

Sunday, January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, Year B

Introduction

The church encounters God's unique authority in Jesus' actions and words. We also encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

Order of Worship

Our order for worship today is a typical non-communion worship service with the addition of the service of Holy Baptism (Chase Tula will be baptized.) The order for baptism falls after the sermon and will be printed as a separate order inserted into the bulletin. Put Order for Holy Baptism (see insert) after the Musical Offering that follows the Sermon.

Grace also marks Pr Janet Peterman's 40th anniversary of ordination which falls on this day. Musician Margel Overton, a friend of the Peterman's, visits Grace this Sunday, to sing and play in honor of Pastor's ordination anniversary.

Prayer of the Day

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Readings

[I Samuel 3:1-10](#)

Speak, your servant is listening

[Mark 1:21-28](#)

The healing of one with an unclean spirit

I Samuel 3:1-10

A young boy and an old man are brought together in the unfolding story of God's unfailing presence, even in a time when visions – the awareness of that presence – were not widespread.

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay

down. ⁶The LORD called again, ‘Samuel!’ Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ But he said, ‘I did not call, my son; lie down again.’ ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, ‘Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, “Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.”’ So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’

A The Word of the Lord.

C **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

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.

Prayers of Intercession

When you hear, “let us pray” you respond, “**Have mercy, O God.**”

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us pray for Chase and all the newly baptized into Christ, for *his* parents and godparents, and for all the baptized everywhere...

A brief silence is held as we gather our prayers.

That they may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death,
let us pray:

Have mercy, O God.

That the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to your grace and your truth,
let us pray:

Have mercy, O God.

That they may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church,
let us pray:

Have mercy, O God.

That they may be sent into the world in witness to your love,
let us pray:

Have mercy, O God.

That they may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory,
let us pray:

Have mercy, O God.

Gracious God: You raise up leaders for your Church in every generation. We pause to thank you for the ministry of Pastor Janet Peterman on her 40th anniversary of ordination: For her leadership and vision; for her compassion and calm under pressure; for her work in the spaces in between one ministry and the next and her work with leaders; for all the gifts of your grace shown forth through her,
let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Jesus, our healer and our solace, come to us in times of trouble.

Sustain those who cannot be with us today:

Let your healing hands bring relief to those suffering in mind, body, or spirit:

Hear the needs of our hearts as we offer them now to you, silently or aloud:

pause

let us pray:

Have mercy, O God.

For the Call Committee of Grace and for candidates discerning whether about this moment and about Grace: Let your Holy Spirit inspire and guide our leaders and pastoral candidates,
let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the gifts we bring to lay before you, O God,
our offerings, our time, and all the other ways we give of ourselves.

Receive them as you receive us:

like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide.

Nourish us anew in your tender care,

and empower us in faithful service

to tend to others with this same love,

that your mission may grow, and your Word may be fulfilled,

let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Jesus, in darkness, be our light; in temptation, grant us strength; in doubt, help our unbelief; in times of emptiness, graciously fill us.

Amen.

Blessing

God the creator strengthen you;

Jesus the beloved fill you;

and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✝ keep you in peace.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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Prayers adapted by Interim Pastor Janet S. Peterman

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