

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Christ Is Calling

January 24, 2021



AS WE GATHER: The Lord always sets the right time for the right people to be used for His mission and purposes. Throughout the Old Testament, He spoke through prophets to proclaim His Word, call the people to repentance, and turn back into a relationship with Him. As His own beloved Son, our Savior, came into the world when the time was right, God used John the Baptist to prepare the way for Christ. As John's ministry and calling people to repentance would cease, and Jesus' earthly ministry began, Jesus echoed and perfectly fulfilled all that would come to fruition in and through Him. As Christ calls His first disciples, the call to repentance and faith continued. Even today, as we gather in His name, that same call through those the Lord has placed in His right time is heard with open ears and willing hearts within His Church, that we may live faithful lives of repentance and faith as we follow Him.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

GOD'S KIDS

- Song
- Message: 'We cannot hide from God'
- Prayer

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 113:1-3*

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,

People: **praise the name of the LORD!**

Pastor: Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth
and forevermore!

People: **From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name
of the LORD is to be praised!**

HYMN "O Christ, Who Called the Twelve" #856 v.1, 2, 4, 5

1 O Christ, who called the Twelve
To rise and follow You,
Forsaking old, familiar ways
For ventures bold and new:
Grant us to hear Your call
To risk security
And, bound in heart and will to You,
Find perfect liberty.

2 O Christ, who taught the Twelve
The truth for ages sealed,
Whose words and works awakened faith,
The ways of God revealed:
Instruct us now, we pray,
By Your empow'ring Word.
True teacher, be for all who seek
Their light, their life, their Lord.

4 O Christ, who sent the Twelve
On roads they'd never trod
To serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim
The nearer reign of God:
Send us on ways where faith
Transcends timidity,
Where love informs and hope sustains
Both life and ministry.

5 O Christ, the apostles' Lord,
The martyrs' strength and song,
The crucified and risen King
To whom the saints belong:

Though generations pass,
Our tribute still we bring,
Our hymns a sacrifice of praise,
Our lives an offering.

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Mark 1:15; Psalm 113:1–3*

Pastor: Gracious Lord, by Your name You have called us Your own, and we are to pray, praise, and give thanks to You.

People: **Yet we often do not live as You have called us to live as Your own. We do not always honor Your name nor Your calling with our praise.**

Pastor: We confess our sins to God in repentance, turning from those things that lead us away, turning back to You as we follow in faith.

Silence for reflection

Pastor: Almighty and ever-compassionate Lord,

People: **we are by nature sinful and unclean. We confess our many failures as we have not followed You joyfully and trustingly. We have not loved others as ourselves, and our thoughts, words, and deeds have not been pleasing to You. We have not always welcomed Your call for us to follow You and You alone.**

Pastor: The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel. Hear and rejoice in the Good News. Jesus Christ died for you, and for His sake, God has compassion. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in His stead, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,
People: **praise the name of the LORD!**

Pastor: Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth
and forevermore!

People: **From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of
the LORD is to be praised!**

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 113:1–2, 4, 7–8; antiphon: v. 3*

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of
the LORD is to be praised! Praise the LORD! Praise, O
servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD!
Blessèd be the name of the LORD from this time forth and
forevermore! The LORD is high above all nations, and his
glory above the heavens! He raises the poor from the
dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them
sit with princes, with the princes of his people.
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy
Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be
forever. Amen**

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of
the LORD is to be praised!

KYRIE *“Lord, Have Mercy”*

People: **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have
mercy.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.
Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Jonah 3:1–5, 10* (The Lord causes repentance of the Ninevites through Jonah's preaching.)

¹Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. ¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 7:29–31* (As time grows short, Paul encourages faithful use of time.)

²⁹ This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live 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 goods, 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.

³² I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious

about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. ³³ But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, ³⁴ and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. ³⁵ I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 1:14–20* (Jesus calls the first disciples to follow Him.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” ¹⁶Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostle’s Creed

People: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

SERMON HYMN “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus” #685

1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,
 Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us
 And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading,
 Pilgrims here, our home above,
 Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father’s bidding.
 Faithful Lord, with me abide;
 I shall follow where You guide.

2 Let us suffer here with Jesus
 And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness;
 Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter,
 We shall reap celestial joy;
 All discomforts that annoy
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.

Jesus, here I share Your woe;
Help me there Your joy to know.

3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.
Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction,
Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion
That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die,
There to live with You on high.

4 Let us also live with Jesus.
He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken.
Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members;
Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly,
Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be,
Life eternal grant to me.

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SERMON "I want you to be free from anxieties" - 1 Corinthians 7:29-35

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord, as You have called us as Your own, gathered us together, and enlightened us by Your Spirit through Your Word, we bring to You our prayer and praise.
Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for all people of the world, that the Epiphany

light that shines the radiance of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, shine in the hearts and minds of all people. For those who are wayward and lost and for those who have rejected Your call to repentance and faith, we pray You use us in our words and witness to point to You that many more would faithfully follow.

HYMN "O Christ, Our True and Only Light" #839 v. 1

1 O Christ, our true and only light,
Enlighten those who sit in night;
Let those afar now hear Your voice
And in Your fold with us rejoice.

Pastor: Ever-present Lord, be with Your Church on earth and the congregations in their work to serve and praise You and to be nourished by Your Word and Sacraments. Bless those You have called in roles of pastors and church workers that they faithfully speak and live Your Word of truth and that the call to a repentant and faithful life in Christ be followed. Continue to raise up called servants and leaders within Your Church for Your work and mission to continue that many more may know You and follow where You lead.

HYMN "O Christ, Our True and Only Light" #839 v. 2

2 Fill with the radiance of Your grace
The souls now lost in error's maze;
Enlighten those whose inmost minds
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.

Pastor: Lord of comfort and peace, be present with those who face various needs in mind, soul, and body, [*especially* . . .]. Grant healing according to Your will. Be with those who grieve that the assured promise of Christ's victory over death and the grave brings hope in times of hopelessness. For those who live in doubt, fear, and

distress, extend Your call of grace through Your Word and those who proclaim it.

HYMN "O Christ, Our True and Only Light" #839 v. 3

3 O gently call those gone astray
That they may find the saving way!
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed
In You find peace and heav'nly rest.

[Individual petitions may be added here. After each petition the pastor prays: *Lord, in Your mercy, and the people respond: **hear our prayer.***]

HYMN "O Christ, Our True and Only Light" #839 v. 4

4 Shine on the darkened and the cold;
Recall the wand'ers to Your fold.
Unite all those who walk apart;
Confirm the weak and doubting heart,

Pastor: Lord, we praise Your name for You gave Jesus Christ, whose love for us compelled Him to go to the cross that we by faith are saved. Unite us in Him and in our fellowship together, that in repentance we faithfully receive the gifts of life and grace He gives to us through His body and blood. Help us to draw our strength, love, compassion, and mercy through You.

HYMN "O Christ, Our True and Only Light" #839 v. 5

5 That they with us may evermore
Such grace with wond'ring thanks adore
And endless praise to You be giv'n
By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

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Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we

pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Lord remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: **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.**

BENEDICTION *Psalms 113:2–3*

Pastor: Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth
and forevermore!

People: **From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name
of the LORD is to be praised!**

Pastor: As the Lord sent His life-renewing Word through Jonah
and the prophets, be assured of His forgiveness and
love. As the Lord called and sent His apostles to be
fishers of men, hear His voice and follow Him. As we
have received God's grace this day for the sake of Christ
our Lord, heed His call to repentance, rejoice in His
forgiving grace, and give Him thanks and praise.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be
gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give
you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*

People: **Amen.**

- 1 Christ is surely coming
Bringing His reward,
Alpha and Omega,
First and Last and Lord:
Root and Stem of David,
Brilliant Morning Star;
Meet your Judge and Savior,
Nations near and far!
- 2 See the holy city!
There they enter in,
All by Christ made holy,
Washed from ev'ry sin:
Thirsty ones, desiring
All He loves to give,
Come for living water,
Freely drink, and live!
- 3 Grace be with God's people!
Praise His holy name!
Father, Son and Spirit,
Evermore the same;
Hear the certain promise
From the eternal home:
"Surely I come quickly!
Come, Lord Jesus, come!"

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