

Sunday, January 21, 2017
3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

PRELUDE

"Slane"

Gregg Sewell

***GATHERING SONG**

"We Are Called"

ELW 720

**Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.**

Refrain

**We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.**

**Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and blindness will be no more. *Refrain***

**Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love. *Refrain***

***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**

"Gloria, Gloria, Gloria"

pg. 176

**Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!
Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!
And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.
And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.**

***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!*

ANTHEM

"Follow Me"

John Carter

Chancel Choir

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?"

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

¹⁰When 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.

Reflection

The book of Jonah is short, and if you haven't read it recently, take time to read it now. I take every opportunity I can to ask you to do that, because it's my favorite book in the Bible, and it contains one of my favorite verses in the Bible, which is Jonah 4:11 (although that verse is not in this text). Back to this text. What did God call Jonah to do? (verse 1—for the first time, and what happened, read Jonah chapters 1-2) What was Jonah's message to the city of Nineveh from God? (verses 3-4) What was the response of the people of Nineveh? (verse 5—see also verses 6-9) What did God do? (verse 10—for how Jonah responded to the success of his ministry, see chapter 4) Do you think God's intention ever changes? I love this book, partly because it is so unlikely to have happened the way the story is told, and also because it is so surprising to meet God's unchanging mercy. What do you think?

PSALM 62:5-12

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

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

⁷In God is my deliverance | and my honor;
God is my strong rock | and my refuge.

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

⁹Those 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.

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

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

¹²**Steadfast love belongs to | you, O Lord,
for you repay all according | to their deeds.**

Reflection

Who or what do you trust? That is the question of the psalmist, who answers according to her own experience, and gives advice to others. What experience (in general terms) has the psalmist had? (verses 5-7) What is the advice given to others out of that experience? (verse 8) What happens when we trust in someone or something besides God? (verse 9-10) The psalm ends with the psalmist's conclusion about what God does. (verses 11-12) Who or what do you trust?

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.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and 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, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Reflection

*What is Paul's expectation about the return of Jesus? (verse 29) What advice does he give to believers? (verses 30-31) I am not eager to follow this particular advice of Paul's about how to live. I often rejoice, and I have had times of mourning; I enjoy my possessions; and those experiences have brought interest and color to my life. We have had almost 2000 years since Paul wrote these words. What we **do** know is that our life will come to an end in a relatively short time—none of us has centuries to live. And we also know from our experience in our short lifetimes that the "present form of this world is passing away." So how does what Paul has to say affect the way we live our faith and life?*

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia! Alleluia!

***GOSPEL**

Mark 1:14-20

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.

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

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

Reflection

What is the good news that Jesus came to proclaim? (verses 14-15) Who does he call to help him in proclaiming this good news? The notes in the Lutheran Bible point out that in Mark (and I think the other gospels) there is a contrast between the rule of God and the rule of Rome, which was the ruling power at that time. How is our country like other political entities? In other words, if the Gospels present the contrast between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Rome, I think it's important that we go on to ask, what is the difference between the rule of God and the rule of the United States? How do you experience that the kingdom of God has come near?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

"And the People of Nineveh Believed God"

Rev. Dr. Donna Simon

HYMN OF THE DAY

"You Have Come Down To The Lakeshore"

ELW 817

**You have come down to the lakeshore
seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
but only asking for me to follow.**

Refrain

**Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes;
kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
now with you, I will seek other seas.**

**You know full well what I have, Lord:
neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
just these my fish nets and will for working. *Refrain***

**You need my hands, my exhaustion,
working love for the rest of the weary--
a love that's willing to go on loving. *Refrain***

**You who have fished other waters;
you, the longing of souls that are yearning:
O loving Friend, you have come to call me. *Refrain***

***APOSTLES' 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!**

***PRAYER SONG**

"Open Our Eyes, Lord"

**Open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus,
to reach out and touch Him,
and say that we love Him.
Open our ears, Lord,
and help us to listen;
open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Confident that God our light and our salvation hears us when we pray, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the church in all its forms, for unity in Christ, and for those who proclaim the good news in word and deed, that all trust that the kingdom of God has come near, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For clean water and air, for fertile lands, so that all creatures and people have enough food, nourishing drink, and breathable air, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For public defenders and district attorneys, for the armed forces and international peace organizations, and for all public leaders, that those in authority work for the well-being of all people, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the poor and oppressed, for the sick and bereaved, for those living with HIV and AIDS, and for all people in need of your healing hand *especially Roxanna, Mary Anna, Kay, and Linda* and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (*pause for 10 seconds*), that your power and compassion will be visible to those who need care and those who provide care, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For this congregation and South Sudanese Congregation and all of our ministries, for visitors in our midst, and for students returning to school, that your Holy Spirit will guide us in all our endeavors, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for those who have died that their lives of faithful service point us to the steadfast love of Christ, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, you hear our prayers even before we speak them. Receive them for the sake of the one through whom you have revealed your goodness, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

☞ *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

☞ **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

ELW 674

**Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

Refrain

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. *Refrain***

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! *Refrain*

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

"Lord, Be Glorified" vv. 4

ELW 744

In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P *Merciful God,*

C receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

***DIALOGUE**

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 our thanks and praise.**

***PREFACE**

P *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God,
God of might and power; holy is the Lord.
Holy, holy, holy Lord God,
God of might and power; holy is the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P *Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:*

C **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P *With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.*

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P *Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.*

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P *All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.*

C **Amen!**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P *Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*

G **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen!**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P *We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.*

***BLESSING**

P *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

G **Amen!**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P *O Morning Star, fair and bright,*

G **you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen!**

***BENEDICTION**

P *The God of glory dwell in you richly,
name you beloved,
and shine brightly on your path;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.*

G **Amen!**

***SENDING SONG**

"I Will Follow Him"

I will follow him,
follow him wherever he may go.
And near him I always will be,
for nothing can keep me away.
He is my destiny.

I will follow him.
Ever since he touched my heart I knew.
There isn't an ocean too deep,
a mountain so high it can keep,
keep me away,
away from his love.
I love him, I love him, I love him.
And where he goes
I'll follow, I'll follow, I'll follow.

I will follow him,
follow him wherever he may go.
There isn't an ocean too deep,
a mountain so high it can keep,
keep me away.

We will follow him,
follow him wherever he may go.
There isn't an ocean too deep,
a mountain so high it can keep
keep us away,
away from his love.

I love him, I love him, I love him.
And where he goes
I'll follow, I'll follow, I'll follow.
He'll always be my true love,
my true love, my true love
from now until
forever, forever, forever.
There isn't an ocean too deep,
a mountain so high it can keep,
keep us away,
away from his love.