

St. Mark 1:17

“And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 21, 2024

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us* (ELW) No. 789

*The Confession and Forgiveness (ELW) page 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*The Apostolic Greeting (ELW) page 138

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*The Kyrie (*sung response*) (ELW) page 138

P:, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

*The Hymn of Praise *God, Whose Almighty Word* (ELW) NO. 673

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

January 21, 2024—Third Sunday After Epiphany

“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.”

• -Jonah 3:10 -

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The Ninevites were enemies to the Jews and the two nations warred bitterly. In Jonah's mind, the acts against God's people were unforgivable, but God never sees sin that way. He is the God of the second chance, forgiving those who turn to Him in repentance. He did not desire destruction of the Ninevites; He desired their hearts. So, He called and sent Jonah to preach the truth of God's love to his enemies. Jonah knew God was merciful and kind, giving second chances even when it seems undeserved, but Jonah did not want to go; instead he ran in the other direction. He faced a storm, was swallowed by a great fish, prayed in thanksgiving for God's salvation, and was spit up three days later to act in obedience to God.

How often do we feel like Jonah, called to preach the Gospel to people we do not think deserve His grace? We would rather not take God's salvation to our enemies. But we are reminded that God knows the hearts of our enemies better than we do; though we do not think they deserve His grace, He desires their praise, too. God does give second chances, even to prophets who run from His work. Grace is the unmerited favor of God; He relents for those who repent. He was so willing to save the Ninevites that He sent someone to share his grace with them. How could they turn to God if they did not hear His Word?

We can find comfort in the story of Jonah because we all have moments when we would rather run from God's calling and go our own way. Christ did not just come for us; He came for all people. We are all sinners in need of a Savior. Jesus was born to shine the Light in the darkness, to pay the debt so that all people might have a second chance. Like He did for the Ninevites, our loving Father chooses to relent for those who repent. How can people repent if they have not heard the promise of God that was fulfilled in the life of Jesus Christ? He has called us to be like Jonah, to take His grace to our friends as well as our enemies and to share God's promises with those who might not seem to deserve a second chance.

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EMERGENCY CONTACTS
FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line

1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE

724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE

724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: Almighty and eternal God, graciously look down on our weakness. Reach out to us with Your majestic right hand, and satisfy us with His glory. We ask through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 62

¹For God alone my soul waits in silence; from Him comes my salvation.

²**He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.**

³How long will all of you attack a man to batter him, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence?

⁴**They only plan to thrust him down from his high position. They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse.**

⁵For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from Him.

⁶**He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.**

⁷On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

⁸**Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.**

⁹Those of low estate are but a breath; those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

¹⁰**Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart on them.**

¹¹Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God,

¹²**and that to You, O Lord, belongs steadfast love. For You will render to a man according to his work.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 [32-35]

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

C: **Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

* The Gospel

Mark 1:14-20

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.** (sung after announcement of the Gospel)

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.** (sung after conclusion of the Gospel)

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

*The Hymn of the Day

The Church's One Foundation

(ELW) No. 654

*The Apostles' 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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins; the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hope for Ethiopia funds are low, please donate.

Adult Catechism class is on Tuesday at 11 and 7 pm. We are discussing the book we read over the summer. All are welcome. We look forward to you joining us in our discussion.

Adult Sunday School is held before our Church Service starting at 9:45 am in the church library. Come join us.

Confirmation Class is Monday from 6-8 pm.

Bell Choir rehearsal is Monday at 7 pm. We would love for you to join us. Please see Kris Briggs if you are interested, kkbrgs1@gmail.com. All are welcome.

Our **Dartball team** is looking for more members. Practices are Tuesdays at 7 pm. No experience is needed. Come join us for fun and fellowship. We hope to see you soon. Please contact Dennis Schmidt for information.

Chess Club meets on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm. All are welcome from beginners to experienced. We hope that you will join us for fellowship and fun. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

2023 Statements of Giving are available. See Kathleen following the Service.

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

763



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en - ta - tion,
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
3 What though my joys and com - forts die? The Lord my Sav - ior liv - eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing!



I catch the sweet, though far - off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing - ing?
What though the dark - ness gath - er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing - ing?



Refrain



No storm can shake my in - most calm while to that Rock I'm cling - ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav - en and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?



*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

*The Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

(SBH) No. 27

*The Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Announcements

*The Benediction (sung response)

C: Amen, Amen, Amen.

*The Recessional Hymn

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

(ELW) No. 763

*The Dismissal (response)

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

First Lutheran Church

92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA

724-225-4040

e-mail: secretary@flcwash.church

On line service posted weekly on website: www.flcwash.church

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

revrob@flcwash.church

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Matthew Cimino, Organist

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God and remind & strengthen us on how God will buffet Satan with the hedge of protection He places over His people. A donation is made to the roof fund in lieu of real flowers by the Maust family.

The Lay Reader is Dennis Schmidt.

Acolytes are Jacin and Trevor Flowers.

Counters/Greeters today are S. Rea and L. Coleman.

Welcome to our Visitors! The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church? Please contact Pastor Grewe.

The Communion

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly
Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of
thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

The Church's One Foundation



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.



Nursery: We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs of infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

The Flower Chart for 2024 is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2024. Please write your names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2024. Please sign up.

Please remember to continue contributing donations to our girls in Ethiopia.

Please consider this as a call to help others in need.

Please pray for those in need of healing:

Janet Burke, Shari Kienzle, Susan Westott, baby Isaac Christian, the Pollana family, Sylvia Sunstrum, Fritz Group, Eric Group, Danielle Sherman, Amy Verderber, Tillie and Larry, Lou Mayne, Judy, Debbie, Sayward, Jim H., Barbara Mounts, Chiquita Pearson, Tim and Sharon, Judy Coble, Gary Conti, Linnese, Karen and John, Neil Bassi, Phyllis Daniels, Simon Thorp, Josh, Anneliese Christian, Becky Wood, Apollos Yocca, Alex Houck, Bridgette, Rhonda Hendrickson, Ron Erdmann, Belinda, Wilda Durbin, Stacy Carroll, Emerson Dietrich, Leann Vitteck, Isabella & family, James, Billie Sue Serbak, Lori Mauer, Jennifer Brown, Mark Black, Emma Solich, Kenny & Josh Carl, Cindi and John Moore, Sean Shearer, Ed Dupas, Sandy Salerno, Gavazzi family, Janelle Henderson, Rex Gibson, and Mike Phipps.

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

789



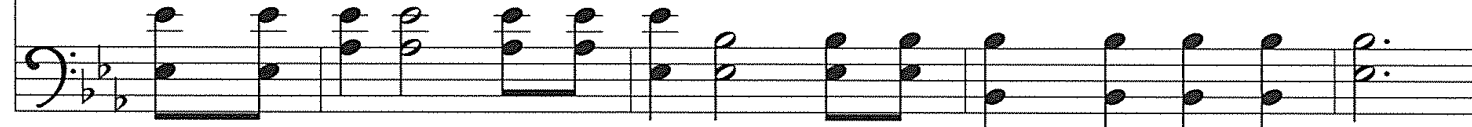
1 Sav - ior like a shep - herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
 2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;
 3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use your fold pre - pare.
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



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 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
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God, Whose Almighty Word



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
 2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
 3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
 heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
 speed forth your flight; 'move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
 Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
 lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man - kind let there be light.
 lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
 full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

