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**Sunday, January 28, 2023**  
**4th Sunday after Epiphany**

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Service Theme  
**ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY**

Authority is the power to determine what happens and the ability to give direction or even commands. Human authority is limited in scope, duration, and levels. Parents have authority over their children until they grow up and move out. A premier has authority over the people of his province only and not those in the neighbouring ones. A manager has authority over employees unless the company owner—a higher authority—demotes him. But the authority of Jesus is different. He is the only one with such absolute authority that even the demons have to submit to him. No one possesses higher authority than Jesus because he is God the Son. His authority is eternal. But here is the best part of this epiphany: Jesus graciously uses his absolute authority for our benefit and blessing.

## Hymn

CW 353 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

**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 Father's word 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.**

## Order of Service

*Service of the Word (p.38)*

**M:** The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of  
God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

- M:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.
- C:** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**
- M:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give us strength to live according to his will.
- C:** **Amen.**

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

*(CW p.39)*

- M:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.
- C:** *(Sing)* **Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

(CW p.39)

M: Let us pray.

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.

C: (Sing) Amen.

### 1st Lesson

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (EHV)

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

<sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brother Israelites. Listen to him.

<sup>16</sup>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."

<sup>17</sup>Then the LORD said to me, "They have done well by saying what they said. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who will not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. <sup>20</sup>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."

**Psalm**

1 (CW p. 64)

*Refrain:*

***Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.***

**Blessed is the man  
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked\*  
or stand in the way of sinners.**

**But his delight is in the law of the LORD,\*  
and on his law he meditates day and night.**

**He is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season\*  
and whose leaf does not wither.  
Whatever he does prospers.**

*Refrain*

**Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,\*  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.**

**For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,\*  
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain*

## **Second Lesson**

Hebrews 3:1-6 (EHV)

*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. <sup>2</sup>He was faithful to the one who appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in God's whole house. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>For every house is built by someone, and God is the one who built everything.

<sup>5</sup>Moses was faithful as a servant within God's whole house by testifying to the things that would be spoken. <sup>6</sup>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.

### **Verse of the Day**

*(CW p.40)*

Alleluia. Alleluia. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority. Alleluia.

(Mark 1:22)

**C:** *(sing)* **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Gospel Lesson**  
Mark 1:21-28 (EHV)

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

<sup>21</sup>Then they went into Capernaum.

On the next Sabbath day, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup>They were amazed at his teaching, because he was teaching them as one who has authority and not as the experts in the law. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was a man with an unclean spirit in their synagogue. It cried out, <sup>24</sup>“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!”

<sup>25</sup>Jesus rebuked the spirit, saying, “Be quiet! Come out of him!”

<sup>26</sup>The unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions, and after crying out with a loud voice, it came out of him.

<sup>27</sup>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!” <sup>28</sup>News about him spread quickly through all the region of Galilee.

**C: (sing) Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**Hymn**

CW 556 Rise, Shine, You People

**1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered  
Our human story; God in him is centered.  
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,  
With grace unbounded.**

**2 See how he sends the pow’rs of evil reeling;  
He brings us freedom, light and life and healing.  
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,  
Now are forgiven.**

**3 Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling,  
Your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.  
To all the world go out and tell the story  
Of Jesus' glory.**

**4 Tell how the Father sent his Son to save us.  
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.  
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation  
His new creation.**

### **Sermon Text & Theme**

**Mark 1:21-28 ...Find refuge in Jesus' powerful preaching:**

- 1) Because Satan lurks where we least expect him.
- 2) Because only Jesus can free us from his grasp.

### **Apostles' Creed**

*(CW p.41)*

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

**I believe 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 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.**



## Offertory Prayer

### Prayer of the Church

(CW p.42)

M: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

**C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

**C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

**C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

**C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

**C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

*(CW p.43)*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen**

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**or**

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: *(sing)* Amen.**

**Blessing**  
(CW p.44)

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: (Sing) Amen. Amen. Amen.

**Hymn**

CW 82:1,3,5 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

**1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,  
Manifested by the star To the Magi from afar,  
Branch of royal David's stem, In your birth at Bethlehem.  
Anthems be to you addressed,  
God in man made manifest.**

**3 Manifest in making whole  
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
Manifest in valiant fight, Quelling all the devil's might;  
Manifest in gracious will, Ever bringing good from ill.  
Anthems be to you addressed,  
God in man made manifest.**

**5 Grant us grace to see you, Lord,  
Mirrored in your holy Word.  
May our lives and all we do Imitate and honor you  
That we all like you may be At your great epiphany  
And may praise you, ever blest,  
God in man made manifest.**

**Announcements**

**Church Cleaners:**

February 4 - Simon // February 11 - Matthew

## DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

**Su (28) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class**  
**10:30 am Worship**

Tu (30) 10:00 am Ottawa Pastors' Winkel

We (31) 6:30 pm "Test the Spirits" Bible Info. Class

Th (1) 10:30 am Devotion at Longfield Manor

6:00 pm Illuminé (at St. Paul's)

6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (2) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study

4:30 pm Youth Confirmation (D)

**Su (4) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class**  
**10:30 am Worship & Communion**  
**3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore**

We (7) 6:30 pm "Test the Spirits" Bible Info. Class

Th (8) 6:00 pm Illuminé (at St. Paul's)

6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (9) 4:30 pm Youth Confirmation (D)

6:00 pm Friday Night Fellowship

**Su (11) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class**  
**10:30 am Worship**



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