

10 February 2021
How Lutherans Engage the Bible
Rev. Dr. Arthur Bergren

Welcome/Prayer

Download the Notes & Email me any Questions

Last Time: Lutheran Theological Reading

Law and Gospel

What Shows Forth Christ

Scripture Interprets Scripture

The Plain Meaning of the Text

Public Interpretation

Centrality of Justification by Grace through Faith

Four Components of Bible Study

Historical Reading

Literary Reading

Devotional Reading

Lutheran Theological Reading

Reformation Day Gospel: John 8: 31-36

³¹Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

Historical Reading

Gospel of St. John

Final Gospel – Written in the late 90's

Reflects the Tensions between Jewish Christians and the Jewish
Community after the destruction of the Temple

Jewish Christian Barred from Synagogues: 9:22, 12:42 & 16:2

Concern over Authority in the Church

First Generation of Christians Dying

Jewish Experience

Slavery in Egypt, Babylon and Rome

Long Time since the reigns of David and Solomon
Yet these Jews deny being slaves ever!
Are they speaking about spiritual freedom despite physical/political
bondage?

Encouragement for the Jewish Christians to "continue in my word."
Source of Encouragement

Today

Anti-Semitism
Freedom
Challenges of Emerging Christian Communities

Lutheran Theological Reading

John was Luther's Favorite Gospel

Continuing in the Word

Jesus
Worship: Word and Sacrament
Bible Study

Law (Diagnosis):

Gospel (Prognosis):

Vocation: To Serve Neighbor in Love

Nature of Freedom: What are freed for?

Luther: Freedom of a Christian

A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none.

A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to none.

Why this text for Reformation Day?

Literary Reading

Repeated Words in the Gospel of St. John

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.

How do these texts provide additional meaning for John 8: 31-36?

Definition of Pentecost

John 14: 16-17 ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

How do these additional texts help you in your interpretation of this text?

Devotional Reading

Lectio Divina – Latin for sacred reading in 4 Steps

Step One: Lectio – reading/listening to the text

Step Two: Meditatio – meditating/reflecting/ruminating on the text

Step Three: Oratio – responding with prayer

Step Four: Contemplatio – contemplative prayer

Household: Family

Experiences of Family

Experiences of Church

Claim that we are descendants of Abraham – God's Family

Called to be a blessing

Final Questions:

How did you hear God speaking to you in the text?

What may be God calling you/us to do?

What surprised you?

Next Time: Ash Wednesday