

“The Kingdom  
of *God*  
is near.



*Repent  
and believe  
the  
good news!*”

Mark 1:15

# THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 24, 2021

Worship Focus

“The Mysterious Jesus” – Jesus Wants YOU!



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Order of Service for  
**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

*Service of the Word*

*Christian Worship, p. 38*

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✠ **Gathering** ✠

**OPENING HYMN**

**283 – Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening**



1 Speak, O Sav - ior; I am lis - t'ning, As a ser - vant  
2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near you And to lis - ten  
3 Lord, your words are wa - ters liv - ing Where I quench my  
4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; Let your words in



to his lord. Let me show re - spect and hon - or  
to your voice! Let me ev - er love and fear you;  
thirst - y needs. Lord, your words are bread life - giv - ing;  
me take root. May your Spir - it e'er be near me



To your ho - ly, pre - cious Word, That each day, my  
Let your Word still be my choice. Man - y hard - ened  
On your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, your words will  
That I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly



whole life through, I may serve and fol - low  
sin - ners, Lord, Flee in ter - ror at your  
be my light Through death's cold and drear - y  
sing your praise, From my heart glad an - thems

**CLOSING HYMN**

**560 – I Hear the Savior Calling**



1 I hear the Sav - ior call - ing! The gos - pel comes to  
2 I hear the Sav - ior call - ing! He leads a soul to  
3 I hear the Sav - ior call - ing! He gives this charge to  
4 I hear the Sav - ior call - ing! He chang - es hearts for  
5 I hear the Sav - ior call - ing! His call has ur - gen -



me. My eyes once closed in blind - ness Are o - pened  
me, A soul in bit - ter an - guish, One need - ing  
me: To serve the best I'm a - ble, What - e'er the  
cy! From door to door I wit - ness To share my  
Each mo - ment souls are dy - ing; Soon comes e -



now to see That I my - self was help - less To  
to be free. The gift I have to of - fer Is  
call may be. Thus hand in hand with oth - ers Who  
Sav - ior's plea; Yet noth - ing can be add - ed, No  
ter - ni - ty. And so, my pre - cious Sav - ior, This



live e - ter - nal - ly, But, dy - ing, Christ did  
Christ, my Lord's de - cree That all have been for -  
share the gos - pel key We spread the gos - pel  
word on bend - ed knee, Be - yond the sim - ple  
is my hum - ble plea: Pre - pare me for my



save me, And now he calls for me!  
giv - en— My Sav - ior calls for me!  
tid - ings— My Sav - ior calls for me!  
gos - pel— My Sav - ior calls for me!  
mis - sion For you are call - ing me!

Text: John C. Lawrenz, b. 1943. © 1993 John C. Lawrenz. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Tune: ANTHES (76 76 D) Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857.

## ✠ Sending ✠

### PRAYER

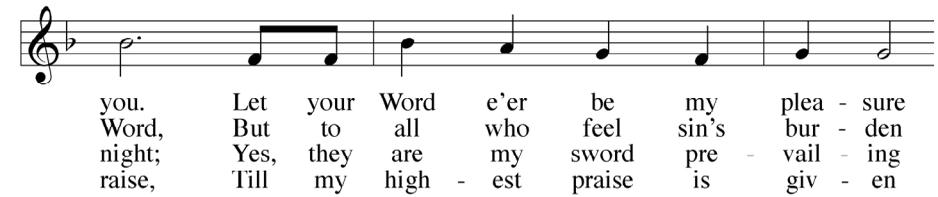
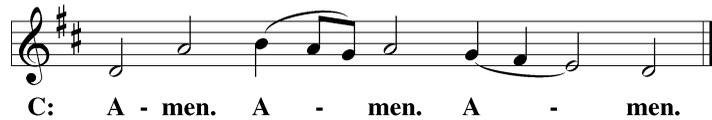
**M** Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



### BLESSING

**M** Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



Text: Anna Sophia of Hesse-Darmstadt, 1638-83, abr.; tr. composite.  
Tune: WERDE MÜNTER (87 87 77 88) Johann Schop, c. 1590-1667.

