



St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church

Rev. Ronald C. Szep, pastor

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Sunday, January 17, 2021

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The order of service is Common Service (abridged)

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Second Sunday after the Epiphany of Our Lord

It is in the Word that we hear the call of God that has in it the secret power of God to give what he commands.

He commands: Believe! and the Word creates faith.

He says, Follow me! and the Word creates the desire and the ability to follow him.

That he should consider it glorious to call sinners, is that not an amazing thing?

That he should attach such power to his Word that we answer the call, is that not a wonder that lasts an eternity for each of us?

Greeting by the minister

Please Stand

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

M: Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please Be Seated

SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

The call is to be God's temple and dwelling place on earth. Jesus was God's temple and dwelling place on earth during his earthly ministry. And now, because he dwells in us by faith, through his presence in the Word and sacraments, that's what we have become. Such an intimacy is intimidating and a horror to the flesh. But it is an intimacy that is real.

An evidence of its reality is our struggle to be the temples that we are by maintaining sexual purity. How difficult that call is in our day! How desperately we need his presence and the reminder of his presence in us, in his temples, to heed that call! Only the recalling of the price can make it so.

¹² *"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything.*

¹³ *You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both." The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.*

¹⁴ *By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.*

¹⁵ *Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never!*

¹⁶ *Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh."*

¹⁷ *But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.*

¹⁸ *Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.*

¹⁹ *Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;*

²⁰ *you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.*

HYMN OF THE DAY: CW Hymn 086
"The Only Son from Heaven"

EPIPHANY

86 The Only Son from Heaven



1 The on - ly Son from heav - en, Fore - told by
2 Oh, time of God ap - point - ed, Oh, bright and
3 A - wak - en, Lord, our spir - it To know and
4 O Fa - ther, here be - fore you With God the



an - cient seers, By God the Fa - ther giv - en,
ho - ly morn! He comes, the King a - noint - ed,
love you more, In faith to stand un - shak - en,
Ho - ly Ghost And Je - sus, we a - dore you,



In hu - man form ap - pears. No sphere his
The Christ, the vir - gin - born, Grim death to
In spir - it to a - dore, That we, through
O Pride of an - gel host. Be - fore you



light con - fin - ing, No star so bright - ly
con - quer for us, To o - pen heav'n be -
this world mov - ing, Each glimpse of heav - en
mor - tals low - ly, Cry "Ho - ly, ho - ly,



shin - ing As he, our Morn - ing Star.
fore us And bring us life a - gain.
prov - ing, May reap its full - ness there.
ho - ly, O bless - ed Trin - i - ty!"

Text: Elizabeth Cruciger, c. 1500–35, abr., st. 1-3; *Lutheran Book of Worship*, Minneapolis, 1978, st. 4;
tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, st. 1-3, alt.

Tune: HERR CHRIST, DER EINIG GOTTS SOHN (76 76 776) *Eyn Enchiridion oder Handbüchlein*, Erfurt, 1524, alt.

SERMON: *based on John 1:43-51*
“Come and See”

There is always a miraculous element in the call of Jesus. For anyone looking at him on the basis of appearance or reason will say what Nathanael said and turn away. In Nathanael's case Jesus read from a distance the thoughts of Nathanael and then promised even more wondrous things; he promised that Nathanael with the eyes of faith would see heaven opened and Jesus as the ladder to heaven in fulfillment of Jacob's dream in Genesis 28. But it is all invisible to reason and to the naked eye. Nathanael was astonished by what he saw in Jesus' demonstration of omniscience, but he believed on the basis of a promise whose fulfillment was shrouded in the future and would never be visible to the human eye. Anyone who thinks that God is far and distant should consider that if he believes the gospel, it is because God is near at hand. He worked and still sustains that faith each moment by his glorious Word.

⁴³ *The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”*

⁴⁴ *Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.*

⁴⁵ *Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”*

⁴⁶ *“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.*

“Come and see,” said Philip.

