

## Authority and Grace

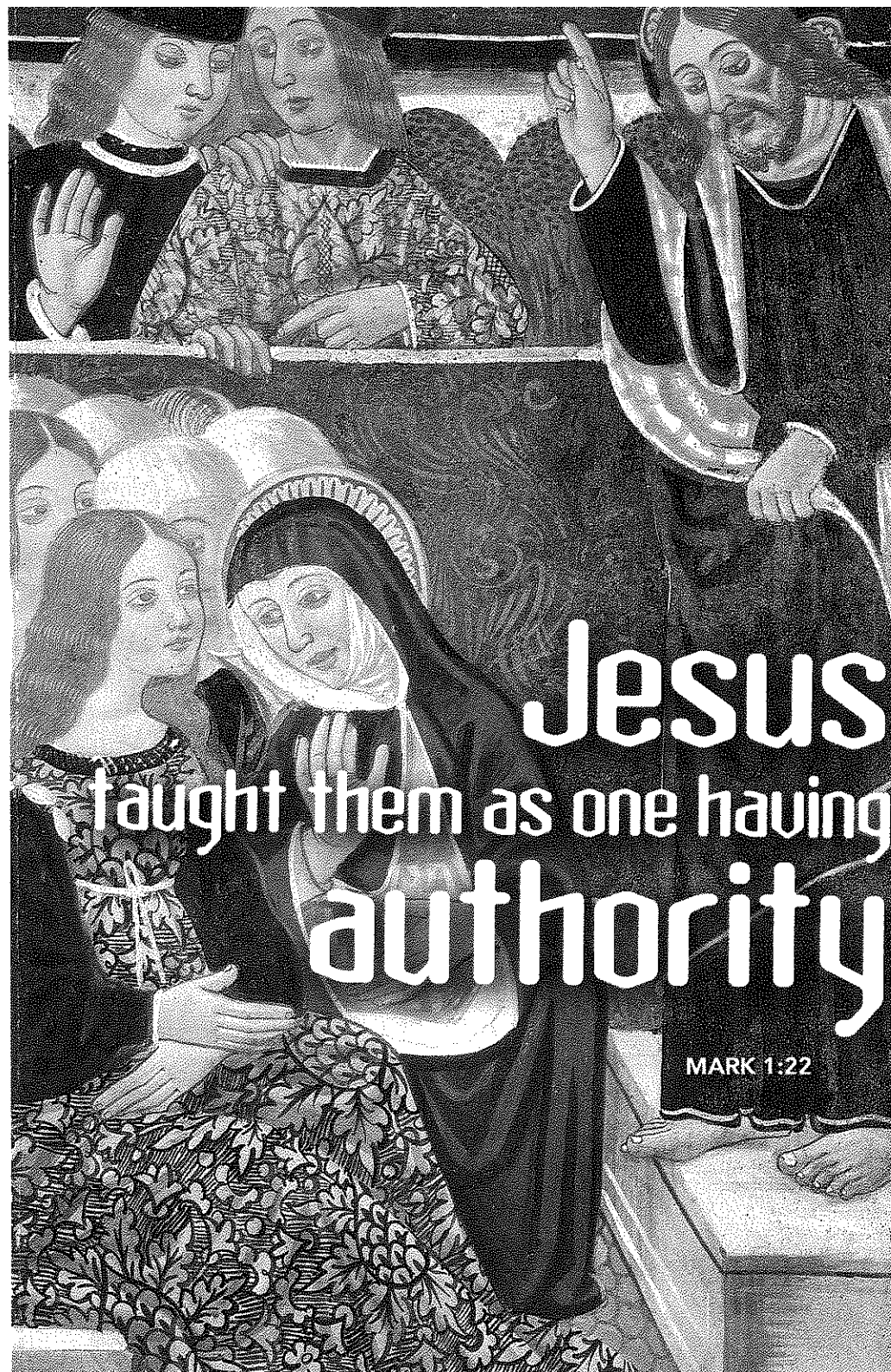
What is this outburst that interrupts Jesus' teaching in the synagogue? "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?" the man rages. "Have you come to destroy us?" And who, exactly, does this man mean by "us"? Mark makes it clear that this is not the senseless raving of a madman but rather the perceptive observation of someone who is demon-possessed. The man's language tells Jesus precisely who he is dealing with. This is spiritual warfare, and "us" is none other than the devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 12:9). Here, in Mark's first chapter, Satan has wasted little time in getting back to work after his failure to defeat Jesus in the wilderness.

Jesus does not answer the question directly, but his authoritative response to God's enemies speaks for itself and proclaims the reality we encounter throughout the New Testament: Yes! Jesus *has* come to destroy you!

