

Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

28 JANUARY 2024, 10:15 AM

AS WE GATHER

In today's Gospel from Saint Mark, 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.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC and CANDLE LIGHTING

WELCOME and INVITATION

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING SONGS

Be Strong, and Take Courage

Basil Chiasson

Be strong and take courage,
Do not fear or be dismayed;
For the Lord will go before you,
And His light will show the way.

Chorus

So, be strong and take courage,
Do not fear or be dismayed;
For the One who lives within you,
Will be strong in you today.

Why don't you give Him all of your fears,
why don't you let Him dry all of your tears?
He knows He's been through pain before,
And He knows all that you've been looking for. **Chorus**

Nothing can take you out of His hand,
Nothing can face you that you can't command;
I know that you will always be
In His love in His pow'r you will be free. **Chorus**

For the One who lives within you,
Will be strong in you today.

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Cornerstone

Edward Mote, Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, William Bradbury

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My hope is built on nothing less,
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly trust in Jesus' Name. **(Repeat)**

Chorus

Christ alone. Cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.
Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.

When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.
My anchor holds within the veil. **(Chorus twice)**

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
oh may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone.
Faultless stand before the throne.

(Instrumental)

Repeat Chorus

OPENING SENTENCES

Praise the LORD, all nations!
Extol Him, all peoples!

*For great is His steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;
bring an offering and come into His courts!*

INVOCATION

*In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

Matthew 28:19b

REPENTANCE and RESTORATION

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

Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

As Moses speaks to the people through God, we confess those times we do not listen to Your words and close our hearts to You.

Forgive us, Lord.

As Paul warns, we confess those times when our freedom in Christ causes one who is weak in faith to stumble.

Forgive us, Lord.

As Jesus, the long-awaited Prophet and Savior, taught with and showed His authority and power, we confess those times when we allow the forces of evil to make us forget the deliverance and love of God we have in Christ.

Forgive us, Lord.

With David the psalmist, we humbly come before the Lord.

A moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Lord's mercy and forgiveness.

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.

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.

You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance.

We cannot repay God for our offenses, but He has given us His only Son to pay for every sin. Receive the free gift that Jesus offers: the forgiveness of sins, in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Thank You, Jesus! Amen.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have told us what pleases You and how we should live.

Help us to do justice and love kindness in response to Jesus' life of perfect obedience and sacrificial death on our behalf;

through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Following the prayer, people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you."— Luke 2:11. Then return to their places and be seated.

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

[Please refer to the back of your service folder or to the screens overhead.]

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-2

Steve Yearout

"A New Prophet like Moses"

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 111 (antiphon: v.1)

Pastor Marty

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.

He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers His covenant forever.

He has shown His people the power of His works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy;

they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever. Holy and awesome is His name!

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

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.

EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Abbie Crist

“Paul Talks of Food Offered to Idols”

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

ALLELUIA and VERSE

Alleluia! They were astonished at His teaching,

for He taught them as one who had authority. Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

Pastor Marty

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter one.

Speak Lord, for Your servant hears.

After the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise You, O Christ.

WHAT WE BELIEVE ~ 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 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 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.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Jane Goss

(Kindergarten – 5th grade students are excused to attend Children's Church in the ANNEX)

SONG OF THE DAY

Let God Arise

Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves

Verse 1

Hear the holy roar of God resound.
Watch the waters part before us now.
Come and see what He has done for us,
Tell the world of His great love.

Chorus 1

Our God is a God who saves.
Our God is a God who saves.

Let God arise. . . Let God arise.
Our God reigns now and forever.
He reigns now and forever.

Verse 2

His enemies will run for sure.
The Church will stand she will endure,
He holds the keys of life our Lord.
Death has no sting no final word.

Chorus 2

God arise. . . Let God arise.
Our God reigns now and forever.
He reigns now and forever.

Sermon Notes

Focus Scripture Verse(s)

The Law (Shows Our Sin)

The Gospel (Shows Our Salvation)

Main Point:

What Does This Mean for Me?

Application:

How does what I learned help me share God's Good News?

THANKFUL GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support of Grace Ministries.

Our ability to continue to serve you, the Church, and our community is greatly dependent upon the willingness of God's people to give of their time, talents and treasures. Please remember to support the LORD'S Church by regularly bringing or sending in your tithes and offerings; by mail, online at www.GraceLutheranCC.com/Giving, or on the *GivePlus* Mobile App. As the Apostle Paul writes, "Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). If you brought your tithe or offering with you today, you may place them in the box marked "I Bring An Offering To The Lord" sitting on the table next to the usher's station at the entrance to the sanctuary.

Please stand.

OFFERTORY SONG

All That I Need

Dan Marks

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There is one thing that I know I will do,
I will be holding on to You.
And when the dark clouds come
and bring down the rain,
I know that You will sustain me, Lord.

Chorus

Your love is all that I need,
All that I need, all that I need,
Your love is all that I need,
All that I need is You.

Jesus, You know what's inside of my heart,
When I am coming apart at the seams.
But that's when your true mercies
Come shining through,
I know that You are the One for me. ***Chorus***

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

As the Lord invites us to come to Him with petitions and supplications, we commonly close our prayers with "Amen." Derived from a Hebrew verb, amen means "certainty" or "to confirm." As Martin Luther put it, amen means, "Yes, yes, it shall be so." As we await the day of the Lord, we pray in confidence as Scripture closes with the words: "He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" We, in our wait, come to our Lord in prayer, proclaim our "amens," and confidently invite Him to come.

God has called us as His own, gathered us together, and enlightened us by His Spirit through the Word. Therefore, we bring to Him our prayer and praise, for in all times and in all places, He promises to hear our prayers and to answer them according to His gracious will.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(see hymnal inside back cover)*

Please be seated.

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE **"Let Your Love Build Up"** *Abbie Crist*

Today is the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, in the season of Christ's self-revelation through word and works. Today we heard 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. This week's challenge:

- Be in the Word: Read 1 Corinthians chapters 8, 9 and 10.
- Consider a weaker brother/sister in the faith and be a help to him or her. Ask to join them for devotion, to study the Bible, or to pray together.
- Be doing good works: Reach out to those who are sick among us. Call them, send a card, make a meal, do an errand, pray with them.

Please stand.

CLOSING RESPONSE

Rejoicing in Your mercy, O God, we pray that You would guard and guide us by Your Spirit, that we who have known the blessings of Your mercy in Christ may be kept from all evil and preserved in the righteousness that is ours by faith, until that Day when we no longer must wrestle against principalities and powers. Grant us to live holy, upright, and godly lives in response to all that Your love has accomplished in us and for us; through Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen.

BLESSING TO DEPART

Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold to what is good, return no person evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all of God's people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The almighty God—the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless you and keep you and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Everlasting God

Brenton Brown, Kenneth Riley

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord. **Repeat**

Our God, You reign forever.
Our hope, our strong deliverer.

You are the everlasting God,
The everlasting God.
You do not faint.
You won't grow weary.

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord. **Repeat**

Our God, You reign forever.
Our Hope, our Strong Deliverer

You're the defender of the weak.
You comfort those in need.
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

Instrumental

Our God, You reign forever.
Our Hope, our Strong Deliverer.

You are the everlasting God,
The everlasting God.
You do not faint.
You won't grow weary.

You're the defender of the weak.
You comfort those in need.
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

From everlasting . . . To everlasting. . . God You are everlasting.