

## **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

### **Astonished at His Teaching**

**January 27/28, 2024**

**5pm & 8am**

### **AS WE GATHER**



In a world where there is nothing new under the sun, we still run to anything that appears to be new. When Jesus taught in the synagogue, the hearers heard a man speak with the authority of the author of the Scriptures. They were surprised and even more surprised when His Word was not simply theoretical but silenced an unclean spirit and relieved the man of this demon. In their amazement, they could not help but tell the story to any who would listen. Yet even as Jesus' fame spread, so did opposition to His teaching and preaching.

### **✂ PREPARATION ✂**

### **PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

### **WELCOME & GREETING**

### **MISSION & MINISTRY MOMENT**

### **HYMN**                    “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” *LSB 849*

**1** Praise the One who breaks the darkness; With a liberating light; Praise the One who frees the pris'ners; Turning blindness into sight. Praise the One who preached the Gospel, Healing ev'ry dread disease, Calming storms, and feeding thousands With the very Bread of peace.

**2** Praise the One who blessed the children; With a strong, yet gentle word; Praise the One who drove out demons; With the piercing two-edged sword. Praise the one who brings cool water; To the desert's burning sand; From this Well comes living water; Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

**3** Let us praise the Word incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place. Jesus died and rose victorious; That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done; Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the One who makes us one.

## 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*

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: I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”

People: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **O most merciful God who has 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.**

Pastor: Almighty God has had mercy upon you and has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

□ **WORD** □

**INTROIT** *Psalm 32:1–2, 5–7*

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

<sup>2</sup> Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. <sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah* <sup>6</sup> Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. <sup>7</sup> You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. *Selah*

**(8am) Baptism**     **Donald Edward Redman**

**(8am)**     **The Lord’s Prayer**

**People:**     **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.**

**(5pm & 8am)**     **The Apostles’ Creed**

**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 Pontious 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.**

**(8am) Baptism**     **Donald Edward Redman**

**KYRIE**     *(p. 204 in hymnal)*

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

## **HYMN OF PRAISE**     *(p. 204 in hymnal)*

- 1** To God on high be glory; And peace to all the earth. Goodwill from God in heaven; Proclaimed at Jesus' birth! We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing; Our thanks for Your great glory; Lord God, our heav'nly King.
- 2** To You, O sole-gotten; The Father's Son, we pray; O Lamb of God, our Savior; You take our sins away. Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry; Where You in pow'r are seated; At God's right hand on high.
- 3** For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord. Forever and forever; Be worshiped and adored. You with the Holy Spirit; Alone are Lord Most High; In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

## **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.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:**        Today is the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, in the season of Christ's self-revelation through word and works. Today we hear the promise of a prophet fulfilled in Christ who bears the authority of the Word to us and confronts and casts out unclean spirits. From this we learn to love as He loves, taking care to season our liberty with the privilege of service.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**     *Deuteronomy 18:15–20*  
(God will raise up a prophet.)

<sup>15</sup> “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—<sup>16</sup> just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’<sup>17</sup> And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken.<sup>18</sup> I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.<sup>19</sup> And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.<sup>20</sup> But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or<sup>[a]</sup> who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’

Lector:        This is the Word of the Lord.

People:        **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**     *Psalms 111*

<sup>[a]</sup> Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.<sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.<sup>3</sup> Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.<sup>4</sup> He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.<sup>5</sup> He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.<sup>6</sup> He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.<sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;<sup>8</sup> they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.<sup>9</sup> He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!<sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

**EPISTLE** *1 Corinthians 8:1–13* (Knowledge puffs up but love builds up.)

Now concerning<sup>[a]</sup> food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup> If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. <sup>3</sup> But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>4</sup> Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup> For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup> Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup> But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup> For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating<sup>[c]</sup> in an idol’s temple, will he not be encouraged,<sup>[d]</sup> if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? <sup>11</sup> And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. <sup>12</sup> Thus, sinning against your brothers<sup>[e]</sup> and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

**Lector:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE** *Mark 1:22a*

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

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Mark 1:21–28*

(The people are astonished at the authority of Jesus’ teaching and His power over unclean spirits.)

