

Fire-Breathing Lions  
Joe Willmann  
Lutheran Church Extension Fund District Vice President

On September 13th, the western church remembers St. John Chrysostom. I could spend much time regaling you of the history of Chrysostom, from his time in Antioch, to the wild story of how he became archbishop of Constantinople, to his exile from Constantinople, and even the importance of his liturgy in the Eastern church.

But I think our short time together might be best spent reflecting on one of his most famous quotes concerning the Body and Blood of Christ:

“The Eucharist is a fire that inflames us, that, like lions breathing fire, we may retire from the altar being made terrible to the devil.”

To put it another way, Jesus is a fire that inflames us, making us fire-breathing lions who are terrible to the devil. As I’ve pondered this quote, I keep wondering if being made terrible to the devil is another way to say being made a disciple. That is, a person who follows Jesus is a person who Jesus has made terrible to Satan and his ways. So, in your going, you might as well be terrible to the devil, a disciple, a fire-breathing lion who is inflamed with the love Christ has for us all.