

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Our thoughts and prayers go out Marilyn Ulich, June Hallstrom, Matt Deroma and Janet Davies

Annual Meeting. Today after worship.

Mexican Potluck Supper and Bingo. Saturday, February 10th at 5 p.m. See flyer on events board and sign up on Stewardship board.

Faith on Tap, Tuesday, January 30, 2018, 6:00-8:30 p.m. at The Student Prince, 8 Fort Street, Springfield, MA Most Rev. Mitchell T. Rozanski, Roman Catholic Bishop of Springfield and Bishop James Hazelwood of the New England Synod ELCA will join together to discuss the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation and Ecumenism in the 21st Century. Free, open to the public, appetizers by the Student Prince, cash bar, and valet parking



*Fourth Sunday after
Epiphany
January 28, 2018*

Welcome to Worship!

At St. Paul, no one is a stranger, for we are united by the common bond of our life in Christ. We welcome you to receive Communion at God's Table this morning or to come forward for a blessing if this is more comfortable for you. Communion can also be brought to you where you are sitting, and gluten-free wafers are available. All are welcome here!

Please stand as you are able.

Announcements

Prelude

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

***Gathering Song "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People"**

#519

GOSPEL MESSAGE

January 28, 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Astounding Authority

“They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes” (Mark 1:22). Why is Jesus’ authority so astounding? What makes Jesus’ way of teaching and healing so astonishing? Apparently, the scribes did not speak with or embody authority. They interpreted what ancient texts said. They did not open up new possibilities. They were powerless to create new life for people.

Jesus’ authority is about his power to open up new possibilities, to create new life for people. Jesus shows his authority to forgive sins and cast out demons. Rather than repeat worn out religious clichés and give easy answers to people’s questions, he spoke words that transformed. He brought healing that restored life. Throughout the first half of Mark’s gospel, Jesus’ authority amazes people. At the same time, it is questioned and challenged by those who fear him, those invested in the old ways of teaching and preaching that do not bring life and healing.

Later in Mark’s gospel, Jesus does something else astounding: he grants authority to his disciples to do the same as he is doing. He sends them out to heal, forgive, and set free. He sends them out to astound people with the authority of God to author a new reality in their lives through grace and love.

How do we respond to Jesus’ authority? Do we welcome the new chapters of life he authors for us and for the world? Are we rightly astounded at how he forgives our sins and heals our diseases? If we are open to his authority, his power to transform our lives, then we, like the disciples, can also be open to the authority he gives the church to do the same things for others: forgive, heal, transform, renew. Who can you astound today with the love and grace of God?

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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P: These are the gifts of God, for the people of God.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Song “Healer of Our Every Ill”

(Please remain quiet after singing the hymn)

#612

Blessing

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: **AMEN!**

Post Communion Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song “Rise, Shine, You People!”

#665

C: **AMEN**

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

***Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

***Kyrie**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**
 For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
 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 mer - cy.
 For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**
 Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

Refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb
 who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.

Refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 2 Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
 strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

Refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 3 Sing with all the peo-ple of
 God, and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,
 glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

Final refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy that...and join their unending hymn:

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na. Ho-
 san-na. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer**

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:
 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

Prayers of the People

(Please respond: Have mercy, O God)

Passing of the Peace

Offering

(Please remain quiet during the offering)

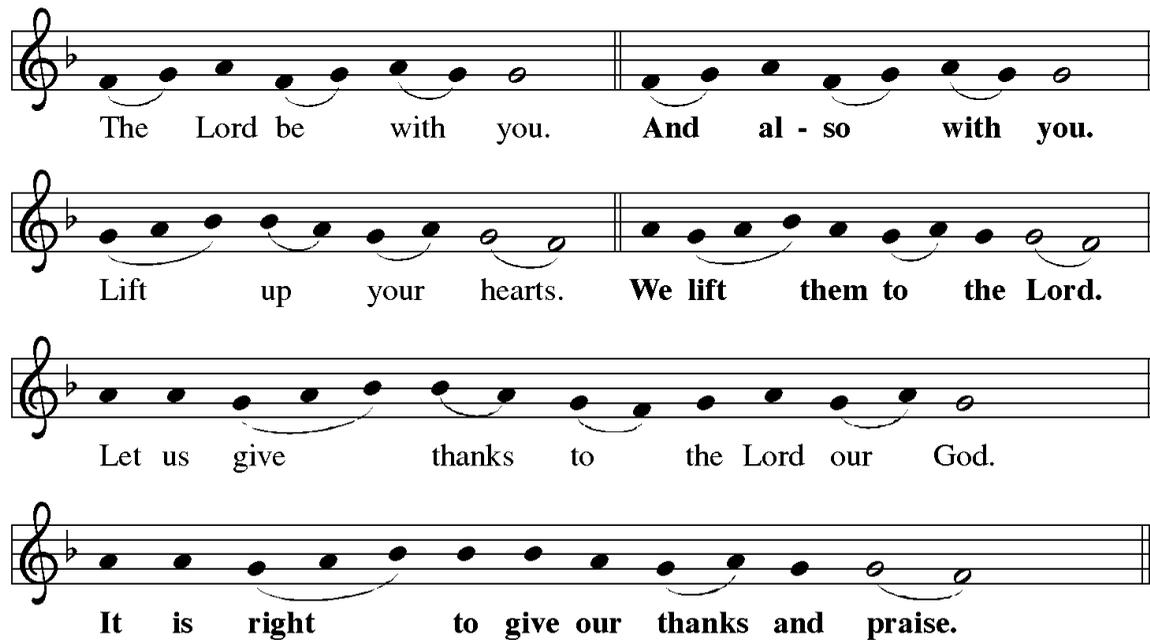
Offertory *There is a Balm in Gilead*

-arr. Dawson

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

#884

*Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Prayer of the Day

P: We pray in your name.

C: AMEN!

Children's Message

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15- 20

pg. 218

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Responsive Psalm 111

pg. 691

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.**

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.**

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet 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.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

***Gospel Acclamation**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “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.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Message

The Rev. Valerie Anne Strickert

Sermon Song “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”

#308

APOSTLES’ CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.