

The Faith of Our Fathers

St. Matthew tells us that the demon-possessed man [in today's Gospel] was not only mute but also blind. He was cured by Our Lord so that he could both speak and see. Simultaneously, then, three miracles are performed on this one man—he sees, he speaks, and he is delivered from the devil. These three miracles are daily repeated when a sinner repents. First, the devil is expelled; then the sinner sees the light of faith; and lastly, he opens his lips to praise God. (St. Bede the Venerable) ❧❧❧

We need to know that Christ's work of driving out the devil never ceases but continues to go on in the Christian world until the Last Day. For this task Christ left us designated instruments: Holy Baptism, the blessed Sacrament, the Word and Absolution, and whatever else belongs to the ministry of preaching, in order to enable us to destroy the devil's kingdom, to take from him his captives and cast him out of people. The Holy Spirit accompanies the Word, to enlighten, kindle faith, cleanse, and free people from the devil's power and rule. (Blessed Martin Luther) ❧❧❧

The concern of Jesus for the poor demon-possessed mute man is an incentive for us to turn to Our Lord in every need, expecting from Him all that is good. After experiencing good at His hands, we should follow Him in love and do good to others, as He has done good to us. Therefore, today's Gospel, like all the Gospels, teaches us faith and love. For it holds up Christ before us as a Savior and Help in all needs. He does this out of His great love for us. Whoever believes this is saved. This, then, is the common and most delightful teaching of today's Gospel, and of all the Gospels throughout the whole church year. (Blessed Martin Luther) ❧❧❧

For *Oruli*. These excerpts are intended as meditative pieces for the Day's pericopes. They have been edited and abridged for style, sense and space.

The Faith of Our Fathers

St. Matthew tells us that the demon-possessed man [in today's Gospel] was not only mute but also blind. He was cured by Our Lord so that he could both speak and see. Simultaneously, then, three miracles are performed on this one man—he sees, he speaks, and he is delivered from the devil. These three miracles are daily repeated when a sinner repents. First, the devil is expelled; then the sinner sees the light of faith; and lastly, he opens his lips to praise God. (St. Bede the Venerable) ❧❧❧

We need to know that Christ's work of driving out the devil never ceases but continues to go on in the Christian world until the Last Day. For this task Christ left us designated instruments: Holy Baptism, the blessed Sacrament, the Word and Absolution, and whatever else belongs to the ministry of preaching, in order to enable us to destroy the devil's kingdom, to take from him his captives and cast him out of people. The Holy Spirit accompanies the Word, to enlighten, kindle faith, cleanse, and free people from the devil's power and rule. (Blessed Martin Luther) ❧❧❧

The concern of Jesus for the poor demon-possessed mute man is an incentive for us to turn to Our Lord in every need, expecting from Him all that is good. After experiencing good at His hands, we should follow Him in love and do good to others, as He has done good to us. Therefore, today's Gospel, like all the Gospels, teaches us faith and love. For it holds up Christ before us as a Savior and Help in all needs. He does this out of His great love for us. Whoever believes this is saved. This, then, is the common and most delightful teaching of today's Gospel, and of all the Gospels throughout the whole church year. (Blessed Martin Luther) ❧❧❧

For *Oruli*. These excerpts are intended as meditative pieces for the Day's pericopes. They have been edited and abridged for style, sense and space.

In today's Gospel, Our Lord Jesus says something like this: "The devil was strong; but I am stronger. I have entered his court. I have come into this world which he has held as though it were his own house; and the time draws near for the prince of this world to be cast forth. I have bound him. I have broken his armor. And the unhappy people he held captive I have delivered from his bondage. He is not therefore with Me; nor does he gather with Me; neither does he cast out devils together with Me; nor does he heal men, as I do; nor does he gather in the flocks, nor lead them to the living pastures, which I am doing. (St. Bruno) ❧❧❧

Like all the Gospels, this one teaches us faith and love. It presents Christ to us as a most loving Savior and Helper in every need, and tells us that he who believes this is saved. We see that Christ helps a poor man who was greatly afflicted with many ills. By this act Christ draws us to Himself, leads us to look to Him for every blessing, and to go to Him in every time of need. He does this that we also, according to the nature of love, should do unto others as he does unto us. This poor man, however, did not come to Christ without the Word. For those who brought him to Christ must have heard His love preached and were moved thereby to trust in Him. We learn therefore that faith comes through the Word. (Blessed Martin Luther) ❧❧❧

In today's Gospel, Our Lord Jesus says something like this: "The devil was strong; but I am stronger. I have entered his court. I have come into this world which he has held as though it were his own house; and the time draws near for the prince of this world to be cast forth. I have bound him. I have broken his armor. And the unhappy people he held captive I have delivered from his bondage. He is not therefore with Me; nor does he gather with Me; neither does he cast out devils together with Me; nor does he heal men, as I do; nor does he gather in the flocks, nor lead them to the living pastures, which I am doing. (St. Bruno) ❧❧❧

Like all the Gospels, this one teaches us faith and love. It presents Christ to us as a most loving Savior and Helper in every need, and tells us that he who believes this is saved. We see that Christ helps a poor man who was greatly afflicted with many ills. By this act Christ draws us to Himself, leads us to look to Him for every blessing, and to go to Him in every time of need. He does this that we also, according to the nature of love, should do unto others as he does unto us. This poor man, however, did not come to Christ without the Word. For those who brought him to Christ must have heard His love preached and were moved thereby to trust in Him. We learn therefore that faith comes through the Word. (Blessed Martin Luther) ❧❧❧