

**St. Luke Ev. Lutheran
Church**

**Sermon by Pastor
Anthony E. Schultz**

January 29, 2017

**4th Sunday after the
Epiphany**

WELS Series B. Mark 1:21-28



Jesus Drives Out an Impure Spirit

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 impure 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 impure 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 impure spirits and they obey him.” ²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

People of God-rescued from the flaming lake of fire in hell by the innocent blood of the very Lamb of God:

If you watch TV you have doubtless seen a guy named Mike – with this moustache and blue silk shirt with a cross on a chain around his neck. He is the inventor of “My Pillow” which

he makes in his home state of Minnesota! In the beginning he tried every kind of pillow – and nothing worked. So he spent the next two years working on this pillow full of all different sizes of chunks of foam – so it can be mushed to fit your head and support your neck for a good night’s sleep. Then they have a bunch of satisfied customers who smile as they recount their refreshing night’s sleep – all thanks to their wonderful pillow! Forty years ago we had a water bed. It was wonderful. You could roll onto the waterbed and it would literally rock you to sleep. It was cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Aaaaaaah! It had little storage cabinets – with stained glass doors. It is a blessing to have a safe warm cozy place to sleep at night. It is tempting on a Sunday morning to stay in bed. To wrap up in nice warm covers and sleep some more. But we can’t! We wake up and get up and get all cleaned up – have some breakfast – and come to Church – to Bible Class and Sunday School and Church – to hear God’s Word and to receive Lord’s Supper – and to be about our Heavenly Father’s concerns – welcoming visitors and talking to life-long friends. We come to Church – like Jesus went to the Synagogue on the Sabbath – as was His custom – to share God’s Word! Today we are about ½ way through the season of Epiphany – ½ way through the part of the Church Year where we see Jesus shine/show forth his glory as the very Son of God made flesh. March 1st will be Ash Wednesday. April 9th Palm Sunday – April 16th will be Easter Sunday – Jesus Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! ½ way to Ash Wednesday today we say:

Spend A Sabbath With Jesus

- 1. Learn God’s Word**
- 2. Spread the good news!**

Today is the 3rd of 4 Sundays where we are reading from the 1st chapter of the Gospel of Mark! If you own a copy of the Lutheran Study Bible – the Gospel of Mark is introduced with the metaphor of a grandpa farmer who knew a corner of his field well. His plow turned up rocks here for years. He and his brothers picked rocks and worked them into a retaining wall around the edge. The old farmer could close his eyes and see the people sitting on the stones by Capernaum waiting for their turn to see the Rabbi! Families are there – waiting for Jesus to heal their sick – to put His hand on their little children to bless them. The farmer reaches down into the soil – warm and soft and rich – and he hits hard rocks again. Cold hard rock and stone – like the human ♥! People in Capernaum loved Jesus~at least they loved the fact that if you were sick all He had to do was touch you and you were healed – completely – in an instant. It didn't matter what was wrong – Jesus made you better than new! If you had leprosy – in an instant – your body – dying – crushed – burned – cut – suddenly was softer and cleaner than the skin and flesh of a little baby! If you were born blind – in a moment your eyes could see and your brain could understand what you saw. If your legs were withered – your hands twisted – your physical ♥ failing – your lungs unable to take a decent breath – and suddenly all was whole! What about your sins? What? Everybody makes mistakes! Nobody is perfect! Why I could tell you about people a thousand times worse than I am? What about them? I could tell you about all the times I have been kind and gentle and thoughtful and generous! I bring grocery carts from the parking lot back into the store! I give a tip to the guy at Culver's who brought my fish sandwich out in the freezing drizzle! Aaaaah! That's not right! With the Apostle Paul we say, **“What a wretched man I am! Who**

will rescue me from this body of death?! Thanks be to God He gives me the victory through my Lord Jesus Christ!"

