

Order of Worship for February 2, 2025

Prelude:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Opening Hymn: “O Son of God, in Galilee” - Hymn #841

Confession and Absolution (Forgiveness): page 151

Service of the Word

Entrance Psalm:

P: Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up Your hand;

C: forget not the afflicted.

P: The LORD is king forever and ever;

C: the nations perish from His land.

P: O LORD, You hear the desire of the afflicted;

C: You will strengthen their heart;

P: You will incline Your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,

C: so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

ALL: 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.

P: Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up Your hand;

C: forget not the afflicted.

Kyrie (“Lord, Have Mercy”): page 152

Hymn of Praise: “This Is the Feast” page 155

Salutation: page 156

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray... Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 1:4–10

R: Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations. LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you, you

shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD.” Then the LORD put out His hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

R: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse: page 156

Holy Gospel: Luke 4:31–44

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the fourth chapter.

C: **(Sung) Glory to You, O Lord.**

P: [Jesus] went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And He was teaching them on the Sabbath, and they were astonished at His teaching, for His word possessed authority. And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, “Ha! 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.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. And they were all amazed and said to one another, “What is this word? For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” And reports about Him went out into every place in the surrounding region. And He arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon’s house. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to Him on her behalf. And He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them. Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him, and He laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. And demons also came out of many, crying, “You are the Son of God!” But He rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that He was the Christ. And when it was day, He departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought Him and came to Him, and would have kept Him from leaving them, but He said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.” And He was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **(sung) Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon Hymn: “*Hail, O Source of Every Blessing*” - **Hymn #409**

Sermon: “*Authority!*” - **Luke 4:31-44**

Authority—it is what gets peoples’ attention. Years ago, several riots took place during the annual spring festival that used to take place at Iowa State—They called it VEISHEA after the letters for what was once the 7 colleges at ISU. Several riots took place on Welch Avenue. The police and the university officials couldn’t stop it. But they got then basketball coach

Johnny Orr and football coach Jim Walden to come out with bull horns and get the crowd to go home.

No one really cared about the WNBA until last year when Caitlyn Clark was done at the University of Iowa and was drafted by the Indiana Fever. Her entrance into the WNBA has both crowds and controversy.

Someone else could get peoples' attention. Jesus began preaching in the synagogue in His hometown of Nazareth. He got peoples' attention; He got them to listen. He had authority. What if He could just come today into our presence, kick me down from here, and do the preaching? Wouldn't that be authority?

Mao Tse-tung said that authority depends upon which end of the gun you are on. People drive the speed limit not because they are good citizens or to save gas or to be safer, they do it so they don't have to see the flashing light of a police car in their rear-view mirrors and know that they will have to pay a ticket. We pay our taxes not because we are patriots, but because we don't want the IRS ruining our lives. We go to class, not because it is interesting, but because we need the grades to get a good job. In all those situations, the "gun" is pointed at us. Where is Jesus' "gun?" Is it just the fear that we will go to hell if we don't listen to Him?

We could say that Jesus drew crowds. He had charisma. There was something about Him that made people want to follow Him. NFL games involving the San Francisco 49ers are shown in this area because of the interest in Brock Purdy. Show-biz personalities are rated by the number of those who follow them online. They can seem a lot more interesting than reading about someone who lived 2,000 years ago. Christianity only seems to be interesting when people come up with strange theories like those who say that Jesus married Mary Magdalene or that Jesus was actually an alien from outer space.

We could think that Jesus is different from that. He gets people to move ahead in life. He inspires us to make ourselves winners. That's authority. But is it that inspiration that makes things happen? Are the Chiefs in the Super Bowl because of inspiration or is it because they have the money to get and maintain good players? Why do colleges promote football and basketball? Is it just school pride? Or is it because of all the revenue schools can receive from successful programs? Are professors chosen because they are good teachers, or is it because they can get grant money for the university? Listen to the news. Politicians do things based on what will get the votes. That way they can be reelected and get more money from companies that lobby them. Again and again we find out that things come down to whether you have the money or not.