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

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

<sup>21</sup> And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. <sup>22</sup> And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup> And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, <sup>24</sup> “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.” <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup> And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **HYMN OF THE DAY** “Son of God, Eternal Savior” *LSB 842*

**1** Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth among us; Hallows all our human race, You our Head, who, throned in glory, For Your own will ever plead: Fill us with Your love and pity, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.

**2** As You, Lord, have lived for others, So may we for others live. Freely have Your gifts been granted; Freely may Your servants give. Yours the gold and Yours the silver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stewards of Your bounty Held in solemn trust will be.

**3** Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of Love and Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and passion, Bid its cruel discords cease. By Your patient years of toiling, By Your silent hours of pain, Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, Stem our selfish greed of gain.

**4** Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth among us; Hallows all our human race: By your praying, by Your willing, That Your people should be one, Grant, O grant our hope’s fruition; Here on earth Your will be done.

## **SERMON Pastor Matthew Kusch**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Father of love, You rescued Your fallen people with the sufferings and death of Christ, Your Son, our Brother in flesh. Guide us to know and rejoice in His salvation and to proclaim this Gospel with boldness to our brothers and sisters. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Father of mercy, Your compassion has rescued us from the powers of evil and set us free. Guide us to use this liberty to serve others as Christ has served us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Father of grace, You have provided us with the new life of Holy Baptism and granted us faith by the power of the Spirit. Keep us in this faith that we may be preserved from evil and delivered from all our enemies to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Father of truth, You have given us Your Word that we might know the truth. Provide for us good and honest leaders who will heed the voice of Your Word and protect us from violence so that we may lead peaceful and godly lives without fear. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Father of comfort, You have borne in Your Son all our wounds. According to Your will, deliver all who are sick, who suffer, who are troubled in mind, and those near death that they may be preserved in faith in the day of trouble. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Father of hope, You have ended the reign of death by the resurrection of Your Son. Deliver us from death and grant Your peace to the dying and Your comfort to those who grieve. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**



Pastor: Father of courage, You have promised to grant us all things needful for this body and life even as You have provided eternal life to us in Christ. Help us always to pray with confidence in Your mercy, knowing that Your every answer is for our eternal good. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**People: hear our prayer.**

*Additional petitions may be inserted here.*

Pastor: All these things for which we have prayed and all other things we need, we pray You to grant us in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**People: Amen.**

**(5pm) LORD'S PRAYER**      *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: 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.**

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY HYMN**

**“Praise God From Whom all Blessings Flow” *LSB* 803**

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

**BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People:** **Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**

“O God of God, O Light of Light”

**LSB 810**

**1** O God of God, O Light of Light, O Prince of Peace and King of kings:  
To You in heaven's glory bright; The song of praise forever rings.  
To Him who sits upon the throne, The Lamb once slain but raised again,  
Be all the glory He has won, All thanks and praise! Amen, amen.

**2** For deep in the prophets' sacred page, And grand in poets' winged word,  
Slowly in type, from age to age; The nations saw their coming Lord;  
Till through the deep Judean night; Rang out the song, "Good will to men!"  
Sung once by first-born sons of light, It echoes now, "Good will!" Amen.

**3** That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death so steeped in hate and scorn--  
These all are past, and now above; He reigns, our King once crowned with thorn.  
Lift up your heads, O mighty gates! So sang that host beyond our ken.  
Lift up your heads, your King awaits. We lift them up. Amen, amen.

**4** Then raise to Christ a mighty song, And shout His name, His mercies tell!  
Sing, heav'nly host, your praise prolong, And all on earth, your anthem swell!  
All hail, O Lamb for sinners slain! Forever let the song ascend! Worthy the  
Lamb, enthroned to reign, All glory, pow'r! Amen, amen.

**POSTLUDE**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1.

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