The gospel message takes us one step further. Being cured of demons does not just free persons who were possessed; it frees them to *be with Jesus*. This is beautifully articulated in the story of the Gerasene demoniac later in Mark. As Jesus prepares to leave after sending the unclean spirits (again plural) into the herd of swine, the man who had been possessed "begged [Jesus] that he might be with him" (Mark 5:18).

We all wrestle with demons of various sizes, shapes, and degrees. They manifest themselves as harmful habits, obsessive attachments, and destructive addictions. They sap our yearning for God, that most poignant quality of our humanity, and keep us chained to the myth of self-sufficiency.

Our first task is to name these addictions for what they are. Then we may call upon God's transformative power and, with the grace that is ours through the love of Christ available to us in full measure in every circumstance of life, walk freely into Jesus' arms.



"God's love with feet on / Caminando con el amor de Dios."

## St. John's Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany ~ January 29, 2012

8:00 am ~ Holy Eucharist                      9:05 am ~ Coffee and Christian Education

10:00 am ~ Sung Holy Eucharist            11:15 am ~ Coffee, Conversation

Liturgy Booklet

Liturgy of the Word ~ Led by Worship Leaders

**Hymn #135: Songs of Thankfulness and Praise**

Greeting and Penitential Rite                      *Liturgy Booklet p. 2*

*Gloria* (8 am) or

**Hymn #S236: Benedictus es, domine** (10 am)                      *Liturgy Booklet p. 4*

Collect (Prayer of the Day)                      *(Readings Insert)*

First Reading

*Psalm* (sung at 10 am)

Second Reading

The Gospel **Acclamation** (10 am):                      *Liturgy Booklet p. 6*

The Holy Gospel                      *(Readings Insert)*

The Sermon                      The Reverend Deacon Floyd Kunce

**The Nicene Creed**                      *Liturgy Booklet p. 7 or (LOC pg. 145)*

**Prayers of the People**                      *Liturgy Booklet p. 8 or (LOC pg. 203)*

**The Exchange of Peace**

Announcements

Offertory Sentence

*The Offering is collected before the Hymn.*

**Hymn #616: Hail to the Lord's Anointed**

**The Lord's Prayer**                      *Liturgy Booklet p. 14*

**Final Hymn #493: O for a thousand tongues to sing**

Dismissal

Response: **Thanks be to God!**

## How do we worship?

The worship of the Episcopal Church is centered in the Book of Common Prayer, which is based upon ancient prayers and rites of the first Christians. There is great diversity of practice among Episcopalians and Anglicans around the world: some people like to cross themselves, but others never cross themselves. Some people like to sing hymns, but others prefer to worship without singing. Some like traditional hymns, and others prefer contemporary music. But the approved rites and prayers of the **Book of Common Prayer** is the anchor of the Anglican tradition.

The first Book of Common Prayer was published in 1549, and made the prayers and worship of the church available to all the people in the spoken language of the people. It was revised in 1552 and has been revised numerous times since, as our understanding of the early church has changed, as different cultural understandings have been embraced, and as we seek to be faithful to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In the Articles of Religion, Article XXXIV, we read: "It is not necessary that the Traditions and Ceremonies be exactly alike in all places; for they have been diverse from the beginning, and may be changed according to the diversity of countries, cultures, and the times, as long as they do not contradict God's Word, and are approved by common authority."

Any person can lead others in prayer, and appointed worship leaders can lead the community in Morning or Evening Prayer or the Liturgy of the Word.

The priest (presbyter) is a baptized Christian, who has been called by God to a special ministry of leadership and service, and has been received and ordained by the Church, to share ministry with the bishop, as the presider of the Holy Eucharist: to instruct, to baptize, to proclaim the Gospel, to declare God's forgiveness to penitent sinners, to lead the people in the worship and celebration of the Holy Eucharist, and to pronounce God's blessing. The priest is entrusted with and provides the leadership for the common worship.

The deacon a baptized Christian, who has been called by God to a special ministry of servant-hood, and has been received and ordained by the Church to proclaim the Gospel, to assist at the liturgy of the Eucharist, and to enable the faith community to serve others as the living Gospel, by connecting the church to the needs of the world.

~ Announcements ~

COMTEMPLATIVE PRAYER in the Library at 6:45 pm.

Learn contemplative prayer by experiencing various approaches to meditation/contemplation.

**NOTE: WED NOON PRAYERS.** Please join us.

The **MILLENNIUM PROJECT** is coming along. Check it out at anytime.

**CHOIR REHEARSAL on Sunday Feb 5 at 9:30**—Rehearse the Communion Hymn.

Next **MOVIE NIGHT on Friday February 17, at 7 pm** in the Great Hall. The film is “What I Want My Words To Do To You.” Connie Griffith will lead the discussion.

**VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED** to coordinate **SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER** on Feb 21 (6 pm). Contact the Rector or the Office.

**JAN SPECIAL OFFERING**—Domestic Assault Shelter. Envelopes are in the pews.

The **FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP MEAL** can use cakes and helping hands.

**FEEL CALLED?** Lectors, Servers, Ushers, Nursery Helpers, Altar Guild, and Breakfast Hosts are needed. If interested, please pray about it and contact the office.

The **HOPE FREE STORE** in Centreville is always in need of clothes.  
Contact: Wendell Moyer at 467-1800.

**STOP BY THE CHURCH** during the week. Come to pray and find some quiet in the church or meet some of the great people who provide ministry here. This is a busy place.

**THANKSGIVING TO GOD** for the birth of our newest granddaughter, **Bryn Lam Lillvis**, on January 24, 5 lbs 15 oz and 19 1/2 inches—Meredith and David

**Please Pray for the Following Persons during the Week.**

- The Most Rev Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, Rt Rev Katharine Jefforts-Schori, Presiding Bishop, Rt Rev Wendell Gibbs, Diocese of Michigan, Rt Rev Todd Ousley, Diocese of Eastern Michigan, Bishop John David Schleicher, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) North/West Lower Michigan Synod, and Rt Rev Julio Cesar Holguin, Episcopal Diocese of Dominican Republic.
- Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Most Revd Bernard Ntahoturi, Archbishop of the Province of Burundi & Bishop of Matana.
- Diocese: St. Thomas' Church, Battle Creek; Holy Cross Church, Kentwood.
- Sturgis: Holy Angels Catholic Church.
- President Barack Obama, Governor Rick Snyder, Mayor of Sturgis Ken Malone.
- Persons in need: *Pat, Cameron, David, Nancy, Kathryn, David John, Judy, Audra, Dan, Jim B., Douglas, Tim, Blanca, Marta, Celia, Joaquina, Cassie, Father Bill Fleener, Halcyon, Jim C., Robert D., Josh, Bob, Elizabeth, Tom, Mother Beth, Pastor Methius, and Father David Pike.*
- Birthdays: *Janie Beamish, Christopher Kline.*
- Flowers at the Altar, given by: *William and Connie Martindale in memory of Lavern Walters and Shirley Wilkinson, Bruce Walters, Robert and Violet Martindale, Howard and Florence Martindale, Lawrence and Sadie Toerner, James Lawrence Martindale and Michael John Martindale.*

*"God's love with feet on / Caminando con el amor de Dios."*

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany ~ January 29, 2012

Sunday 1/29	8 & 10 am 9:05 am 6 & 7:30 pm 6:45 pm	4th Sunday after the Epiphany Liturgy of the Word followed by Fellowship Christian Education NA Meeting & Alanon Meeting Contemplative Prayer (Library)
Monday	9 am & 7:00 pm	Yoga Class & Alanon Meeting & NA Meeting
Tuesday	7 & 11 am 6:30 & 8 pm	BNI Meeting & Alanon Meeting AA Meeting & NA Meeting
Wednesday	9 am & Noon Noon 7 & 8 pm	Yoga Class & NA Meeting Noon Day Prayers Men's Bible Study & Reunion Group
Thursday	9:30 am 3 pm 4:30 pm & 6:00 pm	Tai Chi Class Daughters of the King (Thurston) Group Reunion & NA Meeting
Friday	11:30 am 8 pm	Friday Friendship Meal NA Meeting
Saturday	9 am—3 pm Noon & 6:30 pm 8 pm	Great Hall Reserved NA Meeting & AA Study Meeting Open Speaker AA Meeting
Sunday 2/5	6:45 pm	5th Sunday after the Epiphany Contemplative Prayer (Library)

Rector.....The Reverend Canon Meredith Hunt  
Deacon/Preacher.....The Reverend Deacon Floyd Kunce  
Supply Organist.....Lucy Zimmerman

8 a.m. Worship Leaders.....Steve Wilson, Bill Martindale  
Acolyte.....Jane Boyden (L2)  
Lector 1.....Bryan Boughton  
Prayers.....Peyton Boughton  
Usher.....Bryan Boughton  
Breakfast Host.....

10 a.m. Worship Leaders/Servers.....John Griffith, Pam Cronkhite  
Crucifer.....Steven Griffith  
Lector 1.....Tom Soper  
Lector 2.....Mary Sutter  
Prayers.....Katharine Taylor  
Ushers.....Rod and Emily Baker  
Breakfast Hosts.....Joe and Madeleine Parker  
Nursery.....Ana Garcia and Emma Cook

Altar Guild (January 29 - February 25)  
Mary Sutter, Bobi Melchi, Judy Burnham, Joanne Roe,  
Rose Rudinski, Diane Warnement

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