



# OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

Mark 1:22

## **WELCOME**

Welcome to worship, especially our guests! This week we see Jesus teaching at a synagogue. His message was so amazing, it left the people in awe as Jesus preached like no one they have ever heard. He taught as one with true authority. A demon possessed man tried to stop this message, but Jesus with divine authority even sent the evil spirit away, further amazing the people. We experience the same joy as they did when we listen to Jesus' words found in scripture.

## **Prayer Before Worship**

Dear God, our heavenly Father, give us joy and anticipation as we come to church to gladly hear your word. Grant us comfort, knowing that your Son, Jesus not only had authority to teach the saving gospel, but the authority to commit his act of reconciliation upon that cross, to redeem all the peoples of the world. Grant us strength and zeal to tell others all about Jesus, that they may come to faith and have the same joy found only in the gospel. Amen.

## **Serving in Worship**

- Minister ~ Vicar John Wenzel
  - Organist ~ Marie Kurth
  - Ushers ~ Rick & Karen Leopold
- Next week ~ Dan & Carrie Stelzer*

## **Acknowledgments**

Setting One from Christian Worship Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.



# The 4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

February 4, 2024

*From the River to the Mountain:  
Absolute Authority*

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## Opening Hymn

CW 633

- 1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you  
to receive the food of your holy Word;  
take your truth, plant it deep in us,  
shape and fashion us in your likeness,  
that the light of Christ might be seen today  
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us  
all your purposes for your glory.
  
- 2 Teach us, Lord, full obedience,  
holy reverence, true humility;  
test our thoughts and our attitudes  
in the radiance of your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see  
your majestic love and authority.  
Words of pow'r that can never fail,  
let their truth prevail over unbelief.
  
- 3 Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds,  
help us grasp the heights of your plans for us,  
truths unchanged from the dawn of time,  
that will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on your promises,  
and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till your Church is built,  
and the earth is filled with your glory.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

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

## **Confession**

CW 154

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.**

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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord:

## **Hymn of Praise**

**CW 878 sts. 1, 5**

- 1 Christ alone the world's Redeemer,  
Christ, God's own begotten Son,  
Christ, the sacrifice for sinners, by his death salvation won.  
Christ alone our mediator, Christ alone our great High Priest,  
in his righteousness he clothes us. Christ alone is our true peace.

- 5 Unto God be praise and glory, to the Father, and the Son, and to God the Holy Spirit; glory to the Three in One. Hymned by saints of earth and heaven and by angels at his throne, all creation joins to praise him: glory be to God alone!

Text: Steven P. Mueller, b. 1964

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## Prayer of the Day

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.**

## The Word

### 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*

<sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. <sup>16</sup>For 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.”

<sup>17</sup>The LORD said to me: “What they say is good. <sup>18</sup>I 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. <sup>19</sup>I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name.

# Your Word Is a Lamp to My Feet

Psalm 119G

## Refrain



Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

## Tone



Oh, how I / love your law!

I meditate on it / all day long.

Your commands are always / with me  
and make me wiser than my / enemies.

I have more insight than all my / teachers,  
for I meditate on your / statutes. *Refrain*

I have kept my feet from every / evil path  
so that I might o- / bey your word.

How sweet are your words / to my taste,  
sweeter than honey / to my mouth!

I gain understanding from your / precepts;  
therefore I hate every / wrong path.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,**

**as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Tune: Joyce Schubkegel

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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## Second Reading

Hebrews 3:1-6

*As great as Moses was, Jesus is worthy of infinitely greater honor*

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

## Gospel Acclamation

Mark 1:22



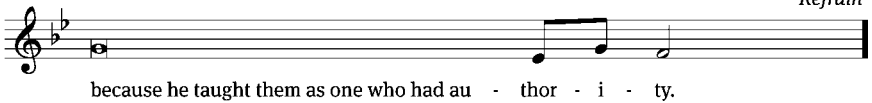
*Refrain*



*Tone*



*Refrain*



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## Gospel

Mark 1:21–28

*Jesus demonstrates absolute authority*

<sup>21</sup>They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup>The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. <sup>23</sup>Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, <sup>24</sup>“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!”

