

# *Salem Lutheran Church*

115 N. Washington Ave., Albert Lea

## *Third Sunday after Epiphany*

*January 21, 2024*

*As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.*

*\*Congregation: please stand. If standing is difficult for you, please feel free to remain seated.*

## *Gathering*

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **Prelude**

### **Announcements**

### **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
creator of darkness and light,  
word of truth,  
wind sweeping over the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our rock and refuge,  
**we pour out our hearts before you.**  
**We have known you but have not always loved you.**  
**We have wounded one another**  
**and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit**  
**dwelling in each of us.**

**Remember your covenant.**

**Renew your creation.**

**Restore us,  
that we might proclaim your good news to all.  
Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.  
God has spoken:  
The time of grace is now.  
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.  
By the authority of ✠ Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.  
You are God's beloved.  
**Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

#275

**\*Greeting**

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

**\*Canticle of Praise**

Glory Be to God

page 204

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

## **Word**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **FIRST READING: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

*The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"*

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." <sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" <sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 62:5-12**

*God alone is my rock and my salvation. (Ps. 62:6)*

<sup>5</sup>For God alone I | wait in silence;  
truly, my hope | is in God.

<sup>6</sup>**God alone is my rock and | my salvation,  
my stronghold, so that I shall nev- | er be shaken.**

<sup>7</sup>In God is my deliverance | and my honor;  
God is my strong rock | and my refuge.

<sup>8</sup>**Put your trust in God al- | ways, O people,  
pour out your hearts before the one who | is our refuge. R**

<sup>9</sup>Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate can- | not be trusted.  
Placed on the scales together they weigh even less | than a breath.

<sup>10</sup>**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no | empty pride;  
though wealth increase, set not your | heart upon it.**

<sup>11</sup>God has spoken once, twice | have I heard it,  
that power be- | longs to God.

<sup>12</sup>**Steadfast love belongs to | you, O Lord,  
for you repay all according | to their deeds. R**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

*Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>29</sup>Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, <sup>30</sup>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 possessions, <sup>31</sup>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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:14-20**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.*

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As he went a little farther, he saw James, son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The gospel of the Lord,  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Mark Boorsma**

**\*HYMN**

Jesus Calls Us; o’er the Tumult

#696

**\*APOSTLE’S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries.

God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them.

God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth.

God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain especially Woody, Larry, Leland, Tom, Dean, Shirley Marianne, Andrea, Mary, Kathy and all others on our hearts and minds this day.

God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us.

God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you welcome them into your care. Comfort those who grieve, even as we place our hope in your salvation.

God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## *Meal*

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**OFFERING**

*We very much appreciate your continued giving and generosity at this time.*

*Offering can be placed in the offering plate at the door.*

**OFFERING HYMN**

As Saints of Old

#695

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### 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,  
ever and ever. Amen.

Giver of every gift,  
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.  
Raise us to life by your power  
for the benefit of all and to your glory,  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## *Sending*

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### \*Blessing

God who names you,  
Christ who claims you,  
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
✠ bless you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

### \*HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story

#661

### \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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### Assisting in Worship

Worship Assistant: Larry Lahs Jr.  
Ushers: Mark & Marcia Gayken  
Coffee: Pat Gjersvik

**Thank you** to Bev Lombardi for the beautiful organ music this morning.

**This Week at Salem**

Tuesday, January 23rd: 8:30 a.m. Sew 'N Tell

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Friday, January 26th: 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study

Sunday, January 28th: 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Annual Congregational Meeting

**Our annual Congregational Meeting** will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024 immediately after the worship service. It is important for all members to attend.