



Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 24, 2021

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Prospect Heights, IL

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Listening to God's Call

As We Gather

Jonah was a reluctant follower. He went to Nineveh begrudgingly, but through him God would issue a call for the Ninevites to repentance. Jesus would call Simon, Andrew, James, and John to follow Him, and promised that through them, God would issue a call of repentance to many. In Baptism, God has called us to follow Him in a life of faith and repentance, and He promises that through us, others will also be called to that same repentance and new life.

Opening Hymn 856 O Christ, Who Called the Twelve

- 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.
- 3 O Christ, who led the Twelve
Among the desolate
And broke as bread of life for all
Your love compassionate:
Lead us along the ways
Where hope has nearly died
And help us climb the lonely hills
Where love is crucified.
- 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.

Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences

Psalm 113:1-3

- P Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,
C **praise the name of the LORD!**
- P Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!
C **From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!**

Confession and Absolution

Mark 1:15; Psalm 113:1-3

- P Gracious Lord, by Your name You have called us Your own, and we are to pray, praise, and give thanks to You.
C **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.**
- P 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

- P Almighty and ever-compassionate Lord,
C **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.**
- P 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen. Thanks be to God!**
- P Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,
C **praise the name of the LORD!**
- P Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!
C **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

- P From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C **the name of the LORD is to be praised!**
P Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,
C **praise the name of the LORD!**
P Blessed be the name of the LORD
C **from this time forth and forevermore!**
P The LORD is high above all nations,
C **and his glory above the heavens!**
P He raises the poor from the dust
C **and lifts the needy from the ash heap,**
P to make them sit with princes,
C **with the princes of his people.**

- C **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.**
- P From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C **the name of the LORD is to be praised!**

Kyrie

- P O Lord,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P O Christ,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P O Lord,
C **have mercy on us, and give us Your peace. Amen.**

Salutation

- P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- P 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.
C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Jonah 3:1–5, 10

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.

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 7:29–35

²⁹This 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, ³⁰and 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, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

³²I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. ³³But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, ³⁴and 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. ³⁵I 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.

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse for Epiphany 3

Mark 1:15

- C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**
- P The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.
- C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:14–20

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.
- C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁴After 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.

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day 915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

- 1 Today Your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
And make us clean today.
- 2 Today Your gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father’s welcome
And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be giv’n,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heav’n.
- 3 Today our Father calls us;
His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather
Around the heav’nly gates.
No question will be asked us
How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered,
It is our Father’s home.

- 4 O all-embracing Mercy,
O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You
When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us,
To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open,
One ear will hear our prayer.

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Sermon

Apostles' Creed

- P God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- C **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 ^T everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

- P 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.

839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light

- 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.

Petition 1

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.

839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light

- 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.

Petition 2

- P 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.

839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light

- 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.

Petition 3

- P Lord of comfort and peace, be present with those who face various needs in mind, soul, and body, *especially* Hedy Beer, Kathleen, Alicia, Sallyann, Sheila, Lou, Jean Staffa, Dana, Kaylee, Leah, Terri, Rory, Jean, Brad Koelper, Ray Wirsing, Rod Isaacson, Sharlene, Fran, Jeanne Zundel, Doug, Paula, Wally Olson, and Pastor Barber and his family. 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.

839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light

- 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,

Petition 4

- P 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.

839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light

- 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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Conclusion

- P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- C **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

Psalm 113:2-3

- P Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!
C **From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!**
- P 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.
- C **Amen.**
- P 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 T give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

857 Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way

- 1 Lord, help us walk Your servant way
Wherever love may lead
And, bending low, forgetting self,
Each serve the other's need.
- 2 You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord,
But pow'r You laid aside.
You lived Your years in servanthood;
In lowliness You died.
- 3 No golden scepter but a towel
You place within the hands
Of those who seek to follow You
And live by Your commands.
- 4 You bid us bend our human pride
Nor count ourselves above
The lowest place, the meanest task
That waits the gift of love.

5 Lord, help us walk Your servant way
Wherever love may lead
And, bending low, forgetting self,
Each serve the other's need.

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