

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 31, 2021

Worship Focus
“The Mysterious Jesus” – Sh-sh



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Order of Service for FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Morning Praise

Christian Worship Page 45

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✘ Gathering ✘

OPENING HYMN

232 – Lord of My Life, Whose Tender Care



1 Lord of my life, whose ten - der care Has led me
2 Oh, may I dai - ly, hour - ly, strive In heav'n - ly
3 To you my hum - ble praise I bring For mer - cies



on till now, Here low - ly, at the hour of prayer, Be -
grace to grow, To you and to your glo - ry live, Dead
day by day. Lord, teach my heart your love to sing; Lord,



fore your throne I bow. I bless your gra - cious
to all else be - low! Tread in the path my
teach me how to pray. All that I have and



hand and pray For - give - ness for an - oth - er day.
Sav - ior trod, Though thorn - y, yet the path of God.
e'er can do I'll use to serve and hon - or you.

Text: *Church of England Magazine*, London, 1838, alt.

Tune: O JESU, WARUM LEGST DU MIR (86 86 88) Johann B. Reimann, 1720–49, alt.

INVOCATION AND PRAYER



M: O Lord, o - pen my lips.



C: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



M: Has - ten to save me, O God.



C: O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.



✘ The Word ✘

FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Though Moses was a great prophet himself, in his final sermon to the people of Israel, he promised God would send an even greater prophet.

DEUTERONOMY 18:15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. ¹⁶ 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.”

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

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Let your actions be guided both by the knowledge of what God says and by love for your brother.

¹CORINTHIANS 8:1 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. ³But the man who loves God is known by God.

⁴So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. ⁵For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), ⁶yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

⁷But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. ⁸But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

⁹Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, won’t he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. ¹²When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

While in the synagogue of Capernaum, Jesus demonstrates the power of his teaching.

^{MARK 1:21} They 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 evil 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 evil 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 evil spirits and they obey him.” ²⁸News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

HYMN OF THE DAY

395 - Seek Where You May to Find a Way



1 Seek where you may To find a way
 2 Seek whom you may To be your stay;
 3 Seek him a - lone, Who did a - tone,
 4 My heart's de - light, My crown most bright,



That leads to your sal - va - tion. My heart is
 None can re - deem his broth - er. All help - ers
 Who did your souls de - liv - er; Oh, seek him
 Je - sus, you are for - ev - er. Not wealth or



stilled; On Christ I build— He is the
 failed; This man pre - vailed, The God - Man,
 first, All you who thirst For grace that
 pride Or aught be - side Our bond of



one foun - da - tion. His Word is sure; His
 and none oth - er. The Ser - vant - Lord Our
 fails you nev - er. In ev - 'ry need Seek
 love shall sev - er. You are my Lord; Your



works en - dure. He will o'er - throw My
 life re - stored. We're jus - ti - fied, For
 him in - deed; To ev - 'ry heart He
 pre - cious Word Shall be my guide What -



ev - 'ry foe; Through him I more than con - quer.
 he has died, The guilt - less for the guilt - y.
 will im - part His bless - ings with - out mea - sure.
 e'er be - tide. Oh, teach me, Lord, to trust you!

✠ Sermon ✠

Mark 1:21-28

Light from the Lord Means Darkness for the Devil

RESPONSE TO THE WORD



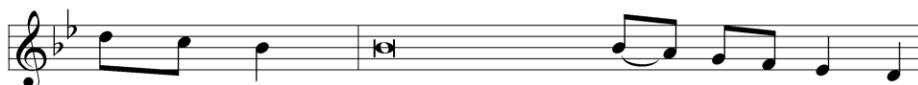
C: We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you,



Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing. To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,



cherubim and seraphim, sing in end-less praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of



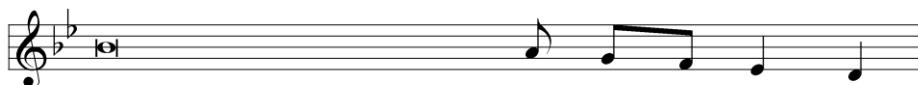
heav'n - ly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.



The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of



proph - ets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.



Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you:



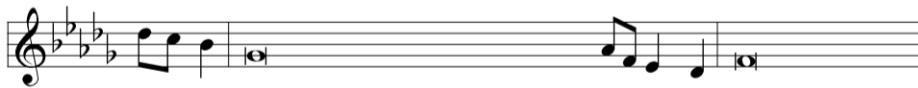
Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and on - ly Son,



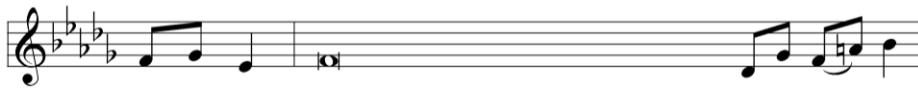
and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide. You, Christ, are the King of



glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther. When you became man to



set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a vir - gin. You overcame the



sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.



You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Fa - ther.



We believe that you will come to be our judge.



Come then, Lord, and help your peo - ple, bought with the price of



your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory ev - er - last - ing.

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT and MUSICAL OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

To the Holy Trinity who alone is God of gods and Lord of lords, from whom with Jesus Christ are all things, for the revelation of His saving knowledge to us and all the world, that together we may be known by God, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church and her ministers, that the God whose voice was heard at Sinai and whose authority was made clear in Christ, the Prophet greater than Moses, would make them diligent to listen to His Word and speak it faithfully in His name; and that God would preserve us from false teachers who would lead us away from His truth, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our families and homes, that God would guard them and build them up in love; that He would support parents in their task of instructing their children; that He would strengthen those whose faith is weak; and that He would make us bold to forego convenience and security to attest the truths of our faith with heart and action, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the health and success of our president and governor, our legislators and judges, and all who serve for our governance and protection, that God would make them dedicated in purpose, wise in counsel and unwavering in duty, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are sick, distressed, in danger or facing any need, [*especially _____,*] that the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Great Physician who cast out unclean spirits and taught with authority, would sustain them with patience, trusting in His merciful care, and so graciously relieve them, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

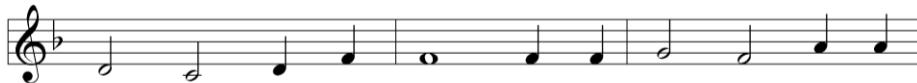
C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SERMON HYMN

353 - Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



1 Praise the one who breaks the dark - ness With a
 2 Praise the one who blessed the chil - dren With a
 3 Let us praise the Word in - car - nate, Christ, who



lib - er - a - ting light; Praise the one who frees the
 strong, yet gen - tle, word; Praise the one who drove out
 suf - fered in our place; Je - sus died and rose vic -



pris - 'ners, Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
 de - mons With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
 to - rious That we may know God by grace.



Praise the one who preached the gos - pel, Heal - ing
 Praise the one who brings cool wa - ter To the
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, See - ing



ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing storms and feed - ing
 des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this well comes liv - ing
 what our God has done; Let us praise the true Re -



thou - sands With the Fa - ther's word of peace.
 wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 deem - er, Praise the one who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955, alt. © 1987 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.
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Tune: BEACH SPRING (87 87 D) attr. Benjamin F. White, 1800-79.

PRAYER AND BLESSING

M O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.



M: Let us praise the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C: A - men.



CLOSING HYMN

333 - Abide, O Dearest Jesus



1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us
 2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us
 3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness A - mong us,
 4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us,
 5 A - bide with your pro - tec - tion A - mong us,



with your grace That Sa - tan may not
 with your Word And thus now and here -
 pre - cious Light; Your truth di - rect and
 boun - teous Lord; Let us in grace and
 Lord, our Strength, Lest world and Sa - tan

