**Fulfilling Prophecy (1-22-17)**

Isaiah 9:1-4 1 Cor. 1:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23

**Summary:** Jesus was born to fulfill prophecy; so are we.

 The famous passage from Isaiah about the people born in darkness seeing a great light is just the most famous of many prophecies about Jesus. All through the New Testament, we hear such and so happened or was done, often by Jesus himself “in order that what was spoken by (this or that) prophet might be fulfilled.” Sometimes, the text simply makes that observation about events and, in other cases, Jesus appears to take deliberate steps to make sure the prophet ends up right: such as making arrangements for an unridden colt just before his final entry into Jerusalem.

 So, it is very easy and a wonderful comfort to know that Jesus was born to fulfill prophecy: to do what God intended all along. In this, however, we forget to include ourselves. In the very Beginning, the Creation story makes it plain that God’s intention for those made in the Divine Image was for them to have dominion, in other words, to represent God to all the Earth. This is implied when Jesus keeps calling Himself, “The first born of the Kingdom of God.”

 No one who says something like that plans to be an only child! Paul remarks, in Romans 8:22, that all creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth and so do we who have the first fruits of the Holy Spirit. Why? Because we are saved in a hope which is not yet sight. We are saved and have the first taste of what that means but our mustard seeds of faith have not yet matured.

 We see Jesus rebuking the storm on the waters of Galilee, and the waters quiet. Like the disciples, we are awed by Jesus casting out sickness and demonic torments and wonder why he can do this, but we, his disciples, so often seem to pray in vain.

 So often, but not always. We saw and Lynn Gedraitis gives fervent testimony to the healing power of God in response to prayer; we had a part in that. In that moment of healing prayer, after a week of prayer and fasting, we were a fulfillment of prophecy. In a brief flash, our faith was sight.

Jesus was born to fulfill prophecy. So were you. That is not just a promise for me or Don or Jim; it is a universal promise which must be taken up individually by each of us and by those who come to faith through the gospel we share. As Paul points out, we have the same mind – and that is the mind of Christ and ***that*** is the mind of God.

Jesus Himself didn’t even want us to call Him “good” because God alone is the source of goodness. In fact, I often think Jesus might be upset at all the attention we give Him when He came to draw our attention to God.

We pray that God’s kingdom will come and God’s will shall be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. What can we do to fulfill this prophecy? We fulfill this when we pray, when we love, when we study and talk of God.

 God, may we so live as to fulfill prophecy, to be prophecy fulfilled and reveal the children of light to a world still struggling in darkness. Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that God is the Father of us all. Amen.