

Our Savior Lutheran Church
Sunday, January 31, 2021
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Thought: The authority of Jesus is made abundantly clear to readers of Mark's Gospel, while it remains unclear to characters within the story. Readers are left to decide if Jesus' authority in their own lives is as clear as it is to Mark's readers, or as unclear as it is to the characters of Mark's story. *Mark 1 verse 22 They were astounded at his teaching for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

Who is this Jesus in your life?

Prelude Music – My Jesus, My Savior

<https://youtu.be/jABSW-UuT1o>

Call to Worship

A: God's thoughts are not our thoughts, nor are our ways God's ways.

C: We acknowledge your authority, God. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are your ways higher than our ways and your thoughts than our thoughts.

A: For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall God's word be that goes out from God's mouth; it shall not return empty, but it shall accomplish that which God purposes.

C: What you say shall be, God, and we give thanks for the Word that accomplishes God's purposes. Amen.

Music – Beautiful Savior – St. Olaf Choir (Virtual)

<https://youtu.be/ndUv80ALGps>

Note: Our apologies--this will open with an ad, please 'skip ad' as soon as possible.

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Prayer and Confession

P: Almighty God, as your children cowered before Sinai –

C: “If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more...I will die.”

P: And as the man from Capernaum withered in your presence –

C: “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?”

P: So we, too, are weakened by sin. So we, too, cower in fear.

C: “Have you come to destroy us?”

P: Yet, you have promised to deliver us.

C: "I will raise up for them a prophet from among their own people."

P: You have sent your Son to redeem us.

C: "The Holy One of God!"

P: Strengthen our bodies with your Spirit. Fortify us with your Word –

C: "A new teaching – with authority!"

P: Then, though weak, we will stand. Through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now...

C: and forever. Amen.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord,

C: Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen and Amen.

Music of Praise – Lord of All Hopefulness (Slane)

<https://youtu.be/b8mti7VL3gg>

Prayer of the Day

A: Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The Word

Old Testament reading – Deuteronomy 18:15-20

The prophet speaks with God's authority

¹⁵ The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶ This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” ¹⁷ Then the Lord replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹ Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰ But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 111

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom

¹ Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

² **Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.**

³ Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ **He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.**

⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

⁶ **He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.**

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

⁸ **They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

⁹ He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name.

¹⁰ **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.**

Epistle reading – 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Limits to liberty: the case of food offered to idols

8 Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ² Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³ but anyone who loves God is known by him. ⁴ Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵ Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords— ⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷ It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸ “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹ But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

¹⁰ For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹ So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹² But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel – Mark 1:21-28
The healing of one with an unclean spirit
https://youtu.be/N_I_V_c8vjg

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹ They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²² They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴ and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time – "Be Still!"

https://youtu.be/X7WLhQk_INg

Pastor Barnes: Homily – "The Lazarus Affect or When Pigs Fly"

<https://youtu.be/r0zsOMmLhl>

Music – Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

<https://youtu.be/xgtz3V2IGdo>

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead,
on the third day, he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

P: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

A: For all who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ throughout the world: prophets, teachers, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders; for the church and its ministries, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For all God's works in creation: plants and animals, water and soil, forests and farms; and for those tasked with protecting our natural resources and all that exists, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For government and leaders: cities and nations, rescue professionals and legal aid attorneys, elected officials and grassroots organizers; for all responsible for the well-being of civil society, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: those who are sick and hospitalized, those living with HIV/AIDS, those struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry or homeless, and all in any need; for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For the concerns of this congregation: those who travel, those absent from worship, those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries; for the people of God in this place and for other needs in our community, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For the covenant God made with us in the waters of baptism, in thanksgiving for the baptized who have died in the Lord, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Offering and Prayer

Our God, take what we give of what we have. Bless it and use it, and may its use in your will and in your world shape our perspective on the rest of what we have. Take what we give of who we are, and remind us that who we are is your gift to us and part of your hope for creation. May we be good stewards of all you have entrusted to us. This we pray, in the name of the one who gave all of what he had and all of who he is. Amen.

Thoughts of the Bread and Wine we Share

When God wants to reach, no vehicle is too ordinary! Even the "clay jars" of water, bread, and wine are useful to God. We call the sacraments "means of grace" because God communicates divine love in and among us through them. We "Celebrate" the sacraments because to receive faith and forgiveness from God is truly a joy. Even though apart yet for a little while, know that the promises of God hold true daily!



Communion Music – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (Duke Chapel)

<https://youtu.be/kmtqYfRB1wA>

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Closing Prayer

A: Come to us, Lord Jesus, not as we might want, but as you know we might need. Come to us, speak to us the words we have been hesitant to hear, and push us down your path that we've been reluctant to tread. Come, Lord Jesus as you speak with God's love and authority.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: Now may the Lord bless and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give to you His peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Sending Music – Savior Again to Your Dear Name (St. Andrew’s Ev. Lutheran)

<https://youtu.be/ES4AKTDv9Zg>

Dismissal

A: You speak the words Lord Jesus – “Peace Be Still,” and we know the peace that sends us out to share the Good News.

C: Thanks be to God!

