

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 22, 2023

PRELUDE, BELLS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, WELCOME

“Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling” LSB 827

- 1 Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,
“Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting—
Who will bear the sheaves away?”
Loud and long the Master calleth;
Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying,
“Here am I, send me, send me”?
- 2 Some take up His task in morning,
To their Lord responding soon;
Some are called in heat of midday,
Others late in afternoon;
Even as the sun is setting,
Some are sent into the fields,
There to gather in the bounty
That God’s Word so richly yields.
- 3 For as rain and snow from heaven
Water seeds in dusty soil,
Causing them to bud and flower,
Giving bread to those who toil;
So the Lord sends forth His promise,
Words of life and joy and peace—
Never void to Him returning,
Bearing fruit with great increase.
- 4 Harken to the Lord whose coming
Marks the time when grace shall end,
When with His angelic reapers
He in glory shall descend.
Soon the night, the final harvest;
Soon the time for work shall cease.
Then the souls His grace has garnered
Shall enjoy His Sabbath peace.

Text (st. 1): Daniel March, 1816–1909, alt.; (sts. 2–4): Stephen P. Starke, 1955

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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

P: The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,

1 Corinthians 1:18; Psalm 27:14

C: but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

P: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;

C: wait for the LORD!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Matthew 4:17; Philippians 3:20; 1 Corinthians 1:18

P: St. Matthew writes that Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Let us respond by confessing our sins and asking our Lord’s forgiveness.

C: Heavenly Father, we confess our sins to You. We are too much a part of this fallen world. Because our citizenship is in heaven, invade our thoughts, words, and deeds by Your gracious power. Help us to live each day as pilgrims heading to the eternal promised land. Turn us from our sinful direction to follow our Savior’s gracious lead, walking in ways pleasing to You for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

P: “For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” Be assured that through Jesus’ blood-bought rescue, you are already citizens in the Kingdom of heaven. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

KYRIE

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord,

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For peace that breaks into this world from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For peace that knows no boundaries, for growth in the Church around the world, and for unity around the cross of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who respond here in worship and praise to our victorious King, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen.

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, who came from heaven to earth,

C: heal us in body, soul, and spirit that we may serve You in joy, now and always;

P: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:1–4

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea,

along the Jordan-The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder.

For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. (NIV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas "; still another, "I follow Christ."

Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so no one can say that you were baptized into my name. (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.)

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel--not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." (NIV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12-25

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali--to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles--the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

At once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them.

Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him. (NIV)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

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 T everlasting. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (Sunday)

***“Come, Follow Me,” the Savior Spake”* LSB 688**

- 1 “Come, follow Me,” the Savior spake,
“All in My way abiding;
Deny yourselves, the world forsake,
Obey My call and guiding.
O bear the cross, whate’er betide,
Take My example for your guide.
- 2 “I am the light, I light the way,
A godly life displaying;
I bid you walk as in the day;
I keep your feet from straying.
I am the way, and well I show
How you must sojourn here below.
- 3 “My heart abounds in lowliness,
My soul with love is glowing;
And gracious words My lips express,
With meekness overflowing.
My heart, My mind, My strength, My all,
To God I yield, on Him I call.
- 4 “I teach you how to shun and flee
What harms your soul’s salvation,
Your heart from ev’ry guile to free,

From sin and its temptation.
I am the refuge of the soul
And lead you to your heav'nly goal."

- 5 Then let us follow Christ, our Lord,
And take the cross appointed
And, firmly clinging to His Word,
In suff'ring be undaunted.
For those who bear the battle's strain
The crown of heav'nly life obtain.

Text: tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813–96; (sts. 1–3, 5): Johann Scheffler, 1624–77; (st. 4): Geistliche Lieder und Lobgesänge, 1695

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SERMON "Follow Me..."

Text: Matthew 4:19

OFFERING

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds" LSB 649

- 1 Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.
- 2 Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.
- 3 We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.
- 4 When here our pathways part,
We suffer bitter pain;
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart,
We hope to meet again.
- 5 From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin we shall be free
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Let us pray for the Church here and around the world, that God's light would shine through us, attracting many who still walk in the darkness of their own making, and uniting in faith and confession all who trust in Christ their Lord.

C: **Light of the world, use Your Church to enlighten those who live in this world's darkness,**

and enable our brothers and sisters to find in their Savior the true source of peace and concord.

P: Let us pray for governments local and national, that God would open leaders' eyes to see opportunities for peace between nations and safety and concord among their citizens.

C: Light come to us from above, we ask that You guide, protect, and defend elected officials, police in our communities, and troops deployed, that peace may break out and the Church may prosper.

P: Let us pray for those near and dear to us, [*including . . .*]. Lord Jesus,

C: source of light and health and peace, hear the prayers of all who call to You in their illnesses, sorrows, and grief. Shine on them in blessings and peace so that faith may remain firm until it is replaced by sight.

P: Let us pray for expectant parents, helpful counselors, and resourceful agencies as they seek to help families be nurseries of growth in body, soul, and mind.

C: By Your gracious visitation, give them strength, increase their love, and provide unexpected joy in their service to You and the people around them.

P: Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" LSB 411

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus. Refrain

ref In Him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. Refrain

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, 1934

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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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