

January 22, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

### Fishing Lure

Fresh from his testing in the wilderness, Jesus heard that John had been arrested. Now Jesus' own ministry was to begin. The Sea of Galilee was the focus of life for the whole area, and it was here that Jesus began to proclaim the good news that the kingdom of heaven was near.

Normally disciples would come to the teacher, but in this case, Jesus sought out his students. When he called to Peter and Andrew, he used imagery familiar to them: "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." After years of Christian tradition, we might think this was clearly a call to discipleship, but to Peter and Andrew, there must have been at least a moment of discernment.

Did Jesus intend to ask them to trawl for people as they did for fish, trapping the prey in nets and dragging them out of their element and to their deaths? Sure, the fish would feed many, but Jesus could not have meant this. Perhaps, on the other hand, Jesus meant that they should fish as teachers do--capturing a student's imagination and drawing him or her into new understandings.

Peter and Andrew would learn a new kind of fishing, fishing that would *bring* life, not end it. That these two left their nets and followed points to Jesus' skill. Jesus himself was the bait, and Jesus himself would become the food. By the end of his ministry, he would invite his followers to eat and drink a holy meal.

Jesus' skill has not faded with the centuries. The story is still compelling. The invitation is still pointed and life giving. And Jesus is still just the food we need, bread and wine, body and blood, given and shed for us and for all people. Here is the promise of life, now and forever.

**First St. John Lutheran Church**  
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Church Musician  
Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister  
Toni Wilbarger - Office Manager

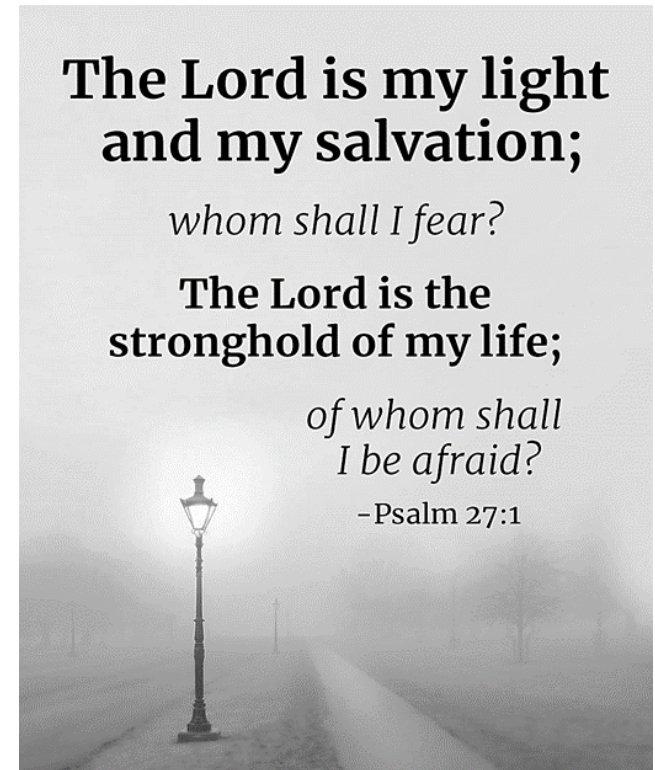
**The Lord is my light  
and my salvation;**

*whom shall I fear?*

**The Lord is the  
stronghold of my life;**

*of whom shall  
I be afraid?*

- Psalm 27:1



**Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community**

**January 22, 2023 - 10:30 am**

**January 22, 2023**

**Third Sunday of Epiphany**

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism between the services. Our regular Sunday schedule is:

8:00 am	Early Worship
9:15 am	Sunday School / 1st Year Catechism
9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
10:30 am	Late Worship
11:30 am	2nd Year Catechism every other Sunday

Livestream and Recorded Worship: We livestream the service on our church website at [www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com). Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website.

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:15 am in the Youth Room area in the basement of the Educational Building.

Children ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will meet at 9:15 am for Sunday School in the basement of the church (the JAM Room!).

Catechism Classes: First year class will be held from 9:15 to 10:15 am each Sunday. Second year class will meet every other Sunday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Nursery is in the church basement and is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement hallway. The ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

Flowers: If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, there is a book in the lounge. Or, you can call the church office during the week to check on availability.

Memorials: If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office.

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*(After all have received communion, please stand.)*

P: Now may the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**C: Amen.**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: Let us pray. Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

**C: Amen.**

**Blessing**

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod + bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

**C: Amen.**

Closing Hymn      *"O Savior, Precious Savior"*      No. 820

**Dismissal**

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude      Dr. Pattin

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***PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE***

**ELDERS**

Tom Gaskins, Terry Ruedy

**ACOLYTES**

Cam Schumaker, Vanessa Miller

**READER**

Bob Haar

**SOUND BOARD**

Amy Nelson

Transport us in our yearning, and be for us the end and the beginning, our purest pleasure, our victorious crown, our never-ending love. And so we pray and praise:

P: Amen, amen, amen, and again, amen.

**C: Amen, amen, amen, and again, amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

P: With humble confidence we join our voices in the prayer gifted by our brother and Lord, Jesus Christ:

**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.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

P: Come and taste the joy of God!

**C: We come to the holy meal.**

### **The Communion** *(distribution will be continuous)*

*If you wish to receive apple juice instead of wine, place your hand over your shoulder as you approach the person distributing the wine.*

*"All baptized Christians, believing that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord's table. Infants, children and others who have not been baptized are welcome to come to receive a blessing; please make an X with your arms across your chest."*

*(Please be seated)*

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## ***ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am***

Prelude

Dr. Pattin

Ring of the Bell

*(please stand)*

Opening Song "Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak" No. 676

### **Rededication of First St. John**

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.**

P: Sisters and brothers: With gratitude for the building of First St. John Lutheran Church, we are gathered to rededicate it for the worship of almighty God and for the building up of the body of Christ. From this day forward let it be a renewed place for the gathering of the people of God, a place for proclaiming the gospel through word and sacrament, a place for bringing life and hope to us and to this community.

