

# THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

First Lutheran Church, Lynn, MA

January 24, 2021



**As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world.**

Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

## Welcome to worship!

*Yes, this is worship!* It is not the way any of us *want* it to be, but God is alive and present in this virtual gathering. God's work will still speak to us through the Holy Spirit, and we are still the Body of Christ, joined together in a fellowship of love, even if it is not in person.

## Create a sacred space in your home.

Light a candle. Pour yourself a warm beverage. Welcome the presence of God into your dwelling. Set aside this time for worship as if you were in church. Put away the cell phone (unless you are watching on your cell phone!) Adopt a posture of prayer that works for you.

## GATHERING

### The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

#### PRELUDE

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*We begin our worship  
by freeing ourselves  
from the baggage we  
have carried around  
this week.*

*It is liberating to admit  
that we are not perfect  
people, and to know  
that we have a God  
who loves and accepts  
us unconditionally.*

*Aria Serena  
Carson Cooman*

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
whose voice is upon the waters,  
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,  
whose goodness cascades over all creation.  
**Amen.**

Let us come into the light of Christ,  
confessing our need for God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful Father,  
**your Son prayed for the unity of those who believe in him:  
and we have at times opposed one another, becoming divided.  
We have mutually condemned one another,  
and fought against one another.  
We urgently ask your forgiveness,  
and we pray for the gift of a repentant heart,  
so that all Christians, reconciled with you and with one another,  
will be able, in one body and in one spirit,  
to experience the joy of full communion,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN

The minister announces God's forgiveness, to which the assembly responds:  
**Amen.**

## Will You Come and Follow Me



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
3 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't  
your name? Will you care for cruel and  
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



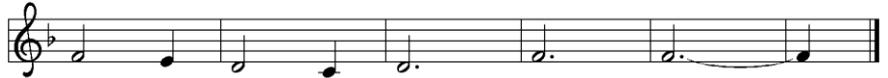
know and nev - er be the same?  
kind and nev - er be the same?  
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -  
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be  
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"  
pray'r in you and you in me?"  
grow in you and you in me.



## God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching, and song

**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, Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you. 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. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## PSALM

### Psalm 25

*The psalms were the original prayer book of God's people and capture the full gamut of human emotion.*

*The cantors sing the refrain, which is repeated by the assembly. The cantors sing the verses.*

## 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.*

Teach me your ways, teach me your  
ways, teach me your ways, O  
Lord, O Lord.

1. O Lord, make me know your ways. Teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth, and teach me; for you are the God of my salvation.
2. Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love, for they are from of old. In your merciful love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord.
3. Good and upright is the Lord; he shows the way to sinners. He guides the humble in right judgment; to the humble he teaches his way.

Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, 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, 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.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*We stand to welcome Christ, the living word of God, in the gospel reading.*

## 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.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SERMON



Verse: The Word of the Lord lasts forever.  
What is the word that is living?  
It is brought to us through God's Son, Jesus Christ.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.  
**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**We stand** to proclaim  
the word of God in  
song.

### *You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore*



1 Tú *has ve - ni - do, a la o - ri - lla,* *no has bus -*  
1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing  
2 You know full well what I have, Lord: nei - ther  
3 You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion, work - ing  
4 You who have fished oth - er wa - ters; you, the



*ca - do* *ni a sa - bios ni a ri - cos;* *tan só - lo*  
nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly  
trea - sure nor wea - pons for con - quest, just these my  
love for the rest of the wea - ry— a love that's  
long - ing of souls that are yearn - ing: O lov - ing



*quie - res* *que yo te si - ga.*  
ask - ing for me to fol - low.  
fish nets and will for work - ing.  
will - ing to go on lov - ing.  
Friend, you have come to call me.

#### *Refrain / Estribillo*



*Se - ñor,* *me has mi - ra - do, a los o - jos;* *son - ri - en - do,*  
Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind - ly smil - ing,



*has di - cho mi nom - bre.* *En la a - re - na* *he de - ja - do mi*  
you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a - ban - doned my



*bar - ca;* *jun - to, a ti* *bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.*  
small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

## APOSTLES CREED

*The word "creed" comes from the Latin credo which simply means "I believe."*

*By professing our faith with these ecumenical words, we are one with Christians all around the world, no matter what else might divide us.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole church let us confess our faith:

**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.**

*After each petition:*

O God our \_\_\_\_\_, receive our prayer:  
**Our hope is in you.**

*As we pray, we sing this refrain:*

Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;

The first line of musical notation is in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It features a treble and bass staff. The melody is in the treble clef, starting on a whole note G4, followed by a half note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter rest. The bass line consists of a whole note G3, a half note B2, and a quarter note D3. The lyrics are: "Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;"

Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod - y in you.

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and bass line. The treble clef melody has a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The bass line has a whole note G3, a half note B2, and a quarter note D3. The lyrics are: "Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod - y in you."

## OFFERTORY

*You are invited to  
make your offering  
online at  
[www.flc-lynn.org/give](http://www.flc-lynn.org/give)  
or by mail. Please  
continue to give during  
this time to support the  
ongoing ministry of our  
congregation.*

*Those Who Love and Those Who Labor*  
Richard Horn

Those who love and those who labor follow in the way of Christ;  
Thus the first disciples found him, thus the gift of love sufficed.  
Jesus says to those who seek him, I will never pass you by;  
Raise the stone and you shall find me; cleave the wood and there am I.

When the many work together they with Christ himself abide,  
But the lonely workers also find him ever at their side.  
Lo, the Prince of common welfare dwells within the market strife;  
Lo, the bread of heav'n is broken in the sacrament of life.

Let the seeker never falter till the truth is found afar  
With the wisdom of the ages underneath a giant star,  
With the richest and the poorest, of the sum of things possessed,  
Like a child at first to wonder, like a king at last to rest.



# SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission for the world

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

*We Are Marching In the Light of God*

We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the  
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,  
we are march - ing in the light of God.  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO  
we are march - ing in the light of God.  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO  
we are march - ing in the light of God.

*Additional stanzas ad lib.:*

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

Be at peace. Shine with the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God**

*Préambule*  
Louis Vierne

## Join us for virtual coffee hour!

At **11:30 AM** (or shortly after worship concludes) you are invited to grab a cup of coffee and a snack and join us on Zoom for a virtual coffee hour! If your computer has a camera and you'd like to use video chat, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88484060366> and follow the instructions. You may need to install a free piece of software. If you would like to call in on your phone, dial **(929) 205-6099** and enter meeting ID **884 8406 0366**. It won't be as good as the Fireside Room, but it will allow us to check in!

**All voting members are encouraged to join us for our *Virtual Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 14 at 11:45 AM on Zoom!*** Zoom meetings can be joined either by telephone (which simply involves dialing a phone number) or via a device such as a smartphone or computer that has a video camera. This usually involves installing a free app. It may sound complicated, but those who use it regularly attest to how simple it is once you try it. Both Pr. Jon and Karin Butterworth are willing to practice with anyone who would like to try joining a Zoom meeting to be sure they can connect on February 14. If you would like to do this, please reach out via e-mail or phone!

## MUSIC NOTES

Today's prelude was written by Carson Cooman, a contemporary American organist and composer who is currently the composer in residence at the Memorial Church of Harvard University. This contemplative piece features passages with different solo stops on the organ with accompaniment alternating with a recurring "refrain" that repeats at various points throughout the piece. The postlude is taken from Louis Vierne's (1870 – 1937) collection *24 Pièces en Style Libre* (24 pieces in the Free Style). Vierne was a French organist and composer who held the position of principal organist at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris (one of the most prestigious organ positions in Europe) from 1900 until his death in 1937. Vierne wrote this collection, which contains a piece written in each of the 24 chromatic keys, with practicality in mind – the pieces are all relatively short (2–5 minutes) and are suitable for use during the various parts of the service.

### FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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***We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation,  
welcoming and serving all people.***