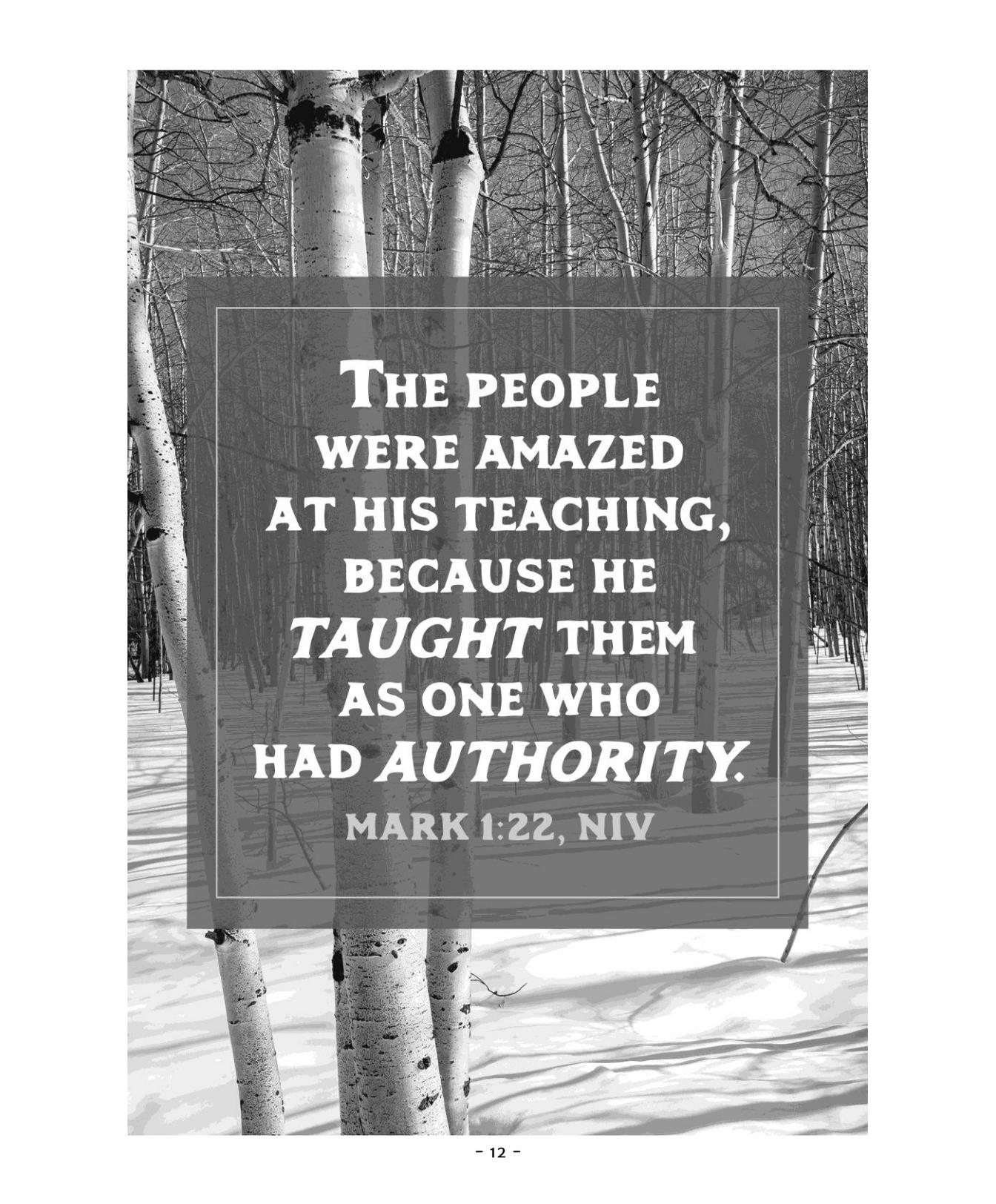


harm us Nor we to sin give place.
 af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.
 keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.
 wis - dom Grow dai - ly through your Word.
 fell us And ov - er - come at length.

6 Abide, O faithful Savior,
 Among us with your love;
 Grant steadfastness and help us
 To reach our home above.

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588–1632; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
 Tune: CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN (76 76) Melchior Vulpus, c. 1570–1615, alt.

*After worship, please feel free to greet your neighbors OUTSIDE,
 keeping in mind the social distancing recommendations of six feet spacing.*



**THE PEOPLE
WERE AMAZED
AT HIS TEACHING,
BECAUSE HE
TAUGHT THEM
AS ONE WHO
HAD *AUTHORITY*.**

MARK 1:22, NIV