We could reply that Jesus appeals to the good in people. He gets them to do good things. Look at all the people that now crowd into big churches. Isn't that authority? But why do they come? They hear the message, "Believe in Jesus, and you will be happy. You will prosper and be successful. If you have the positive, confident spirit of Jesus in you, you can overcome negative ways and live a good life." Why not believe? If I do, I will go to heaven. I know the

Bible warns of “itchy ears” that want to hear what they want to hear. Politicians are good at that. A snake oil salesman had the “authority” to draw crowds and get people to buy his stuff like Harold Hill in the “Music Man.” Is that authority?

And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, “Ha! 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.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. And they were all amazed and said to one another, “What is this word? For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out.”

Jesus had authority. It wasn't that He was more interesting. It wasn't that He had military or political power to back what He said. It wasn't that He promised people what they wanted to have. It wasn't any wealth He had. His authority was God's Word, the power that gave Him the authority to cast out demons.

But where is that power today? Can God's Word give me an “A” on my next test or get that girl to notice me, or stop the next wildfire or hurricane from devastating places where people live?

God's Word does what it says. He can't get you an “A” or make that girl like you or prevent earthquakes. But what He says to us is:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

That sounds all well and nice, but how do I see that? The government says it will raise taxes, and I see more money taken out of my paycheck. The university says I will get a degree, and then hands me a diploma. The state says the highway is closed because of winter weather, and the gates close so I can't get on the highway. How can we see God's Word doing what it says?

Look around you. Why are we here? Why are people all over the world gathered in churches today? Yes, some may just be seeing what they can get out of it, but why do people who face persecution gather for church? Why do students get out of bed when they could sleep in? Why do parents struggle to get their children ready for church when they could just relax at home? Why have people for almost 2,000 years gone up to altars like this to receive bread and wine? Why do they go to a font like the one up here to have water splashed on them? Why are they quiet now as we speak? It is because of authority—God's authority.

Why did the people listen to Jesus? Yes, He did cast out the demon, but it says that the people were amazed at His teaching even before that possessed man came into the picture. It was not that He was more interesting, but that He had authority, the authority of God's Word. People can try to prove the Scriptures using science or history, but they end up finding as much to disprove as prove the Scriptures. The Scriptures, God's Word, don't need that proof. It stands by itself. It proves itself, because it is God's Word. That Word made the universe and you and me. That Word condemns evil. That Word is Jesus sent to our world. That Word is the Gospel, the good news of what Jesus did for us on the cross. That Word forgives us from our sins, gives us new life, and makes us God's.

Prayer of the Church: (P: Lord in Your mercy; **C: Hear our prayer.**)

Sharing Our Ministry:

Offering & Voluntary:

Offertory: page 159

Service of the Sacrament

Preface: page 160

P: P: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should in all times and in all places give thanks to You, Almighty God, everlasting Father for You gave Christ the authority to heal, drive out demons, and turn hearts to You, therefore with angels and all the army of heaven we praise and make great Your holy name evermore praising You and singing . . .

Sanctus: ("*Holy, Holy, Holy*") pg. 161

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

P: Blessed are You Lord of heaven and earth for You sent Jesus, who is the Word, into our world to show the authority Your Word has. By that Word You created all things and by that same Word You have restored us to You as Your Words tell us that our sins are forgiven. Send Your Holy Spirit into our lives so that we trust the Word that tells us, "This is My body, this cup is the new testament in My blood given and shed for You for the forgiveness of sins." Hear us as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us . . .

Lord's Prayer and The Words of Our Lord: page 162

Pax Domini (Peace of the Lord) and Agnus Dei (Lamb of God): page 163

Distribution:

"Shine, Jesus, Shine" (see screen)

"God of Grace and God of Glory" - **Hymn #850**

Song After Communion: *“Thank the Lord”* page 164

Prayer After Communion:

P: O God, You know we cannot withstand the dangers which surround us. Strengthen us in body and spirit so that, with Your help, we may be able to overcome the weakness that our sin has brought upon us, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Benediction: page 166

Closing Hymn: *“The People That in Darkness Sat”* - **Hymn #412**

Postlude: