

Third Sunday after Epiphany | January 24th, 2021

Reader: TBD | Online Readers: Travis + Nora Christensen

Announcements

- We are excited to begin in-person worship again! Please RSVP to the church office (this is so we have a record in case -- heaven forbid -- anything would happen)
- Today is our Annual Meeting!
- Confirmation will begin meeting in-person this week on Wednesdays from 6:00 - 7:00
- Wednesday Education will begin meeting in-person on Wednesday, February 3rd! Be sure to check out your Lamplighter for more information and your email (if you currently have kids registered)

Confession + Forgiveness

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. **Amen.**

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

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Holy God, 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.

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. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn | *Epiphany Carol*

Ev'ry nation sees the glory of a star that pierced the night.
As we tell the wondrous story we are bathed in radiant light.
Star sent forth from highest heaven, dancing light of God's design,
Shine upon the gift that's given: Word made flesh now born in time.

Ev'ry tongue shall sing the praises of his birth in deepest night.
He is healing for the ages; He is Christ, our God's delight.
He proclaims within his being all our hopes, our great desires.
He shall die to rise, redeeming all who follow with their lives.

Once again may we discover Word made flesh sent from above.
In our neighbor, sister, brother, in the lonely and unloved.
May we touch him, may we hold him, may we cradle him with care.
As we learn to love each other, bringing hope from out despair.

Gather, God, the world together in the brightness of your day.
Fill our hearts with joy forever; help us walk the holy way.
May your justice rule the nations; may all people live as one.
Now we see our true salvation in the glory of your Son.

Greeting

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.**

Prayer of the Day

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.

Children's Message

First Reading | Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So 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. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When 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 Reading | 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and 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, and 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 Acclamation [online]**

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***Gospel Reading | 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.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day | *Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult* ELW 696 (new)

Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea,
Day by day his clear voice sounding, saying, “Christian, follow me.”

As of old Saint Andrew heard it by the Galilean lake,
Turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us, saying “Christian, love me more.”

In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
Still he calls, in cares and pleasures, “Christian, love me more than these.”

Jesus calls us! By your mercy, Savior, may we hear your call,
Give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.

***Apostles' Creed**

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' 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 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**

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

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, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

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, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who provide leadership in our cities and around the world, for
nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations, for planning commissions and

homeless advocates, that God inspire all people in the just use of wealth, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who are sick, distressed, or grieving; for the outcast and all who await relief especially Pastor Dave, Nancy Gjerde, Ron Germsheid, and Teri Knish, as well as the family and friends of Gordy Ellanson Jr., that in the midst of suffering, God's peace and mercy surround them, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For our congregation and community, for families big and small, that God's steadfast love serve as a model for all relationships, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

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, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

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. **Amen.**

***Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer**

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

***Final Blessing**

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

Sending Hymn | *We Are Marching in the Light*

ELW 866 (new)

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching, ooo -- We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching, ooo -- We are marching in the light of God.

We are dancing...

We are praying...

We are singing...

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**