

Third Sunday After the Epiphany



Listening to God's Call

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021

Listening to God's Call

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.

✦ PRELUDE ✦

OPENING HYMN

"O Christ, Who Called the Twelve" LSB 856, Verses 1-5



1 O Christ, who called the Twelve To rise and fol - low You, For -
2 O Christ, who taught the Twelve The truth for a - ges sealed, Whose
3 O Christ, who led the Twelve A - mong the des - o - late And
4 O Christ, who sent the Twelve On roads they'd nev - er trod To



sak - ing old, fa - mil - iar ways For ven - tures bold and new:
words and works a - wak - ened faith, The ways of God re - vealed:
broke as bread of life for all Your love com - pas - sion - ate:
serve, to suf - fer, teach, pro - claim The near - er reign of God:



Grant us to hear Your call To risk se - cu - ri - ty And,
In - struct us now, we pray, By Your em - pow'ring Word. True
Lead us a - long the ways Where hope has near - ly died And
Send us on ways where faith Tran - scends ti - mid - i - ty, Where



bound in heart and will to You, Find per - fect lib - er - ty.
teach - er, be for all who seek Their light, their life, their Lord.
help us climb the lone - ly hills Where love is cru - ci - fied.
love in - forms and hope sus - tains Both life and min - is - try.

5 O Christ, the apostles' Lord,
The martyrs' strength and song,
The crucified and risen King
To whom the saints belong:
Though generations pass,
Our tribute still we bring,
Our hymns a sacrifice of praise,
Our lives an offering.

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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!

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” LSB 940, Verses 1-3

1 Ho - ly God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we
2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn An - gel choirs a -
3 Lo, the a - pos - tles' ho - ly train Join Thy sa - cred

bow be - fore Thee. All on earth Thy scep - ter claim,
bove are rais - ing; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
name to hal - low; Proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,

All in heav'n a - bove a - dore Thee. In - fi - nite Thy
In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, Fill the heav'ns with
And the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low, And from morn to

vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is Thy reign.
sweet ac - cord: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!
set of sun Through the Church the song goes on.

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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

1 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.” 3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. 4 Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty

days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” 5 And 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.

10 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.

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

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 (32-35)

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.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord
People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:14-20

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter, verses 14-20

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; 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.” 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 our Lord

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE HYMN OF THE DAY

“Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling” LSB 827, Verses 1-4



1 Hark, the voice of Je - sus call-ing, “Who will go and work to - day?
2 Some take up His task in morn-ing, To their Lord re - spond-ing soon;
3 For as rain and snow from heav - en Wa - ter seeds in dust - y soil,
4 Hear - ken to the Lord whose com - ing Marks the time when grace shall end,



Fields are white and har-vests wait-ing— Who will bear the sheaves a - way?”
Some are called in heat of mid-day, Oth - ers late in af - ter-noon;
Caus - ing them to bud and flow - er, Giv - ing bread to those who toil;
When with His an - gel - ic reap - ers He in glo - ry shall de-scend.



Loud and long the Mas - ter call - eth; Rich re - ward He of - fers thee.
E - ven as the sun is set - ting, Some are sent in - to the fields,
So the Lord sends forth His prom - ise, Words of life and joy and peace—
Soon the night, the fi - nal har - vest; Soon the time for work shall cease.



Who will an - swer, glad - ly say - ing, “Here am I, send me, send me”?
There to gath - er in the boun - ty That God’s Word so rich - ly yields.
Nev - er void to Him re - turn - ing, Bear - ing fruit with great in - crease.
Then the souls His grace has gar - nered Shall en - joy His Sab - bath peace.

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SERMON

CREED: 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 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. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord of comfort and peace, be present with those who face various needs in mind, soul, and body. 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. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

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. Help us to draw our strength, love, compassion, and mercy through You. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

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*

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.**

THE BENEDICTION *Psalms 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.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

People: **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN

“Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way” LSB 857, Verses 1-5



1 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -
 2 You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, But
 3 No gold - en scep - ter but a towel You
 4 You bid us bend our hu - man pride Nor
 5 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -



ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -
 pow'r You laid a - side. You lived Your years in
 place with - in the hands Of those who seek to
 count our - selves a - bove The low - est place, the
 ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -



get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.
 ser - vant - hood; In low - li - ness You died.
 fol - low You And live by Your com - mands.
 mean - est task That waits the gift of love.
 get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.

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For with you is the fountain of life;



Psalm 36:9

In your light we see light.

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