

January 28, 2024



WITH AUTHORITY

By Sr. Katherine "Kit" Gray, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

*Then they came to Capernaum,
and on the sabbath, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught.
The people were astonished at his teaching,
for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. ...
Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, "Quiet! Come out of him!"
The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him.
All were amazed and asked one another,
"What is this? A new teaching with authority.
He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him."
His fame spread everywhere throughout the who region of Galilee.*

MARK 1:21-22, 25-28

Reflection

It is a month after Christmas, and we are already celebrating the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. “Ordinary Time” comes from the Latin word *ordinalis*, which means “numbered.” Ordinary Time is the numbered (or ordered) series of Sundays between Christmas and Lent, then again between the Easter Season and Advent. The Sundays and weeks of Ordinary Time take us through the life of Christ. According to the USCCB website, “Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ. The goal, toward which all of history is directed, is represented in the final Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.”

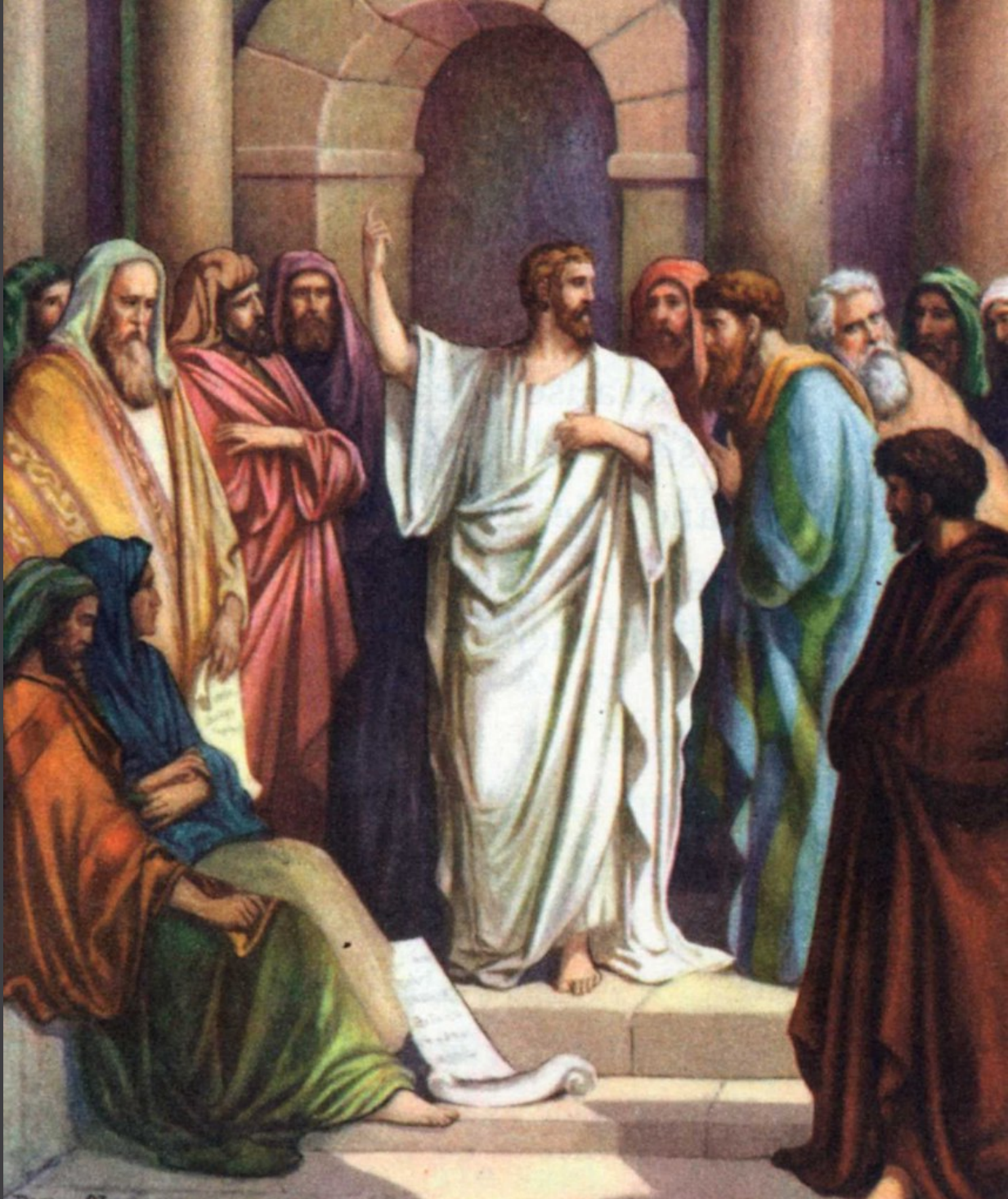
It may be helpful to remember that there is some continuity in the readings we hear from Sunday to Sunday.

On January 7 with the first lines from Mark’s Gospel (1: 7-11) we celebrated the Baptism of Jesus, the beginning of his public life and ministry.

In the Gospel on January 14 (John 1:35-42), John the Baptist points Jesus out and calls him the Lamb of God. Andrew and Simon Peter express interest in Jesus: “Where are you staying?” and Jesus responds, “Come and you will see.”

On January 21, we heard the call of Peter and Andrew from Mark’s perspective (1:14-20). They were fishermen. Jesus says, “Come after me,” and they abandon their nets and follow him.

In the Gospel for today, we see Jesus as Rabbi, Teacher. Throughout his life, Jesus’ teaching elicits different responses from different people.



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For Pondering

Jesus “taught with authority.” What does that mean to you? A style? Consistency between words and deeds? The power to give orders, make decisions, enforce obedience? The power to influence others, to compel acceptance and belief? Jesus taught in words and deeds; both elicited varying responses—disbelief, faith, astonishment, confusion, inspiration.

How has Jesus’ teaching influenced you—what words or deeds of Jesus are

most meaningful for you? What teaching of Jesus do you share with others so that he is made known to them?

For Prayer

Prayer of St. Benedict

*Gracious and holy Father, grant us the intellect to understand you,
reason to discern you, diligence to seek you,
wisdom to find you, a spirit to know you,
a heart to meditate upon you.
May our ears hear you, may our eyes behold you,
and may our tongues proclaim you.
Give us grace that our way of life may be pleasing to you,
that we may have the patience to wait for you
and the perseverance to look for you.
Grant us a perfect end--your holy presence,
a blessed resurrection and life everlasting.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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