a Jesus who was killed because He was misunderstood. They don't want one who chose to go to the cross as a blood sacrifice that our sins demanded.

OFFENDED: You can talk all you want about God. You can talk all you want about the Minnesota Nice Jesus. Nobody will mind. But once you talk about the real Jesus, the atonement of the cross,

the returning Jesus to rule and reign for eternity, people are offended.

BADGER: The root of hatred of the truth is that is that people don't want to admit that they are sinners who need a Savior. When I began my ministry in Badger, Minnesota I spent a lot of time watching the children of a wild and immoral woman down the street. She got upset with me when I told her I was a sinner that needed to be saved. She thought that I was a great guy who helped her with her children. She defensively replied that the woman across the road was a sinner who needed a Savior, but not me. She felt she was better than that woman. But if I was a sinner that made her one too and she didn't want to admit that she needed a Savior. It offended her pride.

SUPERIOR: The Jews got offended because Jesus said that the widow of Zaraphath and Namaan the Syrian had true faith but they didn't. They thought that simply being Jews made them better than others. They thought they didn't need a SAVIOR, just a teacher. People want to confess that they are nice people who are Jesus' followers. If you are converted and born again you will follow Jesus. But you can be a Jesus follower without being saved.

Paul put it this way in 1 Corinthians 12:13 "No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit."

PRIDE: Human pride is the root of the hatred of truth.

III. VIOLENCE: THE METHOD OF SILENCING TRUTH

Luke 4:28-30 All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. 30 But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

FURIOUS: There are people in our society today that get furious when you tell them the truth. They don't want to hear the truth about marriage and morality. They don't want to hear the truth about forgiveness. They don't want to hear the truth about their out-of-control appetites for food, drink, money, power and attention.

JAIL: In recent years we have seen people put in jail or lose their jobs for telling the truth about abortion, about pharmaceuticals, about processed foods, about toxic chemicals, about corruption in business and government, about dry wood and fire danger and many other things that may cause powerful people to lose money.

John 3:19-20 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

FREE: I am so thankful that the peaceful pro-life protesters that have been put in prison have been freed by President Trump in his first two days in office. President Trump knows how furious people can get if you speak the truth. They want to kill him too.

COST: It is costly to speak the truth because the demon-possessed people will want to silence you or even kill you. Many people today are literally possessed by evil spirits who want to kill those who tell the truth. But they could not silence Jesus. He walked away from them. It was not his time to die. He kept speaking up and exposing sin.

MARTYR: If we have to die for the truth, death can't hold us. We will rise from the dead in the resurrection unto everlasting blessing. Don't be silent. Speak the truth. Especially proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus until He comes again.

NATION'S CREED: I would like to close this inauguration week with some of the lyrics of a great song we sang in High School Choir called "The Nation's Creed." ***"...let all people be thankful,***

Thy truth shall prevail...Lord keep our nation strong and free.” I really like that line and I trust it will come to pass when it says THE TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL. Our closing song says it this way...

“His truth is marching on!” Amen

*May the peace of God that surpasses all human comprehension,
guard your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen*

Hymn #632 “Battle Hymn of the Republic”

Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures
here below, Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son
and Holy Ghost. A-men. A-men. A---men.*

Postlude: Rebekah Olson