⁴⁷ *When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him,*

“Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

⁴⁸ *“How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.*

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

⁴⁹ *Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”*

⁵⁰ *Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.”*

⁵¹ *He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”*

The minister prepares the elements at the Lord's Table

Please Stand

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and THE LORD'S PRAYER

M: Heavenly Father, on every hand are those who despise your commandments and live according to the lusts of the sinful flesh. Truly, they are in the grip of the prince of darkness and live in the shadow of eternal death. But we too deserve only punishment, for our sinful natures lead us daily into all manner of sin. How thankful we are, merciful Father, that you have pierced the darkness of this sinful world and of our own hearts with the glorious light of salvation that shines through Christ!

C: You loved us and sent him to pay for our sins, and by the Spirit, have turned our hearts from unbelief to faith in our Savior.

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, give to each of us the joys of heart and peace of mind that accompany faith. Never leave us. Fill us with your love that Satan may never again have dominion over us. Live in us that we might live for you, and that others may see you in everything we do. Pardon our many offenses. Heal our bodies of illnesses according to your good pleasure and relieve those who suffer heartache and pain.

C: Give a new sense of purpose to the lives of those who feel useless and dejected. Uphold the fainthearted and strengthen the weak. Deliver the oppressed. Fill our hearts with the warm glow of your love.

M: Holy Spirit, come. Chase away the black clouds of gloom and sin and unbelief that threaten every heart. Shine with the bright beams of your gospel that sinners everywhere turn from their sins to Christ.

C: Equip each of us so that we might become effective witnesses of your grace.

M: Give us grateful hearts to fill the Lord's treasury with our temporal goods, that missionaries might be sent out into all parts of the world to labor in the fields white unto harvest.

C: Bless the word which is preached to souls across our land, and especially bless the unselfish efforts of your kingdom's workers in far-off places where Satan has raised many barriers to the gospel.

Special prayers and intercessions: optional, read by the minister

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent Prayer

M: Never leave us or forsake us or suffer us to lose our hold on eternal life through impenitence and unbelief. Rid us of our slothfulness, and make us diligent in all our Christian duties.

C: All this we pray in the name of our dear Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Please Be Seated

The distribution hymn will not be sung today. Please read through the following verses while the sacrament is being distributed. Those partaking of the Lord's Supper, please follow the direction of the minister and the ushers.

486 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

1 Lord of glory, you have bought us
With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice,
And with that have freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To th' unthankful and the evil
With your own unsparing hand.

2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you
Gladly, freely, of your own.
With the sunshine of your goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by you, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.

3 Wondrous honor you have given
To our humblest charity
In your own mysterious sentence,
"You have done it unto me."
Can it be, O gracious Master,
That you need what we can do,
Saying by your poor and needy,
"Give as I have giv'n to you"?

4 Yes, the sorrow and the suff'rings
Which on ev'ry hand we view
Channels are for gifts and offerings
Due by solemn right to you,
Right of which we may not rob you,
Debt we may not choose but pay
Lest that face of love and pity
Turn from us another day.

5 Lord of glory, you have bought us With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust you boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on you;
But, oh, best of all your graces, With your love our love renew.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–89, alt.

Please Stand

THANKSGIVING and BLESSING:

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

M: We give thanks, almighty God that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: CW Hymn 249

“God of Mercy, God of Grace”

249

God of Mercy, God of Grace



1 God of mer - cy, God of grace, Show the bright - ness
 2 Let the peo - ple praise you, Lord! Be by all that
 3 Let the peo - ple praise you, Lord, Then en - joy your



of your face. Shine up - on us, Sav - ior, shine;
 live a - dored. Let the na - tions shout and sing
 rich re - ward! God to us his bless - ing give,



Fill your Church with light di - vine, And your sav - ing
 Glo - ry to their Sav - ior King, At your feet their
 We to God de - vot - ed live, All be - low and



health ex - tend To the earth's re - mot - est end.
 trib - ute pay, And your ho - ly will o - bey.
 all a - bove One in joy and light and love.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt.

Tune: RATISBON (77 77 77) attr. Johann G. Werner, 1777–1822.