



KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING TEACHING SUPPLEMENT

4TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28TH, 2024

BIBLE LESSON:

DEUT. 18:15-20

MARK 1:21-28

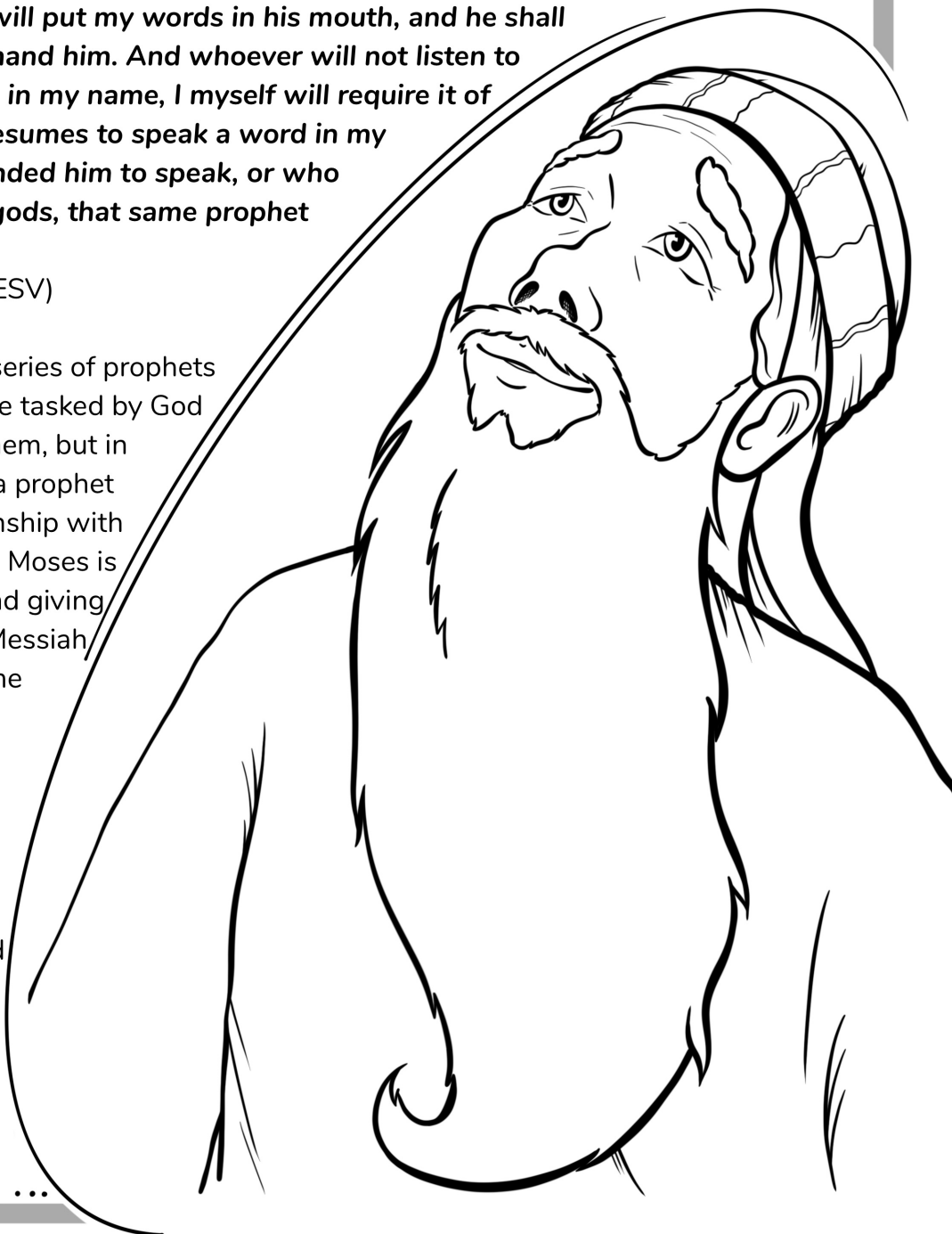
A New Prophet like Moses

"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.'

- Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (ESV)

The people of Israel had a series of prophets that were like Moses who were tasked by God with preaching His Word to them, but in these verses, Moses refers to a prophet that will have a unique relationship with the Lord like no other prophet. Moses is saying good-bye in a sense and giving way to the new prophet—the Messiah—who will be a descendant of the people of Israel.

Not only do these verses speak of a New Prophet, but they also speak of a new type of teaching—which is referring to The Gospel. In verse 17 and 18 he tells the Israelites and us that The Lord told Him of this new prophet by saying "I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him". ...





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(Continued)

LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE
OF CANADA

The prophet that comes will speak God's words directly, and not refer to words that they have learned from the prophets. This is how we know that Moses is making a Messianic prophecy—referring to Jesus.

Jesus Heals a Man with an Unclean Spirit

And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

- Mark 1:21-28 (ESV)

In the Gospel reading we join Mark in the synagogue where Jesus is teaching. In verse 22 Mark says, "they were astonished at his teaching for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes". This is exactly what Moses referred to in the Old Testament reading from Deuteronomy. Jesus is speaking with authority and does not use the common prophetic phrasing "thus says the Lord" because He is the Lord. In that silence following His teaching it's as if He concluded with "because I said so" and while that is a sign to those who seek Him and hear Him, it causes great discomfort and even outrage to the Pharisees. The authority of the scribes came from the teachings they received, and so when they are being displaced by this "new prophet", not understanding that this is God's plan, they in great pride and arrogance, are already starting to plan on how to kill Him.



Prayer

Let us pray together: Dear Father in Heaven. Thank You for sending the message of comfort and salvation through the prophets who pointed to Jesus. Help us to trust in Your authority and teaching so that we may joyfully share our hope in You with others. Amen.

Notes: