

First St. John Lutheran Church

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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Toni Wilbarger - Secretary



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

January 24, 2021

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Third Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! Please review some of our guidelines below.

Masks must be worn. We have some available to take if you don't have one. Some are cloth masks and can be taken home to wash and reuse. There are also disposable masks.

Please do not congregate in the Narthex (entrance area) either as you arrive or leave.

To minimize direct contact, we will use the outside aisles only for entry and exit. The center aisle will be used for communion, special needs, or emergency exit.

Ushers will fill the pews from the front to the back of the church and dismiss from the back to the front. Please follow their directions. We are sorry everyone cannot have their usual seat.

NOTE: We can speak the congregational responses behind our masks. Dr. Tony and Annette Slater will provide music. The service will be recorded and published to the website. We are now live streaming the service on our church website, www.firststjohn.com

Elders will wear gloves. You can get a bulletin at the check-in table when you walk in. Please do not leave your bulletin in the pew when you exit; take it home or put it in the recycling bin at the front door.

There is a small wooden church just to the right of the main door when you come in. It has a slot for your offering.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take the left set of steps down. The ladies room is at one end of the hallway, and the men's room is at the other. Return to the Narthex using the opposite set of stairs. Please, one person only in the restroom area.

Diaper Changing: A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

Flowers: If you would like to sign up for flowers for a Sunday, please call the church office during the week to check on availability.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude
Ringing of the Bell

Dr. Pattin

Opening Song "Light of the World" (Praise Singers)

Invocation

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity (+) one God, Love from the beginning,
Word made flesh, Breath of heaven.

C: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another,
trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

(silence is kept for reflection)

P: Merciful God, we confess that we are not perfect. We have said
and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming
grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be
your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us your
righteousness, the strength to put aside our failures, and the
courage to try again.

C: Amen.

P: Dear people of God, hear the good news: You are loved and
forgiven in the name of (+) Jesus, who has come among us. You
are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved, because
God's love is given to you as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice
in this love and share it with the world.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

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

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Unlike other prophetic books that focus on the prophet's message, this book focuses on the prophet himself. The book of Jonah is really a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. The point of the story is to get us 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." ³So 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. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When 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.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 62:6-14 (Psalm 62:5-12 [NRSV])

In God is my safety and my honor. (Ps. 62:8)

For God alone my soul in silence waits;
truly, my hope is in him.

⁷**He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.**

⁸In God is my safety and my honor;
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁹**Put your trust in him always, O people,
pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.**

¹⁰Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath,
even those of low estate cannot be trusted.

¹¹**On the scales they are lighter than a breath,
all of them together.**

¹²Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

¹³**God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.**

¹⁴Steadfast love is yours, O LORD,
for you repay everyone according to his deeds.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

In his letters to the Corinthians, Paul addresses many problems experienced by those who want faith to shape daily life. Here he insists that our future hope in Christ ought to affect the way we conduct ourselves in the present.

Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be 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 possessions, 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.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

Alleluia Verse “*Word of God, Come Down on Earth*”

v. 1 & 3 No. 510 (sung by Annette)

*Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heav’n descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.*

*Word that speaks God’s tender love, one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above God the Sprit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.*

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Gospel according to St. Mark Chapter 1.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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 recognize this good news will respond with repentance and faith.

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."

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea--for they were fishermen.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.

²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON
Sermon Hymn

“Here I Am, Lord”

Pastor Rayl
No. 574
(sung by Annette)

(Please stand)

Apostles’ Creed

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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

The Offering *(As you exit, please place your offering in the wooden church in the Narthex if you have not already done so.)*

Musical Offertory

Dr. Pattin

Offering Prayer

P: Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and the treasures you entrust to us. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Pastoral Prayer *(Each petition concludes with this response)*

P: Hear us, Lord.

C: Your mercy is great.

The Lord’s Prayer *(prayed by all)*

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.

The Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make God's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The Dismissal

P: Go in peace and live in the Light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" v. 4-6
No. 308, (sung by Annette)

Postlude Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Ben Hodges, Matt Miller

SOLOIST

Annette Slater

SOUND BOARD

Dave Wilbarger

January 24, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

A Compelling Invitation

The word of God is powerful. When Jesus speaks, things happen. Early in his ministry, Jesus summoned ordinary persons to follow him. His inviting and compelling word, "follow me," produced immediate results. We are told not once, but twice, that Simon, Andrew, James, and John left their nets "immediately" and followed Jesus.

If we hear the powerful call of Jesus, what happens next is clear. Our lives are taken over by Christ completely. The disciples did not "find" Jesus. He came to them. Jesus took the initiative. They were simply minding their own business until Jesus came and made his business their business.

Jesus' business is challenging. It is the proclamation of good news in the face of hostile forces (as John the Baptist's arrest reminds us). Christians can expect obstacles and resistance. Too many Christians are unmindful of the long hours and persistent attempts that fishing for people demands. Jesus does not call his disciples to a Sunday afternoon stroll down Easy Street. He invites them to an all-out effort in God's new way of doing things.

Jesus thought God's new way was worth dying for. The message of the kingdom took him to his death upon the cross. And that's where his summons will take us too. "Follow me," Jesus said to his disciples, like a Red Cross worker on the front lines. "Follow me in a ministry of love and grace to the war-torn places where human hate and hurtfulness are stubbornly dug in. Follow me to the cross. I am calling you. You are invited! You!"

This is frontline duty that has its risks and dangers--a cross among them. But it also has its rewards: inclusion in God's kingdom and the company of Christ . . . forever.