

Sunday, January 24, 2021
Third Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“A Mighty Fortress”
Sharon Gray, organ

arr. Carl F. Mueller

APOSTLES’ CREED – Jeff Langdon

**☒ 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!**

WELCOMING SONG

“We Praise You, O God”

ELW 870

**We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.**

**We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'er take us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.**

**With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!**

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE

“Glory Be to God in Heaven”

pg. 204

**Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**

**Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav’n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God’s right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.**

**Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father’s splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

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!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Fanfare”

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

Stephen Schmidt, organ

FIRST READING – Pam Farrell, 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.

Reflection

What does the Lord command Jonah to do? (verses 1-2) Note that this is the second time Jonah has received this word from the Lord. (see Jonah 1:1-3 to read about the first time Jonah received this word from the Lord and how he reacted) What does Jonah do this time? (verses 3-4) How do the people receive Jonah's message from God? (verses 5-9) What did God do? (verse 10) What does this tell you about God, and how God responds to prayer and repentance? If you had never read about Jonah and his mission before, would this surprise you? Why? What does this story (and our response to it) tell you about our response to God?

Psalm 62:5-12 – read together with Howard Harmsen

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

⁶God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.

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

⁸Put your trust in God always, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.

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

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

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.

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

Reflection

How does the psalmist approach God? (verse 5) How does the psalmist describe God? (verses 6-7) Which of these metaphors, or descriptions of who God is to the psalmist, speaks most clearly to you? What does the psalmist encourage the readers to do? (verse 8) After the difficulties and catastrophes of this year, how would you encourage others in their faith in God? The psalmist compares the relationship with God of both the lowly and the mighty. Does God put more weight on one side of the scale than the other? (verse 9) What do people sometimes do to try to make sure that they are successful in this life? (verse 10) What two things does the psalmist stress at the end of this psalm? (verses 11-12) Who or what do you trust?

SECOND READING – Marilyn Hunt, 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.

Reflection

What does Paul believe about time left on this earth for the believers? (verse 29) How does this affect his advice about how believers should live? (verses 29-31) The older I get, the more I am aware that, no matter what happens to the rest of you, my time left on this earth is increasingly short. I'm not sure I agree with Paul—I think it's important to live each day giving thanks to God for all the great things God has given me, such as my husband, family, friends, our church. How is it possible to live as I am trying to do without holding on to things? What do you think?

GOSEPL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia”

pg. 205

**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

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.

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.

Reflection

When does Jesus begin his ministry in Galilee? (verse 14) (I notice that Mark's gospel does not report the arrest of John until chapter 6, when we also read of John's murder by Herod.) What is Jesus' message? (verse 15) Then Mark tells of Jesus' calling his first disciples. Who are they? (verses 16-20) What does he call them to do? (verse 17) How do you experience that the Reign of God is here with us? How does Jesus call you to be a disciple?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

Rev. Keith Hohly

SPECIAL MUSIC

“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”

Cesáreo Gabaráin

Praise Team

PRAYER SONG

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”

Taize

Phil & Nancy Lewis

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – led by Daavid Bezona and Brenda Bass

We remember in our prayers

David Schmidt, Felicia Rush Blanc, Tina Birkhead (member of the St. Joseph community), Sarah Pierce, Rick & Cyndi Zebulean (friends of Sharmyn Thompson), Sylvia Rush (Grandmother of Felicia Rush Blanc), Myrene Bunge, Pamma Williams, Lynn Ann Flora (friend of Laurel Goforth), Keira Wall (great-niece of Irene Wall), Reed Nelson, Dorothy Masteller, Dee Rasmussen, and members of his family for whom John Lawrence requests prayer

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, 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 that in the midst of suffering, God’s peace and mercy surround them. In the midst of a global crisis, we look to you for strength, hope and help in fighting the coronavirus pandemic. We pray for those stricken with this disease and those who are treating them, for those mourning the loss of life and those facing death, and for those who urgently work to find effective treatments for cure. We lift up to you those in our faith community needing your care: David, Felicia, Tina, Sarah, Rick, Cyndi, Sylvia, Myrene, Pamma, Lynn Ann, Keira, Reed, Dorothy, Dee, members of his family for whom John Lawrence requests prayer, and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

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, 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!

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.*

G **Amen!**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P *Holy God,*

G **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.*

G **Amen!**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

G **And also with you!**

DIALOGUE

P *The Lord be with you.*

R **And also with you.**

P *Lift up your hearts.*

R **We lift them to the Lord.**

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

R **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

P *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

pg. 207

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heav’n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P *Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.*

*Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.*

☩ Amen!

LORD'S PRAYER

**☩ 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!**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☩ *Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus. Come and be fed. All are welcome.*

COMMUNION

BLESSING

☩ *May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.*

☩ Amen!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☞ *Christ Jesus,*

☞ **at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey.**

Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. Amen!

BENEDICTION

☞ *God the creator strengthen you;*

Jesus the beloved fill you;

and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace.

☞ **Amen!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”

Anders Nyberg

DISMISSAL – Jeff Langdon

☞ *Go in peace and serve our Lord.*

☞ **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“What A Friend”
Sharon Gray, piano

arr. Jack Schrader

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Rev. Keith Hohly, Interim Pastor

Instruments: Piano and Organ – Sharon Gray | Guitar – Roger Lenander | Guitar/Bass – Jim Pierce

Song leaders and vocal talents: Sharmyn Thompson, Keith Hohly, Deb Hohly,
Dave Newman, Jeff Langdon, Phil Lewis, Nancy Lewis, Jim Pierce, Juel Pierce, Jim Bunge,
Carol Bunge, Misty Coyle, Roger Lenander, and Barb Aubrey

Reflections on Today's Readings written by Rev. Juel Pierce

Music and Liturgy:

"We Praise You, O God" | Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963

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