

Sunday, January 21, 2024, 9:00am

Our Nineveh

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

No matter where we go and no matter the circumstances, God will act.



Prelude

#875, Father, We Praise Thee

- 1** Father, we praise Thee, now the night is over, Active and watchful, stand we all before Thee; Singing, we offer prayer and meditation: Thus we adore Thee.
- 2** Monarch of all things, fit us for Thy mansions; Banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending; Bring us to heaven, where Thy saints united Joy without ending.
- 3** All-holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit, Trinity blessed, send us Thy salvation; Thine is the glory, gleaming and resounding Through all creation.

Text: attr. Gregory I, c. 540–604; tr. Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936

Text: Public domain

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

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved my neighbors as myself. I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your Holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Jesus, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!

C: Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!

P: Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore!

C: The Lord is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens!

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

C: to make them sit with princes, with the princes of His people.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

C: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

KYRIE LSB 168

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

THIS IS THE FEAST LSB 171

A This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and blessing and glory are His. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia, alleluia.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Together, we pray,

C: Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Time

Jonah 3:1–5, 10 [Sermon Text]

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!” 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....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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 173

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

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.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

#856, *O Christ, Who Called The Twelve*

- 1 O Christ, who called the Twelve To rise and follow You, Forsaking old, familiar ways For ventures bold and new: Grant us to hear Your call To risk security And, bound in heart and will to You, Find perfect liberty.**
- 2 O Christ, who taught the Twelve The truth for ages sealed, Whose words and works awakened faith, The ways of God revealed: Instruct us now, we pray, By Your empow'ring Word. True teacher, be for all who seek Their light, their life, their Lord.**
- 3 O Christ, who led the Twelve Among the desolate And broke as bread of life for all Your love compassionate: Lead us along the ways Where hope has nearly died And help us climb the lonely hills Where love is crucified.**
- 4 O Christ, who sent the Twelve On roads they'd never trod To serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim The nearer reign of God: Send us on ways where faith Transcends timidity, Where love informs and hope sustains Both life and ministry.**
- 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.**

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007

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The Sermon *Our Nineveh*

P: Please rise and join me as we profess our faith,

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes
OFFERTORY

LSB 176

Congregation

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

The Prayers of His Children:

P: Lord, in Your mercy. C: Hear our prayer.

PREFACE

LSB 177

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Holy Lord, Almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 178

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of our Lord

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Jesus remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 180

Congregation

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The Distribution of Holy Communion

#685, *Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus*

1 Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure, Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure. Onward in His footsteps treading,
Pilgrims here, our home above, Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father's bidding. Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where You guide.

2 Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.

3 Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin; And the grave that shuts

**us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven. Jesus, here with You I die,
There to live with You on high.**

**4 Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead That to life we may awaken.
Jesus, You are now our head. We are Your own living members;
Where You live, there we shall be In Your presence constantly,
Living there with You forever. Jesus, let me faithful be,
Life eternal grant to me.**

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

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#682, God of the Prophets, Bless the Prophets' Sons

**1 God of the prophets, bless the prophets' sons; Elijah's mantle o'er Elisha cast.
Each age its solemn task may claim but once; Make each one nobler, stronger
than the last.**

**2 Anoint them prophets, men who are intent To be Your witnesses in word and deed,
Their hearts aflame, their lips made eloquent, Their eyes awake to ev'ry human
need.**

**3 Anoint them priests, strong intercessors they, For pardon and for love and hope
and peace, That, through their pleading, guilty sinners may
Find Jesus' mercy and from sin release.**

**4 Anoint them kings, yes, kingly kings, O Lord. Anoint them with the Spirit of Your
Son. Theirs not a jeweled crown, a bloodstained sword; Theirs, by sweet love, for
Christ a kingdom won.**

**5 Make them apostles, heralds of Your cross; Forth let them go to tell the world of
grace. Inspired by You, may they count all but loss And stand at last with joy
before Your face.**

Text: Denis Wortman, 1835–1922, alt.

Text: Public domain

#777, Grant Peace, We Pray, In Mercy, Lord

**1 Grant peace, we pray, in mercy, Lord; Peace in our time, O send us!
For there is none on earth but You, None other to defend us.
You only, Lord, can fight for us. Amen.**

Text: Latin, c. 6th cent.; adapt. Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Laudamus, 1952, Hannover

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THANK THE LORD LSB 181

**C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy**

with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

P: Together, we pray,

C: We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

God's Benediction

#829, *Christ The Eternal Lord*

- 1 Christ the eternal Lord, Whose promise here we claim, Whose gifts of grace are freely poured On all who name Your name; With thankfulness and praise We stand before Your throne, Intent to serve You all our days And make Your glory known.**
- 2 Christ the unchanging Word To ev'ry passing age, Whose timeless teachings still are heard Set forth on Scripture's page; Transform our thought and mind, Enlighten all who read, Within Your Word by faith to find The bread of life indeed.**
- 3 Christ the redeeming Son, Who shares our human birth, And by His death salvation won For ev'ry child of earth; Inspire our hearts, we pray, To tell Your love abroad, That all may honor Christ today And follow Him as Lord.**
- 4 Christ the unfading Light Of everlasting day, Our Morning Star in splendor bright, The Life, the Truth, the Way; That light of truth You give To servants as to friends, Your way to walk, Your life to live, Till earth's brief journey ends.**
- 5 Christ the ascended King Exalted high above, Whose praise unending ages sing, Whom yet unseen we love; When mortal life is past Your voice from heaven's throne Shall call Your children home at last To know as we are known.**

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926

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Postlude