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**4th Sunday after the Epiphany**

“They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and was teaching. And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.” *Mark 1:21-22*

**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 was 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.

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting One, pg. 151)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”* (*LSB* 904)

Blessèd Jesus, at Your Word we are gathered all to hear You.

Let our hearts and souls be stirred now to seek and love and fear You,

by Your teachings, sweet and holy, drawn from earth to love You solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded

till Your Spirit breaks our night with the beams of truth unclouded.

You alone to God can win us; You must work all good within us.

Gracious Savior, good and kind, light of Light, from God proceeding,

open now our heart and mind; help us by Your Spirit’s pleading.

Hear the cry Your Church now raises; hear and bless our prayers and praises.

**Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord, praise to You and adoration!**

**Grant that we may trust Your Word, confident of our salvation,**

**while we here below must wander, till we sing Your praises yonder.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *“This Is the Feast”* (*LSB* pg. 155)

*Refrain* This is the feast of victory for our God.

 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,

whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom and strength,

and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God,

and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might

be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain

has begun His reign. Alleluia. *Refrain*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Deuteronomy 18:15-20

**EPISTLE** 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

**HOLY GOSPEL** Mark 1:21-28

**HYMN** *“Son of God, Eternal Savior”* (*LSB* 842)

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.

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.

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.

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 *“One with Authority”***

**NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**DISTRIBUTION**

 *“Jesus, Lead Thou On”* (*LSB* 718)

Jesus, lead Thou on till our rest is won;

and although the way be cheerless,

we will follow calm and fearless.

Guide us by Thy hand to our fatherland.

If the way be drear, if the foe be near,

let not faithless fears o’ertake us;

let not faith and hope forsake us;

for through many’a woe to our home we go.

When we seek relief from a long-felt grief,

when temptations come alluring,

make us patient and enduring.

Show us that bright shore where we weep no more.

Jesus, lead Thou on till our rest is won.

Heav’nly leader, still direct us,

still support, console, protect us,

till we safely stand in our fatherland.

**HYMN** *“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”* (*LSB* 919)

Abide, O dearest Jesus, among us with Your grace

that Satan may not harm us nor we to sin give place.

Abide, O dear Redeemer, among us with Your Word,

and thus now and hereafter true peace and joy afford.

Abide with heav’nly brightness among us, precious Light;

Your truth direct and keep us from error’s gloomy night.

Abide with richest blessings among us, bounteous Lord;

let us in grace and wisdom grow daily through Your Word.

Abide with Your protection among us, Lord, our strength,

Lest world and Satan fell us and overcome at length.

Abide, O faithful Savior, among us with Your love;

grant steadfastness and help us to reach our home above.

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH,**

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**