

LD 12; Heb. 4:14-16; Heb. 1:1-4; You Are the Christ I. Prophet II. Priest III. King

Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ, when is the last time that you have seen an anointing? I imagine that most of us have never seen an anointing- however we do witness ordinations from time to time. When a pastor is called to serve a local church- or when elders are installed at the beginning of their term- there is an ordination service. Now an ordination service is a very solemn occasion- there is a from that is read and vows that are made. But one of the key reasons we have an ordination service for our new elders is so that the identity and authority of the elders would be put on display. Basically, the congregation gets to see what is true- this man has been set apart by God to serve in this respective office. In a similar way, today we consider the ordination of Jesus Christ. But the question is- who can anoint and ordain someone to be the Christ? Does any man have this authority? As we continue to consider the identity of the 2nd person of the Trinity, this morning we look at Jesus who is the Christ. If Jesus is His name, Christ is His office. Like the pastor, elder or deacon of the local church, Jesus is identified and set apart for service. In the OT there are 3 offices- that of prophet, priest and king. So today we are going to see that what were separate offices in the OT are united in Jesus Christ. In fact, that is what the word, Christ, means. To be anointed- the messiah- set apart and equipped for service. So we consider this theme: The Heavenly Father anoints His Son with His Spirit to be our only Christ.

I. Prophet

In our first point we see that Jesus was anointed and ordained to be our chief prophet. But before we get into the task of a prophet, how do we know that Jesus is supposed to be the anointed One of God? When does the LORD make it clear that this Jesus is the Christ? Well, in Luke 3 we find Jesus being baptized by John in the Jordan. When Jesus came out of the water, John saw the HS land and remain on Jesus- and the Father spoke giving His seal of approval. So Jesus was both anointed by the Holy Spirit and installed by the Father at the beginning of His public ministry. And children, do you remember what the Father said about Jesus at this anointing? What did the Father declare about His Son? Well, the

Father said- this is my Son with whom I am well pleased. The Son was the accepted one- the one of God's favor! And again in Luke 9 at the transfiguration the Father says, this is my Son, the chosen One, listen to Him! Did you catch that- being anointed and ordained- identified as the chosen one- is followed by a command- listen to Him! So Jesus is the One that the Father wants us- commands us to listen to!

Now a prophet's task in OT was to be the bringer of God's word. A prophet would say, thus saith the LORD. The prophet would teach and instruct the people- knowing that God's people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge. Ignorance would be rooted out- and the truth and clarity would proceed from the mouth of the prophet. God would cause His word to be heard in the land- and the prophets were God's chosen means. But a prophet was not the only way in which God spoke in the past. As our reading from Heb. 1 opens, in the past God spoke in various ways- at various times and in various ways. God spoke out of burning bush- but He also spoke to His people in dreams and visions. He spoke through ceremonies and ritual as well. But prophets like Moses and Elisha remained the most enduring manner in which God spoke- and it was at the hand of the prophets that the Word was recorded as well. That is why we have so many prophetic books in the OT- written by prophets or they are the recorded words of the prophets. But as Heb. 1:2 makes clear, in these last days, the Father speaks to us by His Son! Jesus now wears the mantle of the prophet. As you may also remember, the first thing that Jesus did after resisting the Devil's temptation in Luke 4 is to do this very thing- to teach. As Luke 4:17 reveals, Jesus stood up in the Synagogue in Nazareth and he read from Isaiah 61- the Spirit is upon me to proclaim good news- to proclaim liberty to the captives- to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favor. So this connection between being anointed by the Spirit and being compelled to teach is firmly established at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. And the way in which Jesus taught was radically different from the other teachers of day. The pharisees who taught in Jesus' day used a practice of derivative authority. The current pharisees would base their authority upon the pharisees of old. So their arose a collection of human wisdom based on tradition or the passing of time. But Jesus did not simply quote

from other scholars- He spoke with the authority and power of God Himself! And the people marveled at this fact- while the pharisees were threatened by it! This difference is attributed to the fact that Jesus is the chief prophet and teacher sent by God! To illustrate what this difference is like – the difference between Jesus and the pharisees is the difference between a pastor who reads God’s Word- and a lectionary who recites Asaph’s Fables. One has power- the other might sound nice but God’s Word is not there! So Jesus is anointed and ordained to instruct us- to reveal God’s commands and will! Jesus has pity on us- seeing that we are like straying sheep- so He calls us home with His voice! Since this is the case- God’s people must heed the command of the Father- Listen to the Son! Jesus is the appointed mouthpiece of the Father- His Word is how the Father speaks to us today! So we must listen!

