

**“Follow me,
and I will
make you fish
for people.”**

Matthew 4:19, NRSV



**JANUARY 25, 2025
3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

O Come to the Altar

CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS

P - In the Name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C - Amen

P – Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C – Amen

P – If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Most merciful God,

C - We confess that, apart from Jesus, we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus the Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us; so that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P – God the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C - Amen.

P - And now may the grace of Our Lord Jesus the Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C- Amen [please be seated]

KYRIE

Refrain

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - pas-sioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

HYMN OF PRAISE

A Glo-ry to God in the high- est, and peace to his peo- ple on earth.

C 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 - ey 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- The Lord be with you.

C- And also, with you.

P- Let us pray.

C- Almighty God, as we gather on this Third Sunday after Epiphany, we pray that Your light would shine through us, making us a beacon of Your love to a world in darkness.

We thank You for calling us to follow You, Jesus. Give us courage to leave our nets, our homes, and our old ways to follow You fully, proclaiming the good news of Your kingdom and salvation to all people. Empower us to proclaim the Gospel with boldness, not with eloquent words, but with the transforming power of the cross, that many might see Your face and be saved. Send us out from this place to follow Jesus, to be Your hands and feet, and to bring Your saving message to all. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 9:1-4

R: The first lesson is from the 9th chapter of Isaiah.

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. 3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.4 For as in the day of Midian’s defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

PSALM 27:1-9**READ RESPONSIVELY**

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.

3 Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

4 One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

5 For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.

6 Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

7 Hear my voice when I call, Lord; be merciful to me and answer me.

8 My heart says of you, “Seek his face!” Your face, Lord, I will seek.

9 Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Savior.

SECOND READING**1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-18**

R: The second lesson comes from the 1st chapter of 1 Corinthians.

10 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but

that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. 11 My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. 12 What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ." 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. 16 (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. 18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

R: Here ends the reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: Please stand (as you are able) in honor of the gospel.



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 4:12-25

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 4th chapter.

C: Glory to You O Lord

12 When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. 13 Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— 14 to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: 15 “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles - 16 the people living in darkness have seen a great light on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” 17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” 18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” 20 At once they left their nets and followed him. 21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. 23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. 24 News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. 25 Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to You O Christ

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Let's Go Fishing

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Will Follow

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

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 into hell.
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 again to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy Christian Church,
The communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
and for all people according to their needs.

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

RECEPTION OF OFFERINGS

P: Let us acknowledge the tithes and offerings that have been given here today.

OFFERTORY

Doxology

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray: Merciful Father,

C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus the Christ our Lord. Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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;
and 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.**

BLESSING

P: May God bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace. AMEN

SENDING SONG

Jesus Loves

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace to follow Jesus and fish for people...

C: Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 27 @ 10:00 am - VBS Meeting at Nazarene Church
@ 6:30 pm - Bible Study with Pastor Ann - Galatians

Jan. 28 @ 9:00 am - Women's Morning Bible Study
@ 9:00-12:00 am - Ann's Office hours
@ 4:45-6:00 pm - 3rd and 4th Gr. Bible Camp
@ 6:00 pm - Confirmation

Jan. 22 @ 1:30 pm - Bible Study at Sunporch
Feb. 1 @ 11:00 - Potato Bar and Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will take place on Sunday, Feb. 1st after church and a potato bar.

The wooden church box will be out during the month of January for your suggestions and discussion items.

Future Dates:

Feb. 15th - Youth Meetup - 5:00 PM with Supper Mission Project at Crossroads Homeless Shelter TBD

Feb. 18th - 5:00-6:30 pm - Youth Soup Supper Fundraiser-Ash Wednesday

Each Wednesday during Lent there will be a pre-tour presentation with slides from 6:00-6:50 with Pastor Ann to prepare for our Lenten Service which begins at 7:00.

Our theme for Lent this year is “Journey to the Holy Lands - A Lenten Pilgrimage” On Wednesday evenings beginning Feb. 18th, we will be visiting several areas in Jerusalem through a drama series. We are inviting 6-8 members who would be willing to participate. Only your voices will be heard as you sit off stage in the choir loft. There is no memorization. Characters are Jesus, Judas, a Priest, John, Peter, and Caiaphas. Smaller parts available for two women. Please let Pastor Ann know if you are interested!

Scriptures for Feb. 1st

1st Reading: Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon Title: “A Fortunate State of Life”