

Ascension Lutheran Church

Pastor Godkin's Sermon for the week of February 21, 2010

Cling to Christ and the Devil with Flee (Luke 4:1-13)

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen. The text for today's homily is from the fourth chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke. Our Lords say to us:

"And the devil took Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to Him, 'To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.'" ⁸And Jesus answered him, 'It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.'"

This is the Word of God.

Dear friends in the Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ, about the existence of the devil. The one boy said, other boy, rather upset, said, "What do you mean, that he is all the way through the Bible!" The first boy like Santa Clause, the devil turns out to be your

Two 6 year old boys were debating "Oh, there isn't any devil." The other boy said, "Oh that's not true. It's just a devil. He is often portrayed as a

In our culture most people doubt the existence of the devil. He is often portrayed as a comical character with horns and a pointy tail and carrying a pitchfork. Liberal preachers with doctorate degrees smilingly assure you that Satan is no more than a myth, dreamed up by superstitious and uneducated people. Movies and T.V. shows most often depict Satan as just another fictional bogey-man, or some sort of movie monster that screenwriters have dreamed up to give audiences an entertaining scare. While supposed learned university professors assign labels like "religious fanatic" to anyone who claims that Satan is real.

But make no mistake, friends, Satan is not a symbol of evil. He is a real fallen angel, an evil spirit. Scripture calls him the "Father of lies" (Jn. 8:44) and his greatest lie is that he does not exist.

There is a saying that in order to be successful in a battle one needs to know his enemy. And our great enemy is the demonic realm and it is led by Satan. The Bible says in Ephesians 6, "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

But too often when people experience hardship, sickness, pain, affliction they tend to blame God. And yet that is Satan's great ploy. He is the master of deception and he twist this world to think that God is the bad one. We must have it clear in our minds; Satan is the enemy: God is the Saviour. Knowing that, we can then begin to be successful in our spiritual battle.

When Jesus was tempted He willingly went out to fight the devil in the desert. He went out to defeat him for our sake. His motive was one of love. Jesus' reason for coming to

earth was not one of obligation. Rather, He was moving the world that Satan had deceived and led into sin. God

He came to stand in the place of the first Adam and man sinned way back in the Garden of Eden. He came perfectly life and overcome Satan without using His Incarnation was for the purpose of overcoming Satan the sacrifice for the world's sins.

Satan first attempts Christ to use His divine power, says, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to be lifted up and cast here." This was a temptation for our Lord to use His power to serve His nature and was pure. He was confronted by the tempter.

But had Jesus given into that it would have gone and have been as serving of self rather than others. As the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve many" (Mk. 10:45).

Friends, the difference between Satan's perspective that Satan is entirely focused on the self. He wants one self. Jesus, on the other hand, was concerned with giving Him the glory. Jesus was concerned with saving

Satan uses this technique on us too. The evil spirit. They make suggestions and these suggestions inflame our senses and lures and makes sins sound appealing. He is entirely earthly focused and self-serving. Ultimate Christ and to turn us against God. In short, Satan's many people down to the pit with him as possible.

Satan is a jealous being. He is jealous of God and God. He promised to give Jesus all the authority in the world if He would only worship him. Now this was an Herewas the devil tempting the Creator to worship makes in look appealing. He makes promises of fear promised all the power and glory of the world so he some sort of team.

Satan tries to turn things upside down. God alone knows that no one would knowingly worship him if the Satan leads to eternal condemnation. So, Satan takes the "masquerade" as an angel of light." He made himself deities. From the ancient god of Egypt called Horus Satan pretend to be God and sadly, he deceives man speak about Lucifer as a misunderstood spirit who. There are even favourable references to Lucifer in the demonic realm really is everywhere trying to deceive

ed by His vast love for a lost sent His Son to rescue us.

to restore what was lost when a suffering Servant to live a mighty divine power. His as a man and giving His life as

to do a miracle to serve Himself. He to become bread." This was a himself. While Jesus had no sinfulness with a real opportunity to sin.

gainst the way of the cross; it would Jesus later said in His ministry, "The and to give His life as a ransom for

and Jesus' perspective here is to want to forget God and serve the Father's will and not man, not Himself.

to work by the power of suggestion. our sinful desires. Satan promises rewards but they are, his aim is to lead us away from goal is to destroy man and bring us

wants to be worshipped instead of the glory of all the kingdoms of the ironic proposition to say the least. him. Once again we see that Satan's pleasures. In Jesus' case, he might rule the world with Jesus as

sworthy of worship and Satan knew the truth that to follow a different approach. Scripture fest himself in the form of false, to the Hindu gods, to the occult, people. In the occult people a light giver and glorious being. the Masonic Lodge rituals. The the nations.

It is to our benefit to be vigilant of the wiles of the devil in this world. He is a crafty snake. He will keep trying to deceive but with Jesus we have the One who has fought for us and won. And when we cling to Him Satan always flees. As it says in the first stanza of the hymn #664 in our hymnal,

“Fight the Good Fight with all your might;
Christ is your strength, and Christ your right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be,
Your joy and crown eternally.” Amen.

The peace of God that surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria