

Sunday, January 24, 2021

Third Sunday after Epiphany, Year B

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 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.

Order of Worship

We return today to a usual 4th Sunday communion service.
Pr Peterman will preside and preach.

Confession and 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.

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.

Readings

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

Repentance at Nineveh

[Mark 1:14-20](#)

The calling of the disciples at the sea

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.

A The Word of the Lord.

C THANKS BE TO GOD.

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.

Prayers of Intercession

When you hear, “let us pray” you respond, “**Have mercy, O God.**”

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

A brief silence is held as we gather our prayers.

For the Church throughout the world, for all who lead within it, and for all who bear the sign of the cross of Jesus Christ: that they may know their own need for repentance from evil in all forms, from violence and from prejudice, as they proclaim the good news of God’s reconciling love, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the spiritual strength to accept the repentance of others who have hurt or wronged us
pause
let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the nations of the world and the leaders of the nations. We pray for our own government as a new federal administration begins its work: for the integrity of those who serve in government; for the rebuilding of our economy; for our common work of healing from the virus; that we the people may again be formed into one people under God, 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 people in all walks of life to guide our care for the earth, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who are sick, distressed, or grieving;
for the outcast and all who await relief;
for all who suffer the effects of Covid;
that in the midst of suffering, God’s peace and mercy surround them,
let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For Grace Lutheran Church, meeting for its annual meeting today; for our 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.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for those who have gone before us in the faith whose lives continue to shine as a beacon of the way of the gospel, that they point us to salvation through Christ, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear our prayers,
whether spoken or held in the silent spaces of our hearts,
for the sake of the one who dwells among us,
your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Offering Prayer

O God,
receive these gifts as you receive us:
like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide.
Nourish us anew in your tender care,
and empower us in faithful service
to tend to others with this same love,
through Jesus Christ, our saving 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.

Blessing

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

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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Prayers adapted by Interim Pastor Janet S. Peterman

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