

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



January 24, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday after Epiphany

INTRODUCTION

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 reclaiming 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.

PRELUDE



+ GATHERING +

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.

Congregation (C) Amen.

P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy God,

C you search us and know us. 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 claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

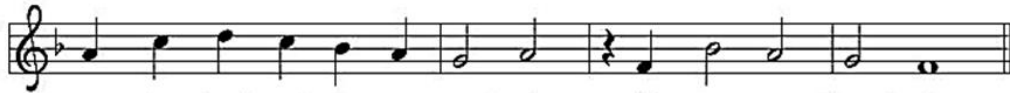
C Amen.



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934-2003
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GREETING

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

C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us 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.

C Amen.



+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"

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.

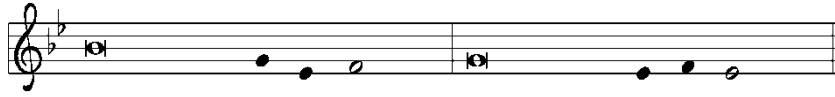
¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Reader The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 62:5-12

We sing the psalm responsively.



Leader ⁵For God alone I | wait in silence;
truly, my hope | is in God.

C ⁶God alone is my rock and | my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall nev- | er be shaken.

L ⁷In God is my deliverance | and my honor;
God is my strong rock | and my refuge.

C ⁸Put your trust in God al- | ways, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one who | is our refuge.

L ⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate can- | not be
trusted.
Placed on the scales together they weigh even less | than a breath.

C ¹⁰Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no | empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your | heart upon it.

L ¹¹God has spoken once, twice | have I heard it,
that power be- | longs to God.

C ¹²Steadfast love belongs to | you, O Lord,
for you repay all according | to their deeds.

Spoken after the psalm is sung:

C Amen.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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.

Reader The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20

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.

P The holy gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*

HYMN OF THE DAY **798** *Will You Come and Follow Me (vs. 1, 2, 4, & 5)*



1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -
 1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing
 2 You know full well what I have, Lord: nei - ther
 3 You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion, work - ing
 4 You who have fished oth - er wa - ters; you, the



ca - do ni a sa - bios ni a ri - cos; tan só - lo
 nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly
 trea - sure nor wea - pons for con - quest, just these my
 love for the rest of the wea - ry - a love that's
 long - ing of souls that are yearn - ing: O lov - ing



quie - res que yo te si - ga.
 ask - ing for me to fol - low,
 fish - nets and will for work - ing.
 will - ing to go on lov - ing.
 Friend, you have come to call me.

Refrain / Estribillo



Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos; son - ri - en - do,
 Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind - ly smil - ing,



has di - cho mi non - bre. En la a - re - na he de - ja - do mi
 you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a - ban - doned my



bar - ca; jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.
 small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends: Let us pray.

Congregational response: Have mercy, O God.

OFFERING HYMN

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

+ SENDING +

BLESSING *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*

P God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace.

C **Amen.**


ANNOUNCEMENTS




1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see... the bright-ness of God. I want to




fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear son of righ-teous-ness,



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
Shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

DISMISSAL

- A We believe out loud that God's mission for us is:
- C **to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God's call.**
- P Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

+ + +

Sundays and Seasons v.20200805.1416
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**FLOWERS ARE GIVEN
TO THE GLORY OF GOD
BY SUSAN AND MARK WARREN
AND DEDICATED TO THE UPCOMING
SECOND BIRTHDAY OF JACK,
WHO IS A GREAT JOY TO HIS GRANDPARENTS.**

Calendar for January 24 - 31

Jan.	24	Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Worship (online), Third Sunday after Epiphany
			11:30 a.m.	Congregational meeting
	27	Wed.	Noon	Bible study (online)
	31	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship (online), Reconciling In Christ Sunday

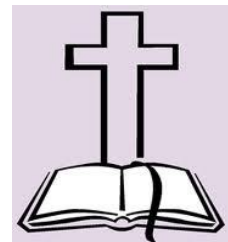
Next Sunday's Readings, Reconciling In Christ Sunday:

[Jonah 3:1-5, 10](#)

[Psalm 62:5-12](#)

[1 Corinthians 7:29-31](#)

[Mark 1:14-20](#)



PRAYER REQUESTS

New concerns: Mark Canning for treatment of heart condition; prayers for healing for Margaret Bowers and her husband both diagnosed with COVID; Mark Eagelfeld (friend of Judi Duffy), being treated for COVID.

For the sick: Val Sullivan; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Don Dowd; Isabelle Taylor (granddaughter of Bill & Connie Taylor); being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and Primary Immunodeficiency; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Jamie Ann Meyers (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White); Gerhard Hofer (brother-in-law of Ridy Hofer).

In treatment for cancer: Stephanie Barber; Cathie Nitti (niece of Sharon Simmons); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Isabell Cintron (friend of Sharon Simmons); Sarah Lucas (friend of Cassandra White); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Tiffany Nuce and unborn baby (family of Barbara ODonnell); Chris Dickman (synod councilmember); child of Pr. Katrina Foster (friend of Cheryl).

For health and protection: For all affected by coronavirus: those experiencing mental health difficulties due to isolation; those with the disease struggling to recover; those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personal, EMTs, the millions of unemployed people, etc; all immigrant families split apart by US Government; for the unaccompanied children entering the US, including those unaccounted for”.

For prisoners: Femi and Eddie; all those on death row.

Other concerns: Karen Olson; Blanche White (Melissa Barton).

Church concerns: St. Stephen’s Congregational Council; The Florida-Bahamas Synod Council all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

World concerns: For all recovering in the Florida Panhandle from Hurricane Michael, including Messiah Lutheran Church; the people of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands continuing to recover from hurricanes; migrants fleeing violence in Central America; all those migrants and asylum seekers imprisoned by the US government; the people of

Venezuela (birthplace of Bp. Suarez) and Hong Kong; for the Supreme Court as it considers cases involving the LGBTQ community.