## Third Sunday after Epiphany

## ~ January 21, 2024 ~ Faith

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

## Confession and Forgiveness Page 56

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.***

**Gathering Hymn *“I Love to Tell the Story”*** Hymn #390

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]***

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]***

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

**Greeting** Page 57

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** Page 57

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** Page 58

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,

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

In the glory of God the Father. 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.

**First 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?”*

The 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.” **3**So 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. **4**Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” **5**And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

**10**When 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.

**Psalm 62:5-12**

5For God alone I wait in silence, truly, my hope is in God.  
**6God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall never be shaken.  
7**In 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. God alone is my rock and my salvation.**

**9**Those 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.  
11**God has spoken once,  twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God.  
**12Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord, for you repay to all according to their deeds. God alone is my rock and my salvation.**

**Second 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.*

**29**Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, **30**and 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, **31**and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

**Gospel Acclamation**  Page 62

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

words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**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.*

**14**Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God **15**and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

**16**As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. **17**And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” **18**And immediately they left their nets and followed him. **19**As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. **20**Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day *“Jesus Calls Us; o’er the Tumult”***  Hymn #494

Vs. 1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult of our

life's wild, restless sea, day by day his clear voice

sounding, saying, "Christian, follow me":

Vs. 2 As of old Saint Andrew heard it by the

Galilean lake, turned from home and toil and

kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.

Vs. 3 Jesus calls us from the worship of the

vain world's golden store, from each idol that would

keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."

Vs. 4 In our joys and in our sorrows, days of

toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and

pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."

Vs. 5 Jesus calls us! By your mercy, Savior,

may we hear your call, give our hearts to your

obedience, serve and love you best of all.

**Apostles’ Creed** Page 65

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***” WOV #775

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.

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation

God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

God our hope and refuge, you placed fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hole us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain especially

God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you welcome them into your care. Comfort those who grieve, even as we place our hope in your salvation. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen**.

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” WOV #775

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.

**Peace**

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

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

**Offering *“We Give Thee but Thine Own” vs. 1*** Hymn #410

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** Page 68

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

**Lord’s Prayer** Page 68

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 *“Shine, Jesus, Shine***” WOV #651

***Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory;***

***Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.***

***Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;***

***Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!***

Vs. 1 Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the

Darkness, shining, Jesus, light of the world shine upon us,

Set us free by the truth you now bring us.

Shine on me, shine on me.

***Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory;***

***Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.***

***Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;***

***Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!***

Vs. 2 As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces dis-

Play your likeness, ever changing from glory to glory,

Mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.

Shine on me, shine on me. ***Refrain***

**Dismissal**

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

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

**Postlude**

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