

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

God's Time and Ours
January 20/21, 2024
5pm & 8am



AS WE GATHER

Ever had those days that felt like weeks or those weeks that felt like days? Those minutes that felt like hours, or the hours that felt like minutes? Time is a fickle thing on this earth, as we are bound by it yet our perspective of it is ever changing. Our Scripture Readings today all deal with time. As God deemed it time for Nineveh to have the opportunity to repent and know His grace, He came to Jonah a second time. In the Epistle, Paul reminds us time is short, and the physical world is passing away. In the Gospel, Jesus would begin His earthly ministry and call His disciples, echoing the words of John the Baptist, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand” (Mark 1:15). Though to the Lord a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like a day, we live each day knowing that all time is in His hands. Until He calls His people to glory, we rejoice for the time to gather where His Spirit is, be blessed by His Word of Law and Gospel, rejoice in mercy and forgiveness, and make use of the time given to be witnesses to others.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC **“Ode to Joy”** **Trumpet: Judy Bridges**

WELCOME & GREETING

MISSION & MINISTRY MOMENT

(8am) **St. Paul Lutheran School “I Am the Vine”**

HYMN **“‘Come, Follow Me,’ the Savior Spake”** **LSB 688 (vss. 1,2,3,5)**

1 "Come, follow Me," the Savior spake, "All in My way abiding; Deny yourselves, the world forsake, Obey My call and guiding. O bear the cross, whate'er betide, Take my example for your guide.

2 "I am the Light, I light the way, A godly life displaying; I bid you walk as in the day; I keep your feet from straying. I am the way, and well I show; How you must sojourn here below.

3 "My heart abounds in lowliness, My soul with love is glowing; And gracious words My lips express, With meekness overflowing. My heart, My mind, My strength, My all, To God I yield, on Him I call.

5 Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, And take the cross appointed; And, firmly clinging to His Word, In suff'ring be undaunted. For those who bear the battle's strain; The crown of heav'nly life obtain.

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Jonah 3:2, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29, 31; Mark 1:15, 17*

Pastor: Hearing the Word of God, we are called to confess our sin, trusting in the one true God who is faithful and just and who will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for meditation.

Pastor: Though Jonah was reluctant when the Lord spoke to him the first time, He spoke to Jonah a second time and told him, "go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you."

People: **As You, O Lord, have given us the message of the Gospel, we have been reluctant to go bring Your truth and grace to all people. For this we seek Your forgiveness.**

Pastor: Paul reminds the people of God, "The appointed time has grown very short. . . . The present form of this world is passing away."

People: **As You, O Lord, have given us each day and hold all time in Your hands, we have not used our time wisely. For this we seek Your forgiveness.**

Pastor: In today's Gospel, Jesus called to Simon and Andrew, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." Immediately they dropped their nets and followed Him.

People: As You, O Lord, have called us to follow You, we have instead sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. For this we seek Your forgiveness.

Pastor: Even to the evil Ninevites, God showed His mercy upon their repentance. “When 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.” Jesus proclaimed to the people, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” Though we deserve His present and eternal punishment, God has relented by sending His Son to bear our sin and to be our Savior. Christ has taken our punishment on the cross, paid the price of our sins through His perfect life and sacrificial death, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☐ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

KYRIE (*p. 186 in hymnal*)

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

(pp. 187-189)

P: Glory be to God on high:

C: and on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

**Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon
us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.**

**Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, are most high in the glory of
God the Father. Amen**

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* (Jonah goes to Nineveh.)

Then 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, ^[a] three days' journey in
breadth. ^[b] 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. When 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8*

Pastor: Praise the LORD, all nations!

People: Extol Him, all peoples!

Pastor: For great is His steadfast love toward us,

People: and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Pastor: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;
People: **bring an offering, and come into His courts!**

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 7:29–31 (32–35)* (Faithful living with time given)

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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Mark 1:15*

Alleluia. The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel. Alleluia.

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

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; ^[a] repent and believe in the gospel.” ¹⁶ Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” ^[b] ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹ And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ And 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY “O Christ, Our True and Only Light”

LSB 839 (vss. 1,2,3,5)

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.

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.

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.

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.

