

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Listening to God's Call

Christ Is Calling

January 24, 2021



AS WE GATHER

When someone calls you on your phone, do you always answer? In our present day with caller identification, many are apt to let the call go to voicemail to wait and see what the message is and who it's from and at times wait to respond depending on the level of importance. How about when God calls? Especially, if that call is one to repentance? Do you answer? We hear in today's Readings of the response of some. Jonah was a reluctant follower. He went to Nineveh begrudgingly, but through him God would issue a call for the Ninevites to repentance. Jesus would call Simon, Andrew, James, and John to follow Him, and promised that through them, God would issue a call of repentance to many. In Baptism, God has called us to follow Him in a life of faith and repentance, and He promises that through us, others will also be called to that same repentance and new life.

The Lord always sets the right time for the right people to be used for His mission and purposes. Throughout the Old Testament, He spoke through prophets to proclaim His Word, call the people to repentance, and turn back into a relationship with Him. As His own beloved Son, our Savior, came into the world when the time was right, God used John the Baptist to prepare the way for Christ. As John's ministry and calling people to repentance would cease, and Jesus' earthly ministry began, Jesus echoed and perfectly fulfilled all that would come to fruition in and through Him. As Christ calls His first disciples, the call to repentance and faith continued. Even today, as we gather in His name, that same call through those the Lord has placed in His right time is heard with open ears and willing hearts within His Church, that we may live faithful lives of repentance and faith as we follow Him.

✘ PREPARATION ✘

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:

In you alone we put our hope, God the Father, Creator and Sustainer, who gives all good things seen and unseen. In you alone we put our hope, God the Son, Saviour and Redeemer, who died for our sins and rose again. In you alone we put our hope, God the Spirit, Teacher and Comforter, who moves us to sing "Our God reigns!" In you alone we put our hope. Holy One, God of all Creation, you call us to be your people, to carry your vision in this time and place, to go where you send us to help welcome your amazing good news. As we gather in the presence of the risen Christ to spread the news that your realm is near, fill us with your Holy Spirit, O God of all Creation. Fill us with your glorious Spirit, that we may share your good news with a world in need. May we live as in your presence, and love the things that you love, and serve you in our daily lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WELCOME:

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE.... In the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, welcome to Christian worship. The Lord has given us this day to worship Him. Let us start this service well, by reminding ourselves: That it is not we who chose Christ, but Christ who chose us, that we are not here because of our goodness but because of Christ's grace, that we are not here to enlighten ourselves, but to allow Christ to enlighten us, that we have not come to be entertained but to worship God with heart, soul, mind and strength. So, let's each do our best to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. Let us worship together with joy. Welcome!

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✘ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 113:1–3*

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,
People: **praise the name of the LORD!**

Pastor: Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!
People: **From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Mark 1:15; Psalm 113:1–3*

Pastor: Gracious Lord, by Your name You have called us Your own, and we are to pray, praise, and give thanks to You.
People: **Yet we often do not live as You have called us to live as Your own. We do not always honor Your name nor Your calling with our praise.**

Pastor: We confess our sins to God in repentance, turning from those things that lead us away, turning back to You as we follow in faith.

Silence for reflection

Pastor: Almighty and ever-compassionate Lord,
People: **we are by nature sinful and unclean. We confess our many failures as we have not followed You joyfully and trustingly. We have not loved others as ourselves, and our thoughts, words, and deeds have not been pleasing to You. We have not always welcomed Your call for us to follow You and You alone.**

Pastor: The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel. Hear and rejoice in the Good News. Jesus Christ died for you, and for His sake, God has compassion. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in His stead, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,
People: **praise the name of the LORD!**

Pastor: Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!

People: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!

✘ WORD ✘

HYMN OF PRAISE "Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name" St. 1

Refrain:

Hush, Hush. Somebody's calling my name. Hush. Hush. Somebody's calling my name, Hush. Hush. Somebody's calling my name, Oh, my Lord, Oh, my Lord, what shall I do? What shall I do?

1 Sounds like Jesus. Somebody's calling my name. Sounds like Jesus. Somebody's calling my name. Sounds like Jesus. Somebody's calling my name. Oh, my Lord, Oh, my Lord, what shall I do? What shall I do? [Refrain]

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, as the call to follow You comes to us through Your Word, grant us Your Holy Spirit that we trust and serve You in repentance and faith; 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* (The Lord causes repentance of the Ninevites through Jonah's preaching.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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GRADUAL *Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8*

Leader: Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples! For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

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

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 7:29–31 (32–35)* (As time grows short, Paul encourages faithful use of time.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Mark 1:15* [See *Music Index*]

Leader: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Leader: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

SELECTION

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SERMON

SELECTION

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(We Bring Our Tithes & Offering To The Lord)

CREED Apostle Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord, as You have called us as Your own, gathered us together, and enlightened us by Your Spirit through Your Word, we bring to You our prayer and praise. Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for all people of the world, that the Epiphany light that shines the radiance of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, shine in the hearts and minds of all people. For those who are wayward and lost and for those who have rejected Your call to repentance and faith, we pray You use us

in our words and witness to point to You that many more would faithfully follow.

People: Holy Spirit help me to answer your call.

Pastor: Ever-present Lord, be with Your Church on earth and the congregations in their work to serve and praise You and to be nourished by Your Word and Sacraments. Bless those You have called in roles of pastors and church workers that they faithfully speak and live Your Word of truth and that the call to a repentant and faithful life in Christ be followed. Continue to raise up called servants and leaders within Your Church for Your work and mission to continue that many more may know You and follow where You lead.

People: Holy Spirit help me to say yes to your will.

Pastor: Lord of comfort and peace, be present with those who face various needs in mind, soul, and body, [*especially* . . .]. Grant healing according to Your will. Be with those who grieve that the assured promise of Christ's victory over death and the grave brings hope in times of hopelessness. For those who live in doubt, fear, and distress, extend Your call of grace through Your Word and those who proclaim it.

People: Holy Spirit help me to follow your Word.

Pastor: Lord, we praise Your name for You gave Jesus Christ, whose love for us compelled Him to go to the cross that we by faith are saved. Unite us in Him and in our fellowship together, that in repentance we faithfully receive the gifts of life and grace He gives to us through His body and blood. Help us to draw our strength, love, compassion, and mercy through You.

People: Yes Lord I will follow you.

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

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

BENEDICTION *Psalm 113:2–3*

Pastor: Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!

People: **From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!**

Pastor: As the Lord sent His life-renewing Word through Jonah and the prophets, be assured of His forgiveness and love. As the Lord called and sent His apostles to be fishers of men, hear His voice and follow Him. As we have received God's grace this day for the sake of Christ our Lord, heed His call to repentance, rejoice in His forgiving grace, and give Him thanks and praise.

People: **Amen.**

SELECTION

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**TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE
CORONAVIRUS, WE ENCOURAGE ALL
MEMBERS TO PRACTICE SOCIAL
DISTANCING AT THE CHURCH!!**