

Epiphany 4

January 28, 2024

Epiphany 4 (Year B)

The Old Testament historian proclaimed that there would be another prophet raised up from among Moses' brothers. This one would speak the words of God with truth and authenticity. As Jesus taught in the synagogue, the people were amazed at his ability to instruct them in the Word and also at his ability to cast out evil from a man who was held captive by a demonic spirit.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

God Will Raise Up a Prophet

God would raise up for the people Israel a new prophet who is like Moses. The people were instructed to listen to him, for out of his mouth would come the Lord's words. If a prophet was found by God to speak words other than the Lord's, that prophet would suffer death, thus proving whether the prophets' words were trustworthy.

Psalm 111

Great Are the Works of the Lord

God's work is full of splendor and majesty, remembered throughout all generations, wrote the psalmist. He is the God of justice and mercy: feeding the people, giving them land, and keeping his covenant with them. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Love Builds Up

Paul reminded the people that they have a duty to those who are weak in the faith. It is not good to be puffed up with knowledge for the sake of knowing things, or to insist on one's rights just because one is entitled to something. Rather, Paul said, Christians are to care for the young and weak in faith so their faith is built up.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:21-28

Jesus' Teaching

On the Sabbath day, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught the people. They were astonished at his ability and sincerity. A man with an unclean spirit approached him, yelling at him in fear. Jesus commanded the spirit to come out of the man and to be quiet. All who were gathered were amazed at his authority.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Green
- Use the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.
- Use the Apostles' Creed.
- Have you ever marveled at how the demons know exactly who Jesus is? They know his power and they fear him. That's not the same as faith, however, but many who have heard of Jesus know less about him than the demons.
- How do we know what love is? First of all, Jesus shows us what true love looks and acts like. It's sacrificial, it's giving, it's selfless. Secondly, St. Paul describes the true nature of love in 1 Corinthians 13. When we love, we build one another up rather tearing each other down. Nothing less will do!

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
There is A Balm in Gilead	---	737	749	614	---	---
Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing	559	---	528	886	30	30
Give Me Jesus	---	777	---	770	214	214
Word of God, Come Down on Earth	---	716	545	510	---	---
We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight	---	675	720	635	---	---
Take My Life, That I May Be	406	---	783	685	233	233
Great is Thy Faithfulness	---	771	809	733	211	211
Blest Be the Tie that Binds	370	---	649	656	48	48
Be Thou My Vision	---	776	---	793	230	230
Break (Thou) Now the Bread of Life	235	---	---	515	85	85

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and "web" means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:

One Thing Remains
(CCLI# 5508444)
You Are My King (Amazing Love)
(CCLI# 2456623)
Wonderful Works
(CCLI# 5056886)
Behold (Then Sings My Soul)
(CCLI# 7068430)
He is Faithful
(CCLI# 6087902)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.