SERMON

CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Isaiah 60:1, adapted*

Pastor: Let us pray for the Church of God and for all people according to their needs, for You, O Lord, in all times and in all places, promise to hear our prayers and to answer them according to Your will. In this season of Epiphany where the light shines on our Savior, manifested as the Word made flesh, continue to reveal to us through Your Word the mercy and grace found in Jesus Christ alone. Arise and shine,

People: **for our light has come.**

Pastor: As You work Your will and send the salvation message through Your people, we are sometimes asked to go where we'd rather not go. Though not to Nineveh like Jonah, we have been called by the working of Your Spirit to go and make disciples of all nations. Grant to us a confident and bold faith to live as Your witnesses to the ends of the earth beginning in our homes, our church and community, and among all our neighbors in this world. Soften the hearts of the hard-hearted and open the minds of the close-minded that all may come to repentance and know You as the one true God who sent His Son into this world to redeem the world. Arise and shine,

People: **for our light has come.**

Pastor: As the present world is passing away and time is short, we see the brokenness and results of sin in our daily lives. For those who struggle in body, mind, or spirit, affirm to them Your promises of peace in Your time as Christ has overcome the world. Point us all to Your continued presence, and assure us that Jesus is victor over anything that we might fear. In Your good time, come and make all things new. Arise and shine,

People: **for our light has come.**

Pastor: As Jesus called His disciples to become fishers of men, they responded immediately to drop their nets and follow. Give us such an urgency to also hear and heed the call and to follow in faith where Christ leads. As we do not know the hour of Your return, give an eagerness to our lives as faithful stewards of all we have been given with time, treasures, and abilities, that we use them to Your glory and for the sake of others. Arise and shine,

People: for our light has come.

Pastor: As You still come to us in our time of need, You come in the body and blood of our Savior given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins. Equip us for the continued journey through our days that we remain firm in faith and bear fruit that will last until You call us home. Arise and shine,

People: for our light has come.

Additional petitions may be added.

Pastor: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

OFFERING

5pm Special Music

8am The Joyful Singers

OFFERTORY *(pp. 192-193 in hymnal)*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.

Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS (*p. 195 in hymnal*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created, and out of perfect love sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. As You turned Your wrath away from the people of Nineveh through their repentance, You have turned Your wrath away from us through the cross of our Savior, Jesus Christ. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So 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.**

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI (p. 198 in hymnal)

*O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
Have mercy upon us.*

*O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
Have mercy upon us.*

*O Christ, thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
Grant us Thy peace. Amen.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus” **LSB 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.

“O God of God, O Light of Light” **LSB 810**

1 O God of God, O Light of Light, O Prince of Peace and King of kings: To You in heaven's glory bright; The song of praise forever rings. To Him who sits upon the throne, The Lamb once slain but raised again, Be all the glory He has won, All thanks and praise! Amen, amen.

2 For deep in the prophets' sacred page, And grand in poets' winged word, Slowly in type, from age to age; The nations saw their coming Lord; Till through the deep Judean night; Rang out the song, "Good will to men!" Sung once by first-born sons of light, It echoes now, "Good will!" Amen.

3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death so steeped in hate and scorn-- These all are past, and now above; He reigns, our King once crowned with thorn. Lift up your heads, O mighty gates! So sang that host beyond our ken. Lift up your heads, your King awaits. We lift them up. Amen, amen.

4 Then raise to Christ a mighty song, And shout His name, His mercies tell! Sing, heav'nly host, your praise prolong, And all on earth, your anthem swell! All hail, O Lamb for sinners slain! Forever let the song ascend! Worthy the Lamb, enthroned to reign, All glory, pow'r! Amen, amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *(pp. 199-200 in hymnal)*

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING *Psalm 136:1*

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
People: **Amen.**

HYMN “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” **LSB 733**

1 (Everyone) O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:

2 (Left Side) Under the shadow of Thy throne; Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.

3 (Right Side) Before the hills in order stood; Or earth received her frame, From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

4 (Women) A thousand ages in Thy sight; Are like an evening gone, Short as the watch that ends the night; Before the rising sun.

5 (Men) Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away; We fly forgotten as a dream; Dies at the op'ning day.

6 (Everyone) O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Be Thou our guard while life shall last; And our eternal home!

POSTLUDE **“St. Anne” Trumpet: Judy Bridges**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1.
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