



A Service of Worship and Praise

Christ Our Redeemer Church

Epiphany 4 – January 31, 2010

Pastor Mark Voss

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

OPENING SONG

CW 87

“Hail, O Source of Every Blessing”

P: We begin our worship and praise the same way we were baptized: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

P: As dear children approaching a loving parent, as sinners redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, as believers filled with the Holy Spirit – let us confess our sins to almighty God

C: Let us seek his forgiveness.

(Silence for meditation and self-examination)

P: Most merciful God,

C: we have been disobedient children. We have ignored our Father's admonitions, disregarded our Savior's instructions, grieved the Holy Spirit. We are not worthy to be called children of God. But we beg you – of your fatherly compassion, by your saving merits, at your inviting call – to have mercy on us and grant us your forgiveness.

SING:

CW338 v1 Text, Tune, Setting: Public Domain

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down Your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, Weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place, And he has made me glad.**

P: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him might not perish but have eternal life. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, the heavenly Father gives the Holy Spirit that they may be children of God. Rejoice in the Lord; your sins are forgiven – in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: In the peace and joy of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light.
Look unto me; your morn shall rise And all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found In him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk Till trav'ling days are done.**

CW388 v 3

PRAYER OF THE DAY

MUSICAL SELECTION (10:30a) Grades 1-8 ***"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"***

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WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON – 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13 ***"The Greatest Christian Gift"***

^{31b}And now I will show you the most excellent way. ¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. ¹²Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. ¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

PRAISE RESPONSE CW498 Text and Tune: c 1972 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Setting: c 1993 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**Though I may speak with bravest fire And have the gift to all inspire
And have not love, my words are vain -- As sounding brass -- and hopeless gain.**

**Though I may give all I possess And, striving so, my love profess
But not be giv'n by love within, The profit soon turns strangely thin.**

**Come, Spirit, come; our hearts control. Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide ev'ry deed; By this we worship and are freed.**

GOSPEL - Luke 4:20-32 “Jesus Arouses Emotions”

²⁰Then 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, ²¹and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked. ²³Jesus 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. ²⁵I 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. ²⁶Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷And 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." ²⁸All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹They 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. ³⁰But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way. ³¹Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath began to teach the people. ³²They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON HYMN

CW 561

“Lord, Speak to Us That We May Speak”

SERMON

Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

⁶"Ah, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child."

⁷But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

⁹Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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, died and was 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 there he will 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.

OFFERING

HYMN OF THE DAY

CW 83 vv 1-3

“As With Gladness Men of Old”

CHILDREN’S LESSON

WE PRAY TOGETHER

P: Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hands: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word, which brings us to faith and keeps us in faith. Through your Word, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

C: Strengthen us through your Word; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.

P: Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

C: Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

P: Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

LORD’S PRAYER Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, As we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

BLESSING

C: (sing) Amen. Amen. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

CW 83 vv 4 & 5

“As With Gladness Men of Old”

FOCUS ON MISSIONS (10:30a)