



"God Calls All to Repentance"
Jonah 3:1-5, 10

St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church

Rev. Ronald C. Szep, pastor

Wednesday, January 20, 2021
Sunday, January 24, 2021

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Third Sunday after the Epiphany of Our Lord

Jesus shows his glory in the kind of people that he calls to serve him and in using the gospel to make them willing to follow him. Jesus still calls such to the holy ministry. To all however comes the call to follow him with a willingness to abandon everything should faithfulness require it; the calls in these readings bid us have a mindset that has forsaken everything, even when we are not required to do it.

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.

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please Be Seated

SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

The general call to discipleship is a call that envelopes the whole of life, not just the Sunday morning part. That God does not always require the sacrifice of everything should not dull our hearts to the reality that we should be ready to make just such a sacrifice. The call of Christ to follow him is the call to see him as our all in all; only then are we what these verses say we ought to be. It is only the glorious power of the gospel that will make it possible for us to learn the lesson. These verses contain all three uses of the law.

²⁹ *What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short.*

From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not;

³⁰ *those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not;*

those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep;

³¹ *those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them.*

For this world in its present form is passing away.

HYMN OF THE DAY: CW Hymn 453 v1-3

“Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke”

Text: Johann Scheffler, 1624-77, abr., st. 1-3, 5; *Geistliche Lieder und Lobgesänge*, 1695, st. 4; tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813-96, alt.

Tune: MACHS MIT MIR, GOTT (87 87 88) Bartholomäus Gesius, c. 1555-1613, adapt.



1 "Come, fol - low me," the Sav - ior spoke, "All in my
 2 "I am the light; I light the way, A god - ly
 3 "My heart a - bounds in low - li - ness, My soul with
 4 "I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your
 5 Then let us fol - low Christ our Lord And take the



way a - bid - ing. De - ny your - selves; the
 life dis - play - ing. I bid you walk as
 love is glow - ing, And gra - cious words my
 souls' sal - va - tion, Your hearts from ev - 'ry
 cross ap - point - ed And, firm - ly cling - ing



world for - sake; O - bey my call and guid - ing.
 in the day; I keep your feet from stray - ing.
 lips ex - press, With meek - ness o - ver - flow - ing.
 guile to free, From sin and its temp - ta - tion.
 to his Word, In suf - f'ring be un - daunt - ed.



Oh, bear the cross, what - e'er be - tide; Take
 I am the way, and well I show How
 My heart, my mind, my strength, my all To
 I am the ref - uge of the soul And
 For those who bear the bat - tle's strain The



my ex - am - ple for your guide.
 you should jour - ney here be - low.
 God I yield; on him I call.
 lead you to your heav'n - ly goal."
 crown of heav'n - ly life ob - tain.

SERMON: *based on Jonah 3:1-5, 10*
“God Calls All to Repentance”

God makes a habit of calling the unfit and the unworthy! He does it to magnify the power of the gospel and show that salvation can only be a gift of God, never a work of man or even a cooperative venture between God and man. No more unfit workman could there have been than Jonah. No city deserved destruction more than Nineveh. But God called both to repentance and showed the power of his Word in giving grace to both according to his good pleasure.

3 *Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time:*

2 *“Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”*

3 *Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it.*

4 *Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.”*

5 *The Ninevites believed God.*

A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

10 *When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.*

Please Stand

PROFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles’ Creed *(read in unison)*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and THE LORD’S PRAYER

M: O Christ, who in great love kept your promise and came to give your life a ransom for sinners, be pleased to look with patience upon us, and be not swift to cast us away. You are the Searcher of our hearts and know full well whenever we begin to turn away from you; restore speedily our sagging faith through the Holy Spirit.

C: Bless the confessions of faith we make before others, and save us from the hypocrisy of giving you mere lip service.

M: Let ours be a sincere and honest faith, which worships you in spirit and in truth.

C: Train us to search our hearts and lives diligently to discover the flaws that are there, and help us to correct them.

M: In order that our faith may be daily nurtured and strengthened fill us with your Holy Spirit, and make us deeply devoted to your Word.

C: Grant us each a childlike faith which trusts what it cannot understand and believes what it cannot see.

M: Lord, may we ever desire to show our faith and prove our love by keeping your commandments and by refusing to yield to temptation. Make our new man strong through the power of the Holy Spirit so that we may be victorious over sin that rules our flesh, and help us overcome every evil thought, every wrong desire, every idle word and every sinful deed.

C: Do not judge us on account of our sins – for we must confess that we daily sin much – but look upon us as your people whom you have redeemed by your own blood.

Special prayers and intercessions: optional, read by the minister

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

Silent Prayer

M: Forgive the lukewarmness that so often characterizes our faith; forgive all acts by which we have abused your saving grace as well as every instance of neglecting your Word.

C: Forgive us and correct whatever is amiss in us. To the praise and honor of your name we ask it, dear Savior. 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.

THE BLESSING

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 453 v4-5

“Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke”



1 "Come, fol - low me," the Sav - ior spoke, "All in my
 2 "I am the light; I light the way, A god - ly
 3 "My heart a - bounds in low - li - ness, My soul with
 4 "I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your
 5 Then let us fol - low Christ our Lord And take the



way a - bid - ing. De - ny your - selves; the
 life dis - play - ing. I bid you walk as
 love is glow - ing, And gra - cious words my
 souls' sal - va - tion, Your hearts from ev - 'ry
 cross ap - point - ed And, firm - ly cling - ing



world for - sake; O - bey my call and guid - ing.
 in the day; I keep your feet from stray - ing.
 lips ex - press, With meek - ness o - ver - flow - ing.
 guile to free, From sin and its temp - ta - tion.
 to his Word, In suf - f'ring be un - daunt - ed.



Oh, bear the cross, what - e'er be - tide; Take
 I am the way, and well I show How
 My heart, my mind, my strength, my all To
 I am the ref - uge of the soul And
 For those who bear the bat - tle's strain The



my ex - am - ple for your guide.
 you should jour - ney here be - low.
 God I yield; on him I call.
 lead you to your heav'n - ly goal."
 crown of heav'n - ly life ob - tain.