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. *Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.*" That's the First Song of Isaiah! We sang it a week ago yesterday at Charlotte Annette Rundt Schlender's funeral. She was 91 years old when she met Jesus face to face. The First Song of Isaiah is from the Scroll of the Prophet Isaiah chapter ___? Isaiah chapter 12! It would be good to know that! **Sanctify them by the truth. Your word is truth!** Jesus' prayer on the way from the upper room to the Garden of Gethsemane – the Gospel of the disciple Jesus loved, chapter ___? Chapter 17. It would be good to know that! **How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!** That's from 1 John chapter ___? Chapter 3. It would be good to know that! **Be faithful unto the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.** The confirmation verse and the text for the funeral sermon for Frieda Knoll – 102 years, 8 months and 10 days. The confirmation verse and the funeral sermon text for Corporal Matthew Zindars – 21 years, 10 months 12 days! **Be faithful even unto death and I will give you a crown of life!** Revelation chapter ___? Chapter 2 verse 10b. It would be good to know that! Jesus didn't just teach God's Word – Jesus is the Word made flesh! The disciple Jesus loved – wrote that! Jesus taught law and Gospel! Remember the Sermon on the grassy hillside? **"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.'**

But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment... You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart... Matthew 5:21f Jesus said, **"But I tell you!"** This is the very authority of God Himself! Jesus did not squander time debating—is it lawful to eat an egg laid by a hen on the Sabbath. Does it matter if the hen heard the reading of the Torah? Rabbi so-and-so said yes. Rabbi so-and-so said no! Who are we to believe? Which tradition is older? Jesus taught with the authority of His Heavenly Father and they hated Him for it!

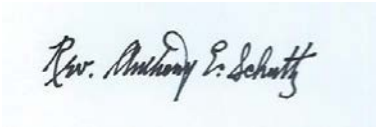
²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, ²⁴ "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are — the Holy One of God!" ²⁵ "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" ²⁶ The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. It is good to remember who the enemy is--the devil — the father of lies — the murderer from the beginning — Beelzabub — the lord of the flies — the ruler of the kingdom of the air — the ruler of nothingness! Once he was an angel of light — now he is the worthless prince of darkness! He is like a mad and vicious dog — off his leash and over the fence for a little while! He causes as much grief and distress as he can. But sooner or later — he will be sent crashing down into the forever flames of hell to suffer for eternity along with all the demons who followed him! Along with all the souls who died in their miserable unbelief! A man who was possessed by an impure spirit was in the synagogue in Capernaum and he tried to interrupt by saying, **"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!"** Jesus neither needed nor wanted an evil

spirit to testify to who He was nor why He was come into the world. So Jesus commanded him, **“Be quiet!”** And in an instant he was silenced! **“Come out of him!”** **The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek!** There is no resisting the powerful word and powerful command of the Son of God! The man trembled violently and with a scream the spirit was gone! God’s Word gives us the powerful promise, in James chapter 4 Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you!” What precious good news! Fight against the devil with all the power and strength Jesus provides and you will send satan packing! Come close to Jesus through God’s Word – through reading you Bible, your Meditations, your books from our Northwestern Publishing House. Come near to Jesus by coming to Lord’s Supper today and every 2nd and last Sunday of each moth – plus Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday and more and Jesus will fill you with His forgiving love!

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 impure spirits and they obey him.” ²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee. Sounds pretty good – and so? Amazed? Jesus’ power undeniable? Spread the news? At first blush that sounds pretty good to me. And yet – if you are old enough to remember Paul Harvey – news and commentary – what is the rest of the story? The Gospel of the Tax Collector Matthew – *Woe on Unrepentant Cities* – **And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.”** Matthew

11:23,24 What news spread from Capernaum about this Rabbi from Nazareth? He was a powerful speaker. His message was backed by miracles of healing – even casting out demons. What mattered most – they missed! They missed the essential truth that Jesus came to take away all their sins. They missed the essential Law that prays, “God be merciful to me a sinner!” They missed the essential Gospel – that Jesus is the Lamb of God who will take away the sins of the world! They missed the truth that before them stood the Son of God – come to give up his life on the \dagger to redeem them. Don’t just spend a Sabbath with Jesus in Capernaum. Spend eternity with Jesus in Heaven because he washed away all your sins forever. Amen!

To God alone all glory!

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature reads "Rev. Anthony P. Schutt" in a cursive script.