## Third Sunday after Epiphany

## ~ January 22, 2023 ~

## St. John’s & St. Peter’s

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Confession and Forgiveness**  ELW pg. 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

***C: Amen.***

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***C:*** ***Amen.***

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

***C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.***

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

***C:*** ***Amen.***

**Peace** Page 138

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

***C: And also with you.***

**Gathering Hymn *“I Love to Tell the Story”*** ELW #661

Vs. 1 I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
 of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
 I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
 it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

***Refrain: I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
 to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.***

Vs. 2 I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat
 what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!
 I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
 the message of salvation from God’s own holy word. ***[Refrain]***

***Refrain: I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
 to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.***

Vs. 3 I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
 seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
 And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
 I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. ***[Refrain]***

 **Greeting** ELW pg. 138

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

***C: And also with you.***

**Kyrie** ELWpg.138

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

***C: Amen.***

**Hymn of Praise** ELWPg. 139

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

Spirit You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

 **Prayer of the Day**

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4**

*The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.*

1There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. 2The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. 3You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 4For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

**Psalm 27:1, 4-9**

1The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**4One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

5For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

**6Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD. The LORD is my light and my salvation.**

7Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

**8My heart speaks your message— | "Seek my face." Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

9Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

**The LORD is my light and my salvation.**

**Second Reading**: **1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

*Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.*

10Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. 11For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. 12What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." 13Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. 16(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) 17For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. 18For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**Gospel Acclamation**  Page 142

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the

words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Gospel**: **Matthew 4:12-23**

*Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.*

12Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. 13He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 15"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—16the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." 17From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." 18As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 19And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." 20Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. 22Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. 23Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day *“Here I Am, Lord”***  ELW #574

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

***Refrain: Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
 I have heard You calling in the night.
 I will go Lord, if You lead me.
 I will hold your people in my heart.***

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have born my people’s pain.
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them, Whom shall I send? ***Refrain***

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide, ‘till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them, Whom shall I send? ***Refrain***

**Apostles’ Creed**  ELW pg. 105

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 the People**

 **“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Make your church one in purpose, proclaiming the message of the cross. Help us to work together across differences. Energize ecumenical partnerships, including the World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We rejoice at the bounty of your creation. Fill the land and sea with your abundance. Bless harvests in the southern hemisphere and fallow fields in the northern hemisphere. Equip farmers to till and keep the earth sustainably. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In Christ your reign comes near and calls all to repentance. Break the rod of the oppressor in every nation. Dispel the shadow of death in places of war and persecution. Grant us leaders who lift the yokes that burden those in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be a stronghold for those in trouble and a rock for all who are afraid. Rouse communities to care for neighbors who need shelter, are facing maltreatment, or are isolated and lonely. *Especially we pray for . . . .*

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain the ministries of this congregation and all churches in this community. Nurture each congregation's unique witness to your presence; foster mutual respect; inspire our cooperation in loving our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We praise you for the faithful who have gone ahead of us, both famous and unknown. Help us to leave our nets and follow, and bring us with them to the fullness of your promise of eternal life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

**Offering *“We Give Thee but Thine Own” vs. 1*** *Hymn #686*

We give thee but thine own, what e’er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone a trust, O Lord from thee.

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray, Blessed are you, O God maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, or Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Great Thanksgiving**  ELW pg. 145

P: The Lord be with you.

***C:*** ***And also with you.***

P: Lift up your hearts.

***C:*** ***We lift them to the Lord.***

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

***C:*** ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

**Words of Institution**

P: 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

***C:*** ***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

**Lord’s Prayer** ELW pg. 145

P: Let us pray as Jesus has taught us.

***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.***

**Communion**

**Post Communion Blessing**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. ***Amen.***

**Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**Sending Hymn “Christ, Be Our Light”** Hymn #715

Vs. 1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for

 truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,

 your holy people, light for the world to see.

***Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.***

 ***Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.***

Vs. 2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for

 hope, many despair. Your word alone

 has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. ***Refrain***

Vs. 3 Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for

 water, many still thirst. Make us your bread,

 broken for others shared until all are fed. ***Refrain***

***Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.***

 ***Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.***

Vs. 4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for

 warmth, many are cold. Make us your building,

 sheltering others, walls made of living stone. ***Refrain***

Vs. 5 Many the gifts, many the people many the

 hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants

 to one another, signs of your kingdom come. ***Refrain***

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

***C: We will! Thanks be to God!***

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