



3rd Sunday after Epiphany

January 24, 2021



# Ascension Lutheran Church

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## All are welcome!

### Introduction

*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

### Confession and Forgiveness

**P** 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.

**All Amen.**

**P** Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

Holy God,

**All** you search us and know us.  
You are acquainted with all our ways.  
We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—  
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.  
We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love.  
We distrust those who are not like us.  
We exploit the earth and its resources  
and fail to consider generations to come.  
Forgive us, gracious God,  
for all we have done and left undone.  
Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them;  
receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

**P** How vast is God's grace!  
Through the power and promise of ✝ Christ Jesus,  
our sins are washed away  
and we are claimed as God's own beloved.  
Indeed, we are forgiven.  
In the wake of God's forgiveness,  
we are called to be the beloved community  
living out Christ's justice  
and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

**All** Amen.

## Opening Song

### Here I Am to Worship

*Verse 1*

Light of the world You stepped down into darkness  
Opened my eyes let me see  
Beauty that made this heart adore You, Hope of a life spent with You.

*Chorus*

So here I am to worship. Here I am to bow down.  
Here I am to say that You're my God.  
And You're altogether lovely, Altogether worthy,  
Altogether wonderful to me.

Verse 2

**King of all days oh so highly exalted, Glorious in heaven above,  
Humbly You came to the earth You created  
All for love's sake became poor. Chorus**

Bridge

**And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.  
And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.**

CCLI Song # 3266032

Tim Hughes

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## The Greeting

**P** The Lord be with you!

**All** And also with you!

## Prayer of the Day

**P** 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.

**All** Amen.

## A Reading from Jonah, the 3rd chapter

*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?"*

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began



to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"<sup>5</sup> And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

<sup>10</sup>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.

*Jonah 3:1-5, 10*

*L* The word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God!**

## A Reading from 1 Corinthians, the 6th chapter

*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.*

<sup>29</sup>Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none,<sup>30</sup> 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,<sup>31</sup> 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.

*1 Corinthians 7:29-31*

*L* The word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God!**

## Gospel Reading

*P* The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

<sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>18</sup> And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup> As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup> Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

*Mark 1:14-20*

*P* The Gospel of our Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

*Pr. Debra Jimenez*

## Receiving of New Members Through Affirmation of Baptism

Susan Pollex

CJ (Carol )Jordan

Yolanda Gallop

Jeff Gallop

Ashlee Hamblin

Jake Hamblin

Caitrin Smith

## *Presentation*

*P* Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

I present Susan Pollex, CJ Jordan, Yolanda & Jeff Gallop, Ashlee & Jake Hamblin, who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for *these sisters and brothers*, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.

You have called *them* to yourself, enlightened *them* with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished *them* in the community of faith.

Uphold your *servants* in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

## *Profession of Faith*

*P* I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

*Response:* I renounce them.

*P* Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

*Response:* I renounce them.

*P* Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*Response:* I renounce them.

*P* Do you believe in God the Father?

**All** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

*P* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**All** 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 into hell.  
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.

*P* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**All** I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,

### *Affirmation*

*P* You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue  
in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:  
to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**Response:** I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.



*P* People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

*Response:* **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

*P* Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD, the spirit of joy I your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

*P* Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

**WA: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.**

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God  
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*L* Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*(each prayer petition ends with)*

*L:* let us pray.

*All:* **Have mercy, O God.**

## The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

*P* The Lord be with you

**All And also with you.**

*P* Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

*P* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*P* Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus 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.

*P* 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**All Amen! Come Lord Jesus!**

## The Lord's Prayer

*P* Make us bold, O merciful God, to address you as our Abba as we pray:

**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.**

**All** 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 Invitation and The Meal

*P* Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus.  
Come and be fed.

## Sharing the Meal

## Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

*P* The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**All** Amen

*P* Let us pray,

Christ Jesus,

at this table we have feasted on your very life  
and are strengthened for our journey.

Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit  
to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name.

**All** Amen.

## Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements

## Benediction

*P* God the creator strengthen you;  
Jesus the beloved fill you;  
and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✝ keep you in peace.

**All Amen.**

## Sending Song

### You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

*Verse 1*

You have come down to the lakeshore  
Seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,  
But only asking for me to follow.

*Refrain*

Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes,  
Kindly smiling, you've called out my name.  
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;  
Now with you, I will seek other seas.

*Verse 2*

Lord, have you need of my labor,  
Hands for service, a heart made for loving,  
My arms for lifting the poor and broken? *Refrain*

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## Dismissal

*P* Go in peace. Be the Light of Christ.

**All Thanks be to God.**

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Readings for next Sunday,  
January 31st

|                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>First Reading:</b>  | Deuteronomy 18:15-20 |
| <b>Psalm:</b>          | Psalm 111            |
| <b>Second Reading:</b> | 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 |
| <b>Gospel:</b>         | Mark 1:21-28         |

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