P: Peace be to this house, and to all who enter here.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray. Most High God, whom the heavens cannot contain, we give you thanks for the gifts of those who have built this house of prayer to your glory; we praise you for the fellowship of those who by their use will make it holy; and we pray that all who seek you here may find you and be filled with joy and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*(Moving to the Pulpit and putting a hand on the reading desk.)*

P: Let us give thanks for the gift of God's word. We give you thanks, O God, for you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. You called your people Israel to proclaim freedom from captivity, a pathway home from exile, and wisdom for life with you.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to proclaim forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, and the way of your self-giving love.

P: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; from this pulpit that we reset apart today, rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**C: Amen.**

*(Moving to the Altar and standing beside it.)*

P: Let us give thanks for the gift of the Lord's supper. We give you thanks, O God, that in Holy Communion you refresh us through the bread of life in Jesus Christ, strengthen us in faith toward you, and nourish us in fervent love for one another.

Bless all who come to this table of the Lord, and sanctify all who receive the body and blood of Christ at this altar, which today we reset apart. Give all who taste this holy feast grace to live in faith and love throughout our lives, until at last we all behold you face to face at the heavenly banquet where your saints and angels praise you forever. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **Prayer of Dedication**

P: Let us give thanks for the body of Christ, for God's house of living stones. We give you thanks, O God, for you transcend the boundaries of space and time, yet you are willing to make your home in human hearts.

P: We are the temple of your presence, and this building is the house of your church. Gather us in this place to share with others the promise of baptism, to hear your word, to be nourished by the body and blood of your Son, and to praise your name with all the company of heaven. Send us from this place to be the body of Christ in the world, to proclaim your love in word and deed, to invite others into the promise of baptism, and to glorify your name in our daily living.

Pour out the abundance of your blessing on us and on this place, which we dedicate to your glory and honor and to the service of all people in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### **Offering Prayer**

P: Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,

**C: Amen.**

### **Dialogue Of Thanksgiving**

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.

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

### **Words of Thanksgiving**

P: Almighty Lord, we praise your shining light, your glowing grace. From before the earth's foundation, you loved us and promised us life forever. Within the earth's deep sadness, we laud your great and glorious might. Despite our tears and sinning, we sing of the gladness of your mercy.

We praise your Son, our Morning Star. Christ is our diamond bright, our treasure dear. He is our living Savior who has ransomed us in love. He keeps us yours and fails us never—today, tomorrow, and every day.

On the night before his great salvation, he 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. With joy we tell your story:

**C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

P: We call for your Spirit on us and this meal. Refresh our souls with this heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son. Nourish us as branches of your tree, and enlighten us with your undying flame. We sing out to the Father, we ring out to the Son, we exult in the Spirit.

### Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
for us and for our salvation

He came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;

He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

P: Hear us, O Lord.

C: Your mercy is great.

### The Offering

### Offertory Music

Dr. Pattin

P: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

### Announcements

#### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4**

*The people in the northern parts of Israel have experienced "gloom" and "darkness" because of the destruction wrought by Assyrian military forces. To these people, the prophet announces the shining of a great light of salvation. Matthew equates this light with the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee.*

There 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.

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You 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.

<sup>4</sup>For 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.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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

*The LORD is my light and my salvation. (Ps. 27:1)*

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>4</sup> **One thing I asked of the Lord; this I seek:  
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.**

<sup>5</sup> For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

<sup>6</sup> **Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

<sup>7</sup> Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;  
be gracious to me and answer me!

<sup>8</sup> “Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”

**Your face, Lord, do I seek.**

<sup>9</sup> Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.

Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

*Three of the most highly respected missionaries in the early church were Paul, Apollos, and Cephas (also known as Simon Peter). Still, as Paul himself attests, respect for any human leader is misplaced if it becomes divisive or obscures devotion to Christ.*

Now 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. <sup>11</sup>For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup>What 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."

<sup>13</sup>Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup>I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup>so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup>(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup>For 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.

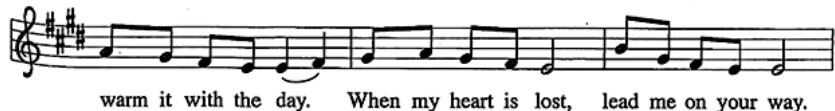
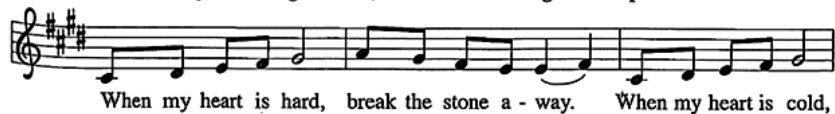
<sup>18</sup>For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

## Gospel Acclamation



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

## Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew Chapter 4.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

*John the Baptist called everyone to repent, including the ruler Herod, who threw him in prison. At this point, Jesus began his public ministry, proclaiming the nearness of the reign of God.*

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.

<sup>13</sup>He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup>"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,

on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the

Gentiles--

<sup>16</sup>the 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."

<sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

<sup>18</sup>As 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. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>As 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. <sup>22</sup>Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus 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.

## Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

SERMON

Sermon Hymn "Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult"

Pastor Rayl

No. 696

*(Please stand)*