

JANUARY 24, 2021

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOMING WORD *As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: For God alone my soul waits in silence,

C: for my hope is from him.

L: He alone is my rock and my salvation,

C: my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

L: On God rests my deliverance and my honor;

C: my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

OPENING HYMN #252 You Servants of God

You servants of God, your master proclaim,
And publish abroad his wonderful name;
The name, all victorious, of Jesus extol:
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all!

Our God rules on high, almighty to save;
And still he is nigh, his presence we have.
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus, our king!

Salvation to God who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb!

Then let us adore and give him his right,
All glory and pow'r and wisdom and might,
All honor and blessing, with angels above,
And thanks never ceasing and infinite love!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation. Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

P: How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness. **Amen.**

INVOCATION

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God,
C: by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 ¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 ²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20 ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

HYMN *Will You Come & Follow Me*

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known?
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare; should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the church throughout the world, for pastors and teachers, for deacons and deaconesses, and for musicians and servers, that all proclaim the good news of God's reconciling love, Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For skies and seas, for birds and fish, for favorable weather and clean water, and for the well-being of creation, that God raise up advocates and scientists to guide our care for all the earth, Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For those who are sick, distressed, or grieving; for the outcast and all who await relief (*especially*), that in the midst of suffering, God's peace and mercy surround them, Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For our congregation and community, for families big and small, and for the organizations that meet here during the week, that God's steadfast love serve as a model for all relationships, Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: In thanksgiving for our ancestors in the faith whose lives serve as an example of gospel living, that they point us to salvation through Christ, Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass

against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever, Amen.

BENEDICTION *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again*

CLOSING HYMN: #752 Here I Am, Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin, my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

**REFRAIN: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.**

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone; give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? **REFRAIN**

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? **REFRAIN**



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Devon Schlegel (father of Dawn Haag)
Norbert Haag (brother of Virgil Haag)
Allen Olson (father of Ingrid Frank)
Delores Bryant
Brock Howe
Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher)
Jeannie U'Ren
Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother)
Irene Bruflat
Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower)
Harlan Oimoen
Grace Aavang
Vivian Stone

Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin)
Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg)
Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson)
Makenzee Smith
Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith)
Mary Krantz
Ruth Ann Nemet
Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl)
Laurie Duden (Brenda Martin's aunt)
Bill Steinhauer
Peter Toniazzo
Shirley Thompson
Bonnie Bender

JIM SMITH 01/02/1944 - 01/25/2011 Flowers on the altar are from Char Smith to honor the memory of her husband Jim, on the 10th anniversary of his death, tomorrow.

Those we love can
never be more than
a thought away....
for as long as there is
a memory, they live
in our hearts to stay!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU - BUCKY BOOK SALES Thank you again to everyone who supported our Bucky Book Sales these past few months. With adding some new modifications for selling this year (adding our online option), our youth earned \$409 towards summer activities. Thank you for supporting our youth.

SUNDAY SCHOOL on ZOOM- Youth, ages 3 yrs - 8th grade, may join us for a time to connect on Zoom each week at 9 am for the story and games. Lessons are also emailed to families, to work together as a family. Contact Brenda for the Zoom link.

ELC 'COFFEE TIME' on ZOOM - Join us on Wednesdays at 10 AM each week to catch up with our church family. Time to connect and see each other! Zoom link is emailed each week. If you need the link, contact Pastor John, Tamara or Brenda.

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE - 7th & 8th graders meet on Zoom each Wednesday, at 7 pm for class time. They are currently studying the Ten Commandments.

FUSE NIGHT on ZOOM - Youth, who are 9th - 12th graders are welcome to join our high school group on ZOOM, **Tuesday, January 26th at 7 pm.** FUSE nights build relationships, challenge each other in exciting games (Jackbox, Among Us), time to hang out, and learn about what it means to share our faith with everyone. Invite your friends to join us. Link is emailed each week to our youth.

CONFIRMATION CAMP (SAVE THE DATE) ELC will be attending the Confirmation Camp at Sugar Creek Bible Camp the week of July 25 - July 30. 7th-8th graders are encouraged to attend. Register online: <http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org>.

SUGAR CREEK "BACK IN THE SADDLE" - Online Registrations are now available for Sugar Creek Bible Camp Summer programs. They have a variety of programs (new & favorites) listed on their website, <http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org>, for youth and families. Come and see in 2021!



DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 24, 2021

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Galatians 1:11-24, Paul's defense of his discipleship

Tuesday, Genesis 45:25-46:7, Jacob brings his family to Egypt

Wednesday, Proverbs 8:1-21, The Gifts of Wisdom

Thursday, Psalm 111, Praise for God's Wonderful Works

Friday, Deuteronomy 12:28-32, Warning against Idolatry

Saturday, Deuteronomy 13:1-5, Warning against false prophets

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: "And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people.'" Mark 1:17. *Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.*

Jesus calls the disciples to turn from one life to another.

- What might God be calling you to leave behind?
- What has God called you to do for the sake of the Gospel?
- Who has shared that calling to discipleship with you?
- How have you shared that call with others?

PRAY: Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESS: God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter keep you in peace. **Amen.**