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

<sup>27</sup>The 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.” <sup>28</sup>News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## Children’s Message

### Hymn of the Day

**CW 385**

*Christ Begins*

- 1 We stand and we watch on the bank, wide-eyed.  
Water runs and all heaven opens wide,  
and a voice like thunder replies. (Refrain)

*Refrain:* Here’s my Prophet, my Priest, my King,  
a light in the dark, Christ steps in;  
here’s my Savior, my God, my King,  
the time has come, Christ begins.

- 2 Mary’s whispering, but it’s not the time.  
Yet six jars are filled with the finest wine.  
Tell me, who is this by our side? (Refrain)



*Refrain:* Here's my Prophet, my Priest, my King,  
a light in the dark, Christ steps in;  
here's my Savior, my God, my King,  
the time has come, Christ begins.

- 3 See the sun outshined on the hill and hide.  
Clothes like lightning white, heaven opens wide,  
and a voice like thunder replies. (Refrain)
- 4 We stand, gathered round on the mountainside.  
Watch the closing clouds hide him from our eyes;  
with a voice united we cry: (Refrain)

Text: Luke Thompson, b. 1981

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## Sermon

Mark 1:21-28

### Christ is Perfectly Qualified

- 1) To Teach with Authority
- 2) To Command with Authority

## 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.**

## Thank Offering & Friendship Register

*Members of Our Savior's give generous and free will gifts to honor the Lord and support our ministry of the gospel. Guests are welcome to give but should not feel obligated to do so.*

*As the offering is gathered, please sign the Friendship Register as it is passed down the pew.*

## Prayer of the Church & Lord's Prayer

O Lord, our God, whose voice was heard at Sinai and whose authority was made manifest in Christ, the Prophet greater than Moses, send faithful preachers into Your harvest who will be diligent to listen to Your Word and speak it faithfully in Your name. Preserve us from false prophets who would lead us away from Your truth, and give us ears to hear gladly the saving words of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, guard our families and homes, and build them up in love. Support parents in their task of instructing their children, strengthen those whose faith is weak, and make us bold to forego convenience and security to attest the truths of our most holy faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son cast out unclean spirits and taught with authority. He is the Great Physician of body and soul. Have mercy on those who are sick, distressed, in danger or facing any need. Sustain them with patience, trusting in Your merciful care, and graciously relieve them. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear Lord, look with favor on all who partake this day of Christ's holy body and blood, that in their eating and drinking they may receive the benefits of forgiveness of sins and renewal of life, and so receive a foretaste of the feast to come. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Special prayers of intercession*

O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver, and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**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.**

## **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 T give you peace.

**Amen.**

## **Closing Hymn**

**CW 512 sts. 1, 3, 6**

- 1 All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all.
  
- 3 Ye seed of Israel's chosen race, ye ransomed from the fall,  
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
  
- 6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.  
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.

Text (sts. 1, 3): Edward Perronet, 1726–1792, abr., alt.; (st. 6): A Selection of Hymns, London, 1787, alt.  
Text: Public domain

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*Thank you for worshipping with us.  
May your week be richly blessed!*

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**Serving the Pastoral Vacancy** – Pastor Jeff Mahnke from St. Peter Lutheran Church is serving as Our Savior’s vacancy pastor. Should you need his pastoral guidance and service, call / text him anytime at 715.297.0132. His email address is [pastorm@mysaintpeter.org](mailto:pastorm@mysaintpeter.org).

**Pick up today:**

- February Newsletter
- *Forward in Christ, Meditations, Portals of Prayer*

**Divine Call News** –Pastor Philip Janke has returned our pastoral Call. Mr. Nathan Lemke has accepted the Divine Call to teach 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and direct athletics at Bethlehem Lutheran Church & School in Hortonville, WI. He will leave for Hortonville the end of June.

**Call Meeting** - We will have a Call meeting for both a pastor and a teacher/principal on Monday, February 12 at 7:00 PM. Please plan to attend.

**Memorial** – We thank Audrey Jones for her gift to Our Savior’s School given in memory of Lavina Sleeter. Blessed be her memory. Thanks be to God for the love which led to this gift.

**OWLS News** - With all the work the OWLS members did assembling the cards this month we need a little relaxation so in February we will be meeting at the Pizza Ranch in Weston on Feb 13th at 11:30. As always guests are not only welcome but are encouraged to join us. Questions contact Evan or Sandy 715-693-1337

**Please Sign Up to Help with School Accreditation** - We are looking for volunteers to help with school accreditation as discussed at the congregational meeting. There are sign-up sheets and information in the narthex. Please speak with Mr. Lemke for more information.

