

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Jesus' Authority and Power

January 31, 2021

AS WE GATHER



In today's Gospel from Mark 1, we are reminded of Jesus' divine authority in His teaching to the people and also in His power over evil spirits. This power and authority were foretold by prophets such as Moses, pointing to the One who would fulfill all things as the long-awaited perfect prophet and Savior. In that power and authority, Christ has won our victory through His death and rising, and we are blessed with freedom in that faith to be used to His glory in service to others. There have always been many names and descriptions associated with Jesus Christ, and rightly so. As foretold in Isaiah, He would be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Disciples would call Him Rabbi, Teacher, and Lord. In our credal confession, we acknowledge He is both true man and true God. All of these are right and proper, yet amid the many names and descriptions found in Scripture and the Confessions, we focus today on the fact that Jesus is both Prophet and Savior. The prophet Moses pointed to the greater Prophet, Jesus, the fulfillment of prophecies as the saving Word made flesh, who came as our Savior.

✧ PREPARATION ✧

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:

God of power and might, you sent prophets to your people, calling us back to your covenant, and teaching us your ways. In the fullness of time, you sent us your Son Jesus, teaching with such authority, that our eyes were opened to see your ways anew. Open our hearts and minds, that we may understand and proclaim your teachings for all to hear. Build us up in love That we might pour ourselves out again and again to build what counts and lasts forever – justice, peace, and freedom, and to make it known that you are love, and you give love, and you require love in return. And so, humbled, we come before you now,

placing our faith wholly in you, trusting that you know those needs which are obscured to my short-sighted eyes, believing that in your love and mercy you will reach out and touch the lives we cannot comprehend. May this prayer and our worship, through your grace, become for us the way we are connected through your love with all creation. May our prayers transform our life, and may all our words and deeds, all of our being, be an offering to you. We pray this together in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

WELCOME:

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE.... Brothers and sisters in Christ, what hopes do you bring to worship? What afflictions do you bring to worship? Physical pain? Emotional pain? Mental pain? With all of these afflictions, it's a miracle that any of us have made it to worship this afternoon! But where else would we be? We yearn to know God's powerful love and to know that wholeness is possible. In today's gospel, a person with an *"afflicting spirit"** interrupts Jesus and Jesus frees him. And where does the miracle of his story and our stories begin? When we bring all of who we are —hopeful, afflicted, bold— into relationship with the Divine. So come, let us enter this sanctuary with our whole selves —hopeful, afflicted and bold—Come, let us worship! Welcome!

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 32:1–2, 5–7, 10*

Pastor: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

Pastor: As Jesus, the long-awaited Prophet and Savior, taught with and showed His authority and power, we confess those times when we

allow the forces of evil to make us forget the deliverance and love of God we have in Christ.

People: Forgive us, Lord.

Silence for reflection

Pastor: I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;

People: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. To those who believe in His name He gives the power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

HYMN OF PRAISE Praise Him Jesus, Blessed Savior” TFBF 285 Sts. 1-2

1 Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him! Jesus, blessed Savior, he's worthy to be praised. From the rising of the sun until the going down of the same, he's worthy, Jesus is worthy, he's worthy to be praised.

2 Glory! Glory! In all things give him glory. Jesus, blessed Savior, he's worthy to be praised. For God is our rock, hope of salvation; a strong deliverer, in him I will always trust.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 18:15–20* (A new prophet like Moses)

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SELECTION

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GRADUAL *Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8*

Leader: Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples! For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts!

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 8:1–13* (In our freedom, not causing others to stumble)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Mark 1:22a* [See Music Index]

Leader: **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

People: They were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one who had authority.

Leader: **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 1:21–28* (Jesus teaches with authority and shows His power over unclean spirits.)

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

SERMON

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

(We Bring Our Tithes & Offering To The Lord)

CREED Apostle Creed

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: Let us pray for the Church of God and for all people according to their needs.

Gracious Lord, we give You thanks for the gift of the Holy Scriptures, both Law and Gospel, in which we see our sin and see Your love in our Savior. As Christ is true Prophet and Savior of this world, give us faith to continue to hear His voice and find comfort in His work of salvation. Bless the proclamation of the Word, and raise faithful servants who will share Your commands and the forgiveness that comes through Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Ever-giving Lord, grant continued faith by Your Holy Spirit through the hearing of Your Word that we be fed and nourished. Produce in us good fruit for the sake of selves and others, that we not cause others to stumble but to walk firmly in Your ways. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: All-powerful Lord, at whose Word and authority even unclean and evil spirits submit and obey, hinder the work of Satan in our lives that Your kingdom and victory be known to all. Give Your peace

and presence to those who suffer any affliction, [*including . . .*].
Enable us to be a blessing to those in their time of need. Lord, in
Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Additional petitions may follow.

Leader: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

BENEDICTION *Psalm 32:10*

Pastor: Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
People: **but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✕ give you peace.
Numbers 6:24–26

People: **Amen.**

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

***LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE FROM GOD'S WORD.
USE THIS SHEET TO MAKE SOME PERSONAL NOTES.
GO BACK OVER THEM THROUGH THE WEEK.
THINK AND LET GOD CRYSTALIZE TRUTHS IN YOUR LIFE.***

SERMON TITLE: _____

BIBLICAL TEXT: _____

INTRODUCTION: _____

MAJOR POINTS: _____

WHAT I WILL DO AS A RESULT OF THIS MESSAGE:

“...They received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day.” Acts 17:11 (NIV)

