

JANUARY 28, 2018  
FOURTH SUNDAY  
AFTER EPIPHANY



*Jesus teaches with power and authority.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 1:21-28	Jesus teaches in the synagogue
Monday	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Treat everyone with justice
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Love builds up others
Wednesday	Matthew 7:24-29	Jesus teaches with authority
Thursday	John 14:23-31	Obeying Jesus' teaching
Friday	Joshua 1:6-9	The Lord speaks to Joshua
Saturday	Psalms 111	Praise for God's wonderful works
Sunday	Mark 1:29-39	Jesus heals many people

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. **Mark 1:22 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, you rule with steadfast love and faithfulness. Teach us to trust your ways and to extend your love to others. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

The Lord is kind and merciful. God provides food for one and all. Thanks be to God! Amen. (Psalm 111:4-5)

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God guide you in the way of Christ. May the grace and mercy of the Lord be your strength and comfort, now and always. (Psalm 111:4)



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*O, for a Thousand  
Tongues to Sing*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Talk about a teacher you liked and respected. What did you learn from him or her?
- In Mark 1:21-28, Jesus' teaching was more than learning information. How is he different from other religious leaders of his day?
- The unclean spirit knew who Jesus was, the Holy one of God. Faith is about a relationship to God that is more than knowing about God. How do you have a relationship to Jesus that is more than information?

### DEVOTIONS



Read: Psalm 111.

It is a song of praise that gives examples of who God is in the community of the congregation (v. 1); God's righteousness lasts forever (v. 3); God is gracious and merciful (v. 4); and, God is faithful, just, and trustworthy (v. 7). It is a psalm of praise that describes who God is. God does not need our praise. Our neighbors need the message of praise to encourage them and us in our faith. Make your own list of how you see God at work in the world and in your life. Make that into a prayer that begins, "God, you who (then use your list of descriptions), we praise you for your goodness. Holy and awesome is your name. In Christ we pray. Amen."

### SERVICE



In 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Paul directs those who have the greater insight regarding the Christian faith not to use their insight to hurt those who don't have the same understanding. Knowledge by itself is not enough. As he wrote, "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up" (v. 1b). The Christian life is not about knowing more than the next person, but caring for the other person. This next week, think about someone whose opinion you disagree with. Find some way of affirming that person as an act of love in a way that moves beyond who is right and who is wrong.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Meals are filled with rituals and traditions that can reflect one's faith. Research shows that there is great benefit to people when they eat meals together. Make a commitment to eat at least five meals a week with family or close friends. A simple mealtime practice is to pray before your meals and talk about your day and what you are most (and least) grateful for.

Mealtime Prayer:

**The Lord is kind and merciful. God provides food for one and all. Thanks be to God! Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)