

Jesus Has the Authority of God

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 28, 2024

KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Golden Valley, Minnesota*

Welcome to God's divine service among his saints in his house this morning. If you experience any kind of barrier to worship, please speak with an usher. There is a hearing assistance system available, and there are activity bags and a cry room for small children just beside the front door.

Service of Preparation

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Use this time in quiet preparation for worship by looking ahead at today's Bible readings and hymn texts, and in prayer.

HYMN (8:15)

Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word | #1

HYMN (10:45)

I Lift My Soul to You, Lord | Grade 2

*I lift my soul to you, Lord
I trust, O God, in you
Send forth your truth to guide me
And teach me what to do
Remember your great mercy
Your everlasting love
Forgive me, God, my Savior
My guilt and sin remove.*

*Your covenant and mercy
Are with me all my days
To comfort and to bless me
To keep me in your ways
Whenever I look upward
I find you waiting there
To bear me and to keep me
All safe beneath your care.*

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you both that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and also that we have each sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge toward your infinite mercy, pleading for your grace on the basis of the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **O most merciful God, you have given your only-begotten Son to die for us. Have mercy upon us and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. And by your Holy Spirit, increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will, and true obedience to your word, to the end that—by your grace—we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

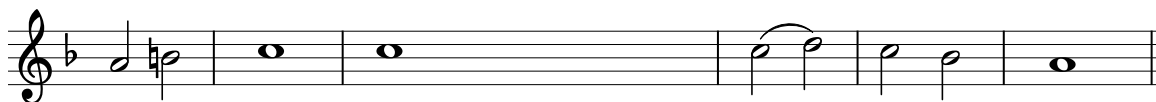
P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given his only-begotten Son to die for us, and on the basis of his work forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in his name he gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them his Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized will be saved.

C: **Grant this unto us, O Lord. Amen.**

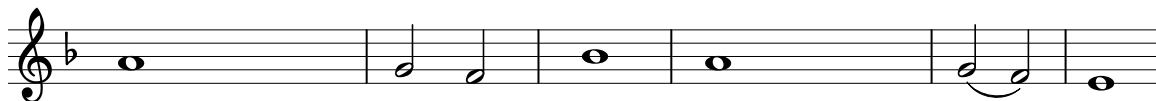
HYMN

Gloria

Glory be to God on high, And on earth peace, good will toward
men. We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,
we give thanks to you, for your great glory. O Lord God, heav'n-ly
King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son,



Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



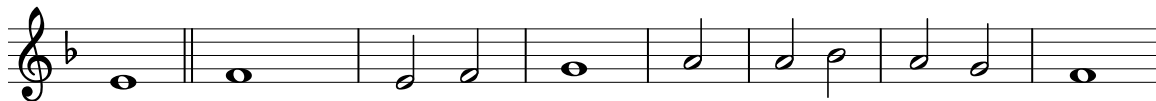
you take away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



You take away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



You are seated at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up - on



us. For you only are holy. You on - ly are the Lord.



You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the



glory of God the Father. A - men.

Service of the Word

We often have trouble dealing with authority—both heavy-handed authority from those above us and the lack of respect from those below us. But the readings for the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany reveal that the Holy One of God uses his authority to teach and to heal. That’s good news for people who are worried God’s authority might be oppressive.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray that we accept the authority of Jesus: Great and loving God, we thank you for sending your Son Jesus with authority to teach and to heal. Make us ready to listen to him in all our doubts and confusion, and to trust in him in all our troubles. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 18:14–22

Prophets don’t have authority on the basis of their own ideas, but only as they speak what God commands.

¹⁴ The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do so. ¹⁵ The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. ¹⁶ For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, “Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.”

¹⁷ The LORD said to me: “What they say is good. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. ¹⁹ I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. ²⁰ But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death.”

²¹ You may say to yourselves, “How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?” ²² If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously, so do not be alarmed.

Jesus is the Prophet greater than Moses who has the authority of God to which all must listen.

¹ Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. ² He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. ³ Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. ⁵ "Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house," bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. ⁶ But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory. ⁷ So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸ do not harden your hearts."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

Speak, O Lord



1. Speak O Lord, as we come to you to re -
 2. Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly
 3. Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us



ceive the food of your ho - ly word.
 rev - er - ence, true hu - mil - i - ty.
 grasp the heights of your plans for us.



Take your truth, plant it deep in us, shape and
 Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes in the
 Truths un - changed from the dawn of time, that will



fash - ion us in your like - ness. That the
ra - di - ance of your pu - ri - ty. Cause our
ech - o down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by



light of Christ might be seen to - day in our
faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your ma -
grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es; and by



acts of love and our deeds of faith.
jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty.
faith we'll walk as you walk with us.



Speak, O Lord, and ful - fill in us all your
Words of pow'r that can nev - er fail, let their
Speak, O Lord, till your church is built, and the



pur - pos - es for your glo - ry.
truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
earth is filled with your glo - ry.

That the Devil attends the synagogue is a grave warning to us. Yet Jesus' true words have the authority to fight evil and control it. Let us accept what Jesus teaches.

²¹ They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²² The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. ²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, ²⁴ "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

²⁵ "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" ²⁶ The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

²⁷ The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." ²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

The law: What is a trouble human beings face on this topic?

The topic is the authority of Jesus. We have trouble both learning what Jesus teaches and then accepting it even if we don't like it.

The gospel: What is the good news for God's people on that topic?

Jesus allowed himself to be destroyed for you, and uses his authority for your health and well-being.

The new life: What should you believe/think/feel/do as a result of that good news?

Believe that all of Jesus' teaching is healthy for human life, look for where you are avoiding something, and then commit to following Jesus' teaching.

HYMN

Create in Me

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of five staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are: "Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right". The second staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are: "spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your". The third staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are: "pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.". The fourth staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are: "Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,". The fifth staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are: "and up - hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.".

Service of Thanksgiving

STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C: 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall 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.**

OFFERING

The teaching and evangelism work of King of Grace is supported entirely by donation. You can support this work by giving a gift in the offering plate or at www.kingofgracelutheran.com/give.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name | #49: v.1, 4-7

PRAYER

P: Blessed Lord, since you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart, so that by the patience and comfort of your holy word we may embrace and always hold secure the blessed hope of everlasting life. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: 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.

C: A - men, a - men, a - men.

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef. The notes are: A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The notes A, B, and C are marked with a sharp sign (#). The notes A, B, and C are also marked with a flat sign (b). The notes A, B, and C are also marked with a natural sign (♮). The notes A, B, and C are also marked with a double sharp sign (x).

Meditate on how Psalm 29 relates to today's theme at home throughout this week.

Preacher.....Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad | **Liturgist**.....Pastor Bernt Tweit
Organist (Sunday).....Harrison Lawrence | **Pianist (Monday)**.....Andrew Shoop
Grade 2 teacher.....Sheila Degner



King of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and School
6000 Duluth Street | 763-546-3131 | www.kingofgracelutheran.com
Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Pastors Aaron Ferkenstad & Bernt Tweit | Principal Allen Labitzky