## This Week at Our Savior's

<b>Today</b>	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 5-8 PM	Worship Sunday School & Bible Class WELS Youth Night
<b>Monday</b>	6:00 PM	School Board
<b>Tuesday</b>	5:00 PM 6:15 PM	Home Basketball vs Trinity, Minocqua PTO Meeting
<b>Thursday</b>	1:00 PM 5:00 PM	Ladies Aid Basketball at St. Paul, WI Rapids
<b>Friday</b>	5:30-8:30	PTO School Movie Night
<b>Next Sunday 2/11</b>	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Communion Worship Sunday School & Bible Class

## Growing Together

*January 28, 2023*

<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Vision</u>	<u>Debt Red</u>	<u>Plate</u>	<u>Initial Env</u>	<u>OS School</u>	<u>NY Eve</u>
\$5,442.00	\$390.00	\$450.00	\$10.00	\$70.00	\$5.00	\$10.00

<u>NLHS Op</u>	<u>Bldg Maint</u>	<u>Magic Paper Box</u>	<u>School Fees</u>
\$250.00	\$100.00	\$13.84	\$2,829.00

**Anticipated Weekly Offerings: \$4,077**

**In-Person Attendance:** January 28 – 68

**Update: Annual Report** – The Council has decided that the annual report should coincide with our fiscal year, which is July – June. The next annual report will be distributed closer to summer this year. We will, however, print an updated directory which will be available soon.



## Lent 2024

Our Lent sermon series focuses on when God was literally put on trial in the person of Christ. In these inspired episodes for each Lenten and Holy

Week service, believers find a model and motivation for how to live as God's people in Jesus.

Weekly Lenten worship services will be held at Our Savior's on **Wednesdays at 1:00 PM** beginning on **Ash Wednesday, February 14**. The Ash Wednesday service will include Holy Communion.

We'll follow St. Peter's pastoral rotation:

Feb. 14 – Pastor Mahnke	Accusations	Job 40:1,2:42:1-6
Feb. 21 – Vicar Wenzel	Sympathy	Luke 23:26-34
Feb. 28 – Pastor Cortright	Misconceptions	Luke 23:1-12
March 6 – Pastor Buschkopf	Testimony	Matthew 26:57-75
March 13 – Pastor Ewald	Truth	John 18:33-44
March 20 – Pastor Phelps	Restraint	Luke 22:47-53

If you are unable to attend our afternoon service, please consider worshipping at one of our sister congregations.

### **St. Peter Schofield campus worship times:**

Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14) – 4:30 & 7:00 PM

Feb. 22 - March 21 on Thursdays – 5:00 & 7:00 PM

**Mountain of the Lord:** Wednesdays at 6:00 PM



## LEARN TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS

God's people want to tell others about the peace, joy, and forgiveness they have in Jesus. But many Christians are unsure how to do this. Join us as we learn some simple, practical ways to reach out to the lost souls God has brought into our lives.

**Join us for this new Bible study!** We meet at 10:15 am in the school meeting room.

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**WELS Youth Night** - WELS Youth Night will be held at Marathon City Sports Center in Marathon City TODAY, **February 4th** from 5-8pm. Teens in grades 8 - 12 are invited to join us for free food, free bowling, and the free Gospel. Invite friends (WELS or not). We will have eight lanes to accommodate plenty of bowlers, so do sign up at [mysaintpeter.org](http://mysaintpeter.org) and come. No bowling ball, shoes or skill required!

**National LWMS Convention** – This year's LWMS convention will be held June 27-30 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. It will center on 1 Peter 2:5, which reminds us that we, "like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house." You will worship with more than one thousand sisters and brothers in Christ. Our WELS Home and World Missions administrators, featured missionaries, workshop presenters, and "Moments with Missionaries" will highlight where and how the soul-saving gospel message is being spread worldwide! Our faith will be strengthened as we hear God's Word preached at the devotions and opening and closing services. For more information and to register, go to [www.lwms.org](http://www.lwms.org)



*Growing in Jesus, Sharing His Love*

**Our Savior's Ev. Lutheran Church**

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