



Third Sunday After Epiphany Sunday, January 24, 2021

The following worship service may be used on its own or along with the video found on the Swamp Lutheran YouTube page.

Thank you, Lord of life, for this beautiful day! May all who worship here know the warmth of your presence and the sunlight of your love.

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.

Hymn "Will You Come and Follow Me" ELW 798

- 1 "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?"

- 5 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.

The Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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

And also with you.

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. **Amen.**

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20

The Holy Gospel according to Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily The Rev. Kurt Strause

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends “Lord, in your mercy,” and the response is “**Hear our prayer.**”

Lord’s Prayer

Let us pray together

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as is 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.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace;

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Hymn "Sent Forth By God's Blessing" ELW 547

1 Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended.
Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us,
your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world bearing the Good News of Christ in word and deed.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "We Are Called" – David Haas

SANTUARY CANDLE is given in memory of their parents Mr. and Mrs. Clair Showalter and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Reddig by Joan and Gary Reddig.

Four Gospels: One Jesus *An On-Line Bible Study*

The New Testament contains four gospels; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Each tells the story of Jesus in their own way. While many of the episodes in the life of Jesus are the same, there are differences in emphasis and events between the four evangelists. Each week we'll explore one of the gospels and discover what the particular writer wants us to know about Jesus.

This four-week Bible study meets via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom link for the Bible study will be published on the church website.

Barb Mizdail
Katie Houck
Sue Kittler
Shirley Achey – neighbor of Sue Kreitz
Jean Wolf
Susan Levan
Nancy Kulp
Mary Kring – Aunt of Linda Ream
Mary Jane Miller
Janice Moyer Kelly
Jan Risser
Dorothy Good
Fay Harting (Nana of Abbey Rineer)

Earl Myers
Sharon Fremont – friend of Sue Kreitz
Family of Ruth Sweigart
Ralph Good
Clair Sweigart



When someone is put on the prayer list, we will keep them on for four weeks. After that time, they will be taken off unless you make another request to have them put back on.



Michael A. Crowther
Clarice Haws
Betty Hornberger
Charles Moyer
Ella Shirk
Alverta Showalter
Clyde Showalter
Mary Ann Weitzel
Mary Jane Miller

TAKE NOTE - Please contact Joyce Stoner 717-336-7077 if you would like to sponsor a candle. A number of weeks in the near future are available.