

**The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 24, 2021**

in the 168th Year of the Parish

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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Our Mission: “To know Christ and to make Christ known.”

PRELUDE *“Hostis Herodes impie (Inno per il giorno del Epifania)”*
Giovanni Battista Fasolo (1598-1664)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

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

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we 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 us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

HYMN

O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True

O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True



1 O Christ, our light, O Ra - diance true, shine forth on
2 Fill with the ra - diance of your grace the wan - d'ers
3 Lord, o - pen all re - luc - tant ears and take a -
4 Lord, let your mer - cy's gen - tle ray shine down on
5 Make theirs with ours a sin - gle voice up - lift - ed,



those es - tranged from you, and bring them to your home a -
lost in er - ror's maze. Set free all those whose hearts and
way the need - less fears of those who trem - ble to ex -
oth - ers strayed a - way. To those in con - science wound - ed
ev - er to re - jice with wond - 'ring grat - i - tude and



gain, where their de - light shall nev - er end.
minds some deep de - lu - sion haunts and binds.
press the faith their in - most hearts con - fess.
sore show heav - en's wait - ing, o - pen door.
praise to you, O Lord, for bound - less grace.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. composite
Music: O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT, *Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1676
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GREETING

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

C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE *Glory to God in the Highest*

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of nine lines of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The lyrics are: "A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. B Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen".

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

B Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:

We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. 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.

C Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

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.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Jonah 3:1-5, 10

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.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 62:5-12

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

**6God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

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

8Put your trust in God always, 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 cannot be trusted.

Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

**10Put 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 belongs to God.

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

THE SECOND LESSON.....1 Corinthians 7:29-31

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.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL.....Mark 1:14-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter

C Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
 Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional
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THE APOSTLES' CREED

P Living together in trust and hope we affirm our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Let us pray/Have mercy, O God.

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

P Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us.

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

P Almighty God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit ✠ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

HYMN *Lord of Light*

Lord of Light



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:



Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE “*Te Deum Laudamus (Del Terzo Tuono)*”

Giovanni Battista Fasolo (1598-1664)

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Prayer List: Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Ruth Pile, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Doris Brown, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Gladys Knauss, Patricia Alexander, Joann Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Esteban Mazer, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Cheryl Williams, Bernadette Jones, Gregg, Kay Poliska, Sarah Prevelige, Bunny Ditchfield.

LEADING US IN WORSHIP

LECTOR Pam Jensen

CANTOR/SONG LEADER Deb Buckman

ORGANIST Sam Robinson

Our Stewardship

Not Available at this time

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Super Bowl Sunday” is February 7 and once again the youth of St. Mark's will be collecting cans of soup to help stock the food pantry of the United Churches of Lycoming County. Our famous “Football Tub” will be in the Front Lounge ready to accept cans of soup (and/or any canned goods). These items may be dropped off during Church Office Hours (please call the church office, 570-323-4619 for times). If you prefer, monetary donations may also be made to support the many ministries of Shepherd of the Streets (please note “Souper Bowl of Caring on the