II. Priest

Next, we see that Jesus is also the anointed priest. Our only High Priest! Now the priests in the OT were called to take the sacrifices from the people- to offer them up to God- and cover the sins of the people by shedding blood. They also were called to mediate and intercede for the people as they pronounced God’s blessing upon. As we find in II Chron. 30- where the priest rose up and blessed the people of God. If Moses functioned as the prophet as we saw in the last point, Aaron his brother was the priest. That is why we have the Aaronic blessing recorded in Numbers 6. But now we know that Jesus is the better priest- or as the Catechism says, that He is our only High priest who has delivered us by the one sacrifice of His body and He continues to intercede for us. How do we know this? Well, look again at Heb. 1:3- Jesus making purification for sins. He made satisfaction for our sins by offering Himself- once for all. His blood being shed for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. In a few moments we are going to be celebrating the Lord’s Supper. In that supper we remember and believe- we celebrate our High Priest’s one sacrifice! Jesus is the great and final High Priest. He is not only greater than Moses- He is greater than all of Abraham’s seed who became priest as we read in Heb. 4. The Great High Priest who passed through the heavens. A priest in the line of Melchizedek- eternal- without beginning or end! As a priest,

He not only offered the sacrifice- He is the sacrifice! His body broken- His blood shed! Again- as Heb. 1 says- after making purification for sins-Note- after- that means that He continues to work! What is Jesus doing? Well, He is pouring out His blessings- His grace and Spirit continue to be gifted to His people as He continues His work. Remember what Jesus was doing when He was taken up from the earth in Luke 24- His hands were raised and He was blessing His disciples! We could say that Jesus is still pronouncing His priestly blessing upon us. And he is also praying- interceding for His people. As our merciful and faithful high priest, compassionately praying for us according to our needs as Heb. 4:15 says- one who sympathizes with our needs. And in this way, the work of Jesus Christ the chief prophet continues. Since this is the case, God's people will call upon Him in their days of trouble. We will look to Him our High Priest to secure and pour out upon us what we need- the forgiveness and grace that He has secured, we will look and call for from Him!

III. King

And finally, the third aspect to this office of Christ is that of King. You will remember what the Kings were supposed to do in the OT- they were supposed to lead the army of Israel against the foe. They were supposed to rule with justice and equity. They were to apply the Law of the land and lead in the charge of battle to ensure that the citizens in the kingdom were protected from outside aggressors. The goal was a nation of justice, equity and peace. Kings also built palaces and places of worship- the throne of the kingdom and the temple were built by kings. Kings deserved honor- they ruled over difficult cases and they executed justice in the land. Jesus now wears this crown as the eternal king. As QA 31 says, Jesus is anointed to be our eternal king who govern us and guards us. We find the kingly office of Jesus in Heb. 1:3- where He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high- having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs. And again in 1:13- the Father says to Him, sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet. This sitting at the right hand of the Father is the work of an anointed King. And the name above every name that

Jesus has is this- King of kings and Lord of Lords. Having been raised from the dead and ascended on high, Jesus now sits as the glorious king ruling and reigning over all. He is governing us- ruling over us by His Word and Spirit. In this work as our King, Jesus is protecting His people from their enemies. He defends the church and protects His bride. He is also ruling- conforming His citizens so that they are made into good and obedient citizens. He is building His Kingdom- building a castle or mansion in glory for His people- He is building His church as His people are being made into a living temple. In protecting and defending, not one of His citizens will be carried away by the army of darkness or snatched by the foe. And in keeping us, He ensures that the full deliverance He has secured will be enjoyed by the those whom He purchased them for! And to apply this aspect of Christ's office, let those who belong to the King, submit to Him in reverence! Kiss the Son- bend the knee- and so revere the One who has been given the crown above every crown! Trust Him to protect- and look to Him to provide!

To conclude, the office of the Christ is one that has many aspects- but the unifying point is that Jesus fulfills the necessary work of the anointed one. As prophet, priest and king, Jesus perfectly fulfills each aspect of His anointing and ordination! As our theme stated, the Heavenly Father anoints His Son with His Spirit to be our only Christ. As we now come to the Lord's Supper, listen to the voice of your prophet. Receive from the hand of your priest His body and blood. And bend your knees in submission to Him who reigns and has overcome!