

Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



From the River to the Mountain:
Absolute Authority

4th Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2024



“Learning and sharing the gospel of Christ the Prince of Peace.”

Prince of Peace
Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Martinez, GA 30907

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WELCOME!

Welcome to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. We pray that the time spent here in God’s house helps you to appreciate how dearly God loves you! May God bless our worship today! If you are visiting with us for the first time, please take a moment to fill out one of the information cards found in the pews next to the hymnals. You can either place the completed card in the offering plate or give it to the usher when being ushered out at the end of the service. We look forward to getting to know you better in order to serve you fully with God's word!

THEME FOR TODAY

Authority is limited. A governor has authority over the people of his state only, not the neighboring state. The power to give direction or even commands only goes so far. Authority is limited in duration. Parents have authority over their children until they grow up and move out. A manager has authority over employees unless the company owner—a higher authority—demotes him. It is limited by higher levels of authority. There is one who has absolute authority. There is no one, not even the demons, who is outside his authority. As the Son of God there is no higher authority than Jesus. And his authority is everlasting. But here is the best part of this epiphany: Jesus graciously uses his absolute authority for our benefit and blessing.

January 7 th	First Sunday after Epiphany	-	It Begins with Baptism
January 14 th	Second Sunday after Epiphany	-	The Kindness in His Calling
January 21 st	Third Sunday after Epiphany	-	Committed to a Lofty Charge
January 28th	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	-	Absolute Authority
February 4 th	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	-	The Devil’s Work Undone
February 11 th	Transfiguration (Last Sunday of Epiphany)	-	A Glimpse of His True Glory

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

CW 172

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

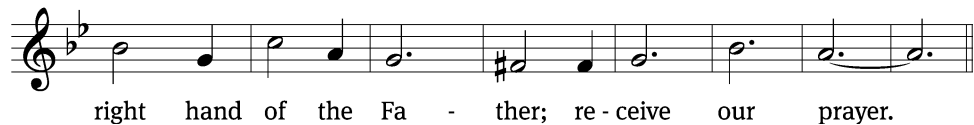
CW 176

The musical score is written in a single system with ten staves. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The score concludes with a double bar line.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth. Lord God,
heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your
glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the



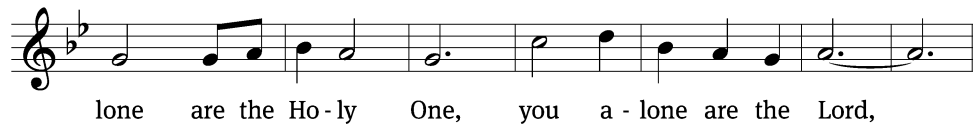
right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. For you a -



lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,



with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth.

Tune: Marty Haugen
Tune: © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 708875

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Amen.

Be seated

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.

¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. ¹⁶For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, “Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.”

¹⁷The LORD said to me: “What they say is good. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. ¹⁹I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. ²⁰But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

29A Ascribe to the LORD

Psalm 29A

Second Reading

Hebrews 3:1-6

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

¹Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. ²He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. ³Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. ⁴For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. ⁵"Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house," bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. ⁶But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 1:22



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

Refrain

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Gospel

Mark 1:21–28

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

²¹They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²²The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. ²³Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, ²⁴“What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

²⁵“Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” ²⁶The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

²⁷The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.”

²⁸News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

744 Rise, Shine, You People

CW 744

Sermon

Authority in Word and Action

Mark 1:21–28

Stand

Apostles' Creed

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.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. [Pour out your special blessing on . . . *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Offering

546 Since Our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus

CW 546

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

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.
Amen.

819 If God Himself Be for Me

CW 819 sts. 1–2, 6

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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THE WEEK AHEAD

WEDNESDAY	10:15 am Bible Class 5:00 pm Catechism 6:00 pm Bible Class
FRIDAY	8:00 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study @Cracker Barrel
SATURDAY	10:00 am Women's Bible Study
SUNDAY	9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Karen Thomason has provided the flowers today in celebration of her granddaughter Avery's birthday! May we all praise God daily for the gift of life! Our lifetime is our opportunity to be "the light of the world" and "the salt of the earth." We use our time best when we spend our lives serving God and one another with gratitude in our hearts for all the blessings we enjoy by faith in Christ Jesus. Happy Birthday Avery!



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



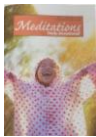
The next Women's Bible study will be held on Saturday, February 3rd, 10:00 am in the church fellowship hall. The theme of the Bible study will be, "Esther - Providential Persian Queen." All women of confirmation age and older are invited AND bring a friend!

BUNCO ***Date has changed!!!***

Please join us for Bunco this coming **Friday, February 2nd**, at 7:00 pm, in the fellowship hall. Come one, come all for a night of fun and fellowship—no experience required! A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board across from Pastor's office.



MEDITATIONS



The new meditations booklets are here. They may be found on the table by the entryway in the narthex. Remember we are no longer placing booklets in the mailboxes, if you would like one, please take one from the table.

Pastor Vacation

Pastor will be on vacation February 1-9.

Operating Offerings		Attendance		Mortgage Progress	
1/21/24	\$ 12,788.00	1/21/24	63	1/21/24	\$ 2,615.00
Month to Date	\$ 20,238.00			Month to Date	\$ 3,275.00
YTD	\$ 20,238.00			YTD	\$ 3,275.00
Budget YTD	\$ 11,588.00			Budget YTD	\$ 2,150.00
2023 YTD	\$ 13,223.00			2023 YTD	\$ 2,370.00

Weekly needs January Operating Offering
Monthly Mortgage Payment

\$ 3,863.00
\$ 2,867.00