### INVOCATION

**Minister** The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**Congregation** And also with you.

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**M** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

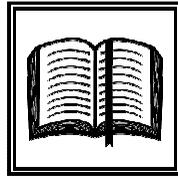
**C** Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

**M** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C** Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M** Let us pray. Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



### ✠ The Word ✠

## FIRST LESSON

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

*God called Jonah to preach a message of repentance to the people of Nineveh. This is how powerful the Gospel is... they believed and repented!*

JONAH 3:1 Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: <sup>2</sup> “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

<sup>3</sup> Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very important city—a visit required three days. <sup>4</sup> On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned.” <sup>5</sup> The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

## SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

*When we repent and believe the Good News, our entire attitude about life in this world changes.*

1 CORINTHIANS 7:29 What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; <sup>30</sup> those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; <sup>31</sup> those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

## SERMON HYMN

453 - Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke



1 “Come, fol - low me,” the Sav - ior spoke, “All in my  
2 “I am the light; I light the way, A god - ly  
3 “My heart a - bounds in low - li - ness, My soul with  
4 “I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your  
5 Then let us fol - low Christ our Lord And take the



way a - bid - ing. De - ny your - selves; the  
life dis - play - ing. I bid you walk as  
love is glow - ing, And gra - cious words my  
souls’ sal - va - tion, Your hearts from ev - ’ry  
cross ap - point - ed And, firm - ly cling - ing



world for - sake; O - bey my call and guid - ing.  
in the day; I keep your feet from stray - ing.  
lips ex - press, With meek - ness o - ver - flow - ing.  
guile to free, From sin and its temp - ta - tion.  
to his Word, In suf - f’ring be un - daunt - ed.



Oh, bear the cross, what - e’er be - tide; Take  
I am the way, and well I show How  
My heart, my mind, my strength, my all To  
I am the ref - uge of the soul And  
For those who bear the bat - tle’s strain The



my ex - am - ple for your guide.  
you should jour - ney here be - low.  
God I yield; on him I call,  
lead you to your heav’n - ly goal.”  
crown of heav’n - ly life ob - tain.

Text: Johann Scheffler, 1624-77, abr., st. 1-3, 5; *Geistliche Lieder und Lobgesänge*, 1695, st. 4; tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813-96, alt.

Tune: MACHS MIT MIR, GOTT (87 87 88) Bartholomäus Gesius, c. 1555-1613, adapt.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God, heavenly Father, You desire not the death of a sinner but that all would repent and believe the Gospel. In the epiphany of Your Son, Your time of salvation and Your kingdom have come near. As this world passes away, give faithfulness and urgency to Your Church to proclaim the Gospel of our God to all people. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of the harvest, as You called Simon Peter and Andrew, James and John to follow You and made them fishers of men, so send faithful preachers of Your Gospel in our time. Increase the spirit of generosity to all who support the missionaries, seminaries, colleges and other institutions of our Church for the spread of the Gospel and the service of the Church. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, preserve our nation with its rulers. Call to repentance those who have forgotten You. Be with our president, our governor, and all who serve for our good. Do not let disaster befall us, but preserve us in peace and quietness. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, turn us from every distracting anxiety and the dealings of this world that would draw our hearts away from Your blessed Gospel and its end, eternal life. Give us confidence in the resurrection and the peace of a clean conscience by the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name. Graciously behold and help those for whom we pray [*especially...*]. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:14-20

*Jesus was not only a teacher and a healer, he was also a preacher. Mark records Jesus' powerful message... powerful enough to move four men to follow him.*

MARK 1:14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>18</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>19</sup> When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. <sup>20</sup> Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!



COME,  
FOLLOW ME,  
AND I WILL  
MAKE YOU  
FISHERS OF  
MEN.

MARK 1:17

HYMN OF THE DAY

85 - O God from God, O Light from Light

✠ Sermon ✠

Mark 1:14-20

Join the Mission!

Sermon notes:



1 O God from God, O Light from Light, O Prince of  
2 Deep in the proph-ets' sa-cred page, Grand in the  
3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death of  
4 Sing to the Lord a might-y song; Sing to his



Peace and King of kings, To you in heav-en's  
po-ets' wing-ed word, Slow-ly, in type, from  
pain mid hate and scorn—These all are past, and  
name, his glo-ries tell! Sing, heav'n-ly hosts, your



glo-ry bright The song of praise for-ev-er rings.  
age to age The na-tions saw their com-ing Lord;  
now a-bove He reigns, our King once crowned with thorn.  
praise pro-long, And all on earth, your an-them swell!



To him who sits up-on the throne, The Lamb once  
Till through the deep Ju-de-an night Rang out the  
Lift up your heads, O might-y gates! So sang the  
Wor-thy the Lamb for sin-ners slain! For-ev-er



slain but raised a-gain, Be all the glo-ry  
song, "Good will to men!" Sung by heav'n's hosts in  
an-gel hosts a-gain. Lift up your heads—your  
let the song as-cend! Wor-thy the Lamb en-



he has won, All thanks and praise! A-men, A-men.  
splen-dor bright, Re-ech-oed now, "Good will!" A-men.  
King a-waits. We lift them up, A-men, A-men.  
throned to reign; Glo-ry and pow'r! A-men, A-men.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT and MUSICAL OFFERTORY

Text: John Julian, 1839–1913, abr., alt.

Tune: O GROSSER GOTT (LM D) Johann Störks . . . Schlag-Gesang-Und Noten-Buch, Stuttgart, 1744.