



THE STORY OF JONAH

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

2808 SOUTH AVENUE WEST

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 24, 2021



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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missoula, MT

Third Sunday After Epiphany

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.

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn LSB 839

O Christ, Our True and Only Light



1 O Christ, our true and on - ly light, En - light - en
2 Fill with the ra - diance of Your grace The souls now
3 O gent - ly call those gone a - stray That they may
4 Shine on the dark - ened and the cold; Re - call the
5 That they with us may ev - er - more Such grace with



those who sit in night; Let those a - far now
lost in er - ror's maze; En - light - en those whose
find the sav - ing way! Let ev - 'ry con - science
wan - d'ers to Your fold. U - nite all those who
won - d'ring thanks a - dore And end - less praise to



hear Your voice And in Your fold with us re - joice.
in - most minds Some dark de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.
sore op - pressed In You find peace and heav'n - ly rest.
walk a - part; Con - firm the weak and doubt - ing heart,
You be giv'n By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

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Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 113:1–3

- P** Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,
C **praise the name of the LORD!**
- P** Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!
C **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

- P** Gracious Lord, by Your name You have called us Your own, and we are to pray, praise, and give thanks to You.
C **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.**
- P** 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

- P** Almighty and ever-compassionate Lord,
C **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.**
- P** 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.
C **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

- P** Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,
C **praise the name of the LORD!**
- P** Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!
C **From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!**

Introit

- P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C **the name of the LORD is to be praised!**
- P** Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,
C **praise the name of the LORD!**

P Blessed be the name of the LORD
C from this time forth and forevermore!

P The LORD is high above all nations,
C and his glory above the heavens!

P He raises the poor from the dust
C and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

P to make them sit with princes,
C with the princes of his people.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the LORD is to be praised!

GraceNotes

We Sing Your Glory

Epistle

1 Corinthians 7:29-35

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, 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, 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.

I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, 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. 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:14-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

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. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. 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. And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

G 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 \dagger everlasting. Amen.

Sermon

Rev. David Johnson

Sermon Hymn LSB 583

God Has Spoken by His Prophets



1 God has spo - ken by His proph - ets, Spo - ken His un - chang - ing Word;
2 God has spo - ken by Christ Je - sus, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Son,
3 God is speak - ing by His Spir - it, Speak - ing to our hearts a - gain,



Each from age to age pro - claim - ing God, the one, the righ - teous Lord.
Bright - ness of the Fa - ther's glo - ry, With the Fa - ther ev - er one;
In the age - less Word de - clar - ing His own mes - sage, now as then.

(Continued on next page)



In the world's de-spair and tur-moil, One firm an-chor holds us fast:
 Spo-ken by the Word In-car-nate, God of God, be-fore time was;
 Through the rise and fall of na-tions One sure faith yet stand-ing fast;



God is king, His throne e-ter-nal; God the first, and God the last.
 Light of Light, to earth de-scend-ing, He re-veals our God to us.
 God a-bides, His Word un-chang-ing; God the first, and God the last.

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Reading: Jonah 1:1-3

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me." But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

Reading: Jonah 1:7-10

And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

Hymn LSB 579 vs 1-2

The Law of God Is Good and Wise



1 The Law of God is good and wise And sets His
 2 Its light of ho-li-ness im-parts The knowl-edge



will be-fore our eyes, Shows us the way of righ-teous-
 of our sin-ful hearts That we may see our lost es-



ness, And dooms to death when we trans-gress.
 tate And turn from sin be-fore too late.

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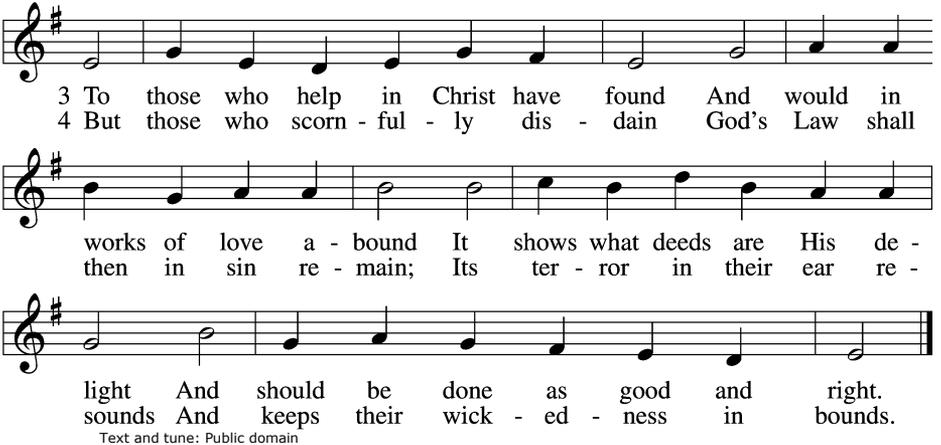
Reading: Jonah 1:13-17

Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. Therefore they called out to the LORD, "O LORD, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you." So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Hymn LSB 579 vs 3-4

The Law of God Is Good and Wise



3 To those who help in Christ have found And would in
4 But those who scorn - ful - ly dis - dain God's Law shall
works of love a - bound It shows what deeds are His de -
then in sin re - main; Its ter - ror in their ear re -
light And should be done as good and right.
sounds And keeps their wick - ed - ness in bounds.

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Jonah Chapter Two - Jonah's Prayer



GraceNotes

Water Music

Reading: Jonah 2:10–3:4

And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." 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. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

Hymn LSB 584

Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing



1 Faith and truth and life be - stow - ing, O - pen now the
 2 May the Spir - it's pow'r un - ceas - ing, Bring to life the



Scrip - tures, Lord, Seed to life e - ter - nal sow - ing,
 hid - den grain, Dai - ly in our hearts in - creas - ing,



Scat - tered on the wind a - broad. Let not hearts, Your
 Bear - ing fruit that shall re - main. So in Scrip - ture,



Word re - ceiv - ing, Like a bar - ren field be found, Choked with
 song, and sto - ry, Sav - ior, may Your voice be heard. Till our



thorns and un - be - liev - ing, Shal - low earth or ston - y ground.
 eyes be - hold Your glo - ry Give us ears to hear Your Word.

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Reading: Jonah 3:5-10

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.

The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish."

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.

Prayer

P Almighty and everlasting God, You desire not the death of a sinner but that all would repent and live. Hear our prayers for those outside the Church. Take away their iniquity, and turn them from their false gods to You, the living and true God. Gather them into Your holy Church to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Reading: Jonah 4:1-4

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. And he prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Do you do well to be angry?"

Prayer

P Almighty, everlasting God, through Your only Son, our blessed Lord, You commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. Therefore, we earnestly implore You that by Your gracious working our enemies may be led to true repentance, may have the same love toward us as we have toward them, and may be of one accord and of one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Reading: Jonah 4:5-6

Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. Now the LORD God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant.



Reading: Jonah 4:11

And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"

Prayer of the Church

(following each petition)

P Lord, in Your mercy.

C Hear our prayer.

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.

Benediction

Psalm 113:2-3

- P** Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!
- C** From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!
- P** 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.
- C** Amen.
- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

Closing Hymn LSB 409

Hail, O Source of Every Blessing



1 Hail, O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Fa - ther of our
2 Once far off but now in - vit - ed, We ap - proach Your
3 Hail, O all - in - vit - ing Sav - ior! Gen - tiles now their



hu - man race! Gen - tiles now, Your grace pos - sess - ing, In Your
sa - cred throne, In Your cov - e - nant u - nit - ed, Rec - on -
of - f'ings bring, In Your tem - ples seek Your fa - vor, Je - sus



courts ob - tain a place. Grate - ful now, we fall be - fore You,
ciled, re - deemed, made one. Now re - vealed to east - ern sa - ges,
Christ, our Lord and King. May we, bod - y, soul, and spir - it,



In Your Church re - jice to live, See Your glo - ry
See the Star of Mer - cy shine, Mys - t'ry hid in
Live de - vot - ed to Your praise, Glo - rious realms of



and a - dore You, Thank - ful for the grace You give.
for - mer a - ges, Mys - t'ry great of love di - vine.
bliss in - her - it, Grate - ful an - thems ev - er raise.

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