

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 25 & 28, 2024

Absolute Authority

Opening Hymn633, “Speak, O Lord”

Order of Service.....Setting One, Page 154

Prayer of the Day: Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING

Psalm of the Day (*On Insert*)..... Psalm 8D

SECOND READING

Gospel Acclamation Page 161

Gospel Acclamation Verse: *The people were amazed at his teaching, *I because he taught them as one who had authority.*

GOSPEL

Hymn of the Day517, “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

SERMON..... “The Blessings of Discipleship” Mark 1:21-28

Offering Hymn 749 v. 3, “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

Apostles’ Creed Page 163

Hymn 541, “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”

Closing Liturgy Page 171

Closing Hymn 924 vv. 1-3, “Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses prophesies that the LORD would raise up another prophet who would speak with all the authority of God himself.

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brother Israelites. Listen to him. That is exactly what you asked from the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly. You said, “Do not let me hear the voice of the LORD my God anymore, and do not let me see this great fire again, or I will die.”

Then the LORD said to me, “They have done well by saying what they said. I will raise up a prophet for them from among their brothers, like you, and I will put my words in his mouth, and he will speak to them everything that I command him. Anyone who will not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will

call him to account. Any prophet who presumes to speak something in my name that I have not commanded him to speak or who speaks something in the name of other gods—that prophet shall die.”

SECOND READING: Hebrews 3:1-6

As great as Moses was, Jesus is worthy of infinitely greater honor. For only Jesus has absolute authority.

Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, focus your attention on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. He was faithful to the one who appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in God’s whole house. In fact, Jesus is worthy of greater glory than Moses, in the same way that the builder of a house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, and God is the one who built everything.

Moses was faithful as a servant within God’s whole house by testifying to the things that would be spoken. But Christ is faithful as a Son over God’s house. We are his house, if we hold on firmly to our confidence and the hope about which we boast until the end.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

Jesus demonstrates absolute authority. Even his enemies, the demons, have to obey him.

Then they went into Capernaum. On the next Sabbath day, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. They were amazed at his teaching, because he was teaching them as one who has authority and not as the experts in the law. Just then there was a man with an unclean spirit in their synagogue. It cried out, “What do we have to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” Jesus rebuked the spirit, saying, “Be quiet! Come out of him!” The unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions, and after crying out with a loud voice, it came out of him. Everyone was so amazed that they began to discuss this with each other. They said, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands the unclean spirits, and they obey him!” News about him spread quickly through all the region of Galilee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEAD USHERS: Ross Schultz/Wayne Schultz; next Sunday: Dean Ebert/Rob Stern

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY: Today is Fellowship Sunday! All are invited to stay for the refreshments being served immediately following Sunday's worship service. We thank Pastor and Connie Mose for hosting this fellowship hour. They are hosting the fellowship in celebration of their 28th year serving the Lord here at St. Matthew's!

SERVICE GROUP MEETING: The next Service Group meeting will be held immediately following the fellowship hour on **Sunday (TODAY), January 28**. Annual elections of officers will be held and activities for 2024 will be discussed. All members are invited to participate!

ORGANISTS: The **February** schedule is hanging on the **SCHOOL** bulletin board. Please look at your calendars in the near future and sign up for the date(s) you are willing to play for us. Thank you!

CHURCH MAIL SLOTS RE-ORGANIZED: The church mail slots have been re-organized and re-numbered for the new year. If you are picking something up from your mail slot today or in the near future, please be sure that you are taking items from the correct slot! Thank you!

2024 CHURCH DIRECTORY: The 2024 church directory is available today. You may pick up a copy of the new directory from the table at the back of the church.

PAGE MAGNIFIERS: For those of you who may have difficulty reading the small print in our hymnals and/or bulletins, we now have page magnifiers available for your use. You can find them on the table at the back of church. We do ask that you return them to the table once the service is over. We thank Leo and Bonnie Borden for donating these!

CHURCH CLEANING – HELP NEEDED!: The Johnson family, who is currently cleaning our church, is looking for a little help with these duties. They are finding it a little difficult to get here each week to do this. This is currently a volunteer position which takes only a couple hours each week. If you would be willing to help with these duties, please speak with Karilynn Johnson for more details or speak with Pastor Mose, and he will get you in contact with Karilynn.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY – CHILI & BINGO!: On **Sunday, February 25**, we will be having a chili meal and BINGO event immediately following our 9:00 AM worship service! Mark your calendars today and watch for signs with further details about food items to bring and BINGO prizes to bring, if playing! Let's mingle and BINGO!

WOMEN'S RETREAT: The women of St. Lucas Lutheran Church in Kewaskum invite you to join them for their 19th annual Women's Retreat. The retreat will take place on **Saturday, March 9, 2024**, from **8:30 AM – 3:00 PM** in **Hoenecke Hall** at **St. Lucas Lutheran School, 1410 Parkview Drive, Kewaskum**. This year's retreat theme is: **Make a Joyful Noise**. A **non-refundable** registration fee of **\$30.00** includes lunch and presentations. Presenters for this retreat will be Andy Braun, Rachel Braun, and Jeremy Bakken of Branches Band. Additional information as well as a registration brochure can be found on the table at the back of church. Registrations are due by: **February 20, 2024**.

WE THANK the students in Gr. 3-4 for their wonderful song on Sunday morning!

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Thursday: 26; Sunday: 79

Offerings: \$4,803.45 **Tuition:** \$4,512.06 **4K Tuition:** \$306.00
(*Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$7,239.00*)

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$350.00; Christian Life Resources: \$95.00



We invite you to support this ministry through financial offerings out of thanksgiving for the Gospel you have received here. Offerings may be placed in the plates located on the tables at the back of church, or you may scan the QR code to give electronically.

OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday: Worship Service (**Fellowship Sunday**).....9:00 AM
 Service Group Meeting – Immediately following fellowship hour

Thursday: Communion Worship Service7:00 PM
 Adult Choir.....8:00 PM

SCRIP ORDERS DUE

Sunday: Communion Worship Service9:00 AM
 Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School 10:15 AM

8D I Will Praise Your Name Forever

Psalm 8D

Refrain



I will praise your name for - ev - er, my King and my God.

Tone



LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in / all the earth!

You have set your glory in the / heavens.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your / fingers,

the moon and the stars, which you have / set in place,

what is a human being that you are mind- / ful of him,

a Son of Man that you / care for him? *Refrain*

You made him a little lower than the / angels

and crowned him with glory and / honor.

You made him ruler over the works / of your hands;

you put everything un- / der his feet.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

Text: Lectionary for Mass

Tune: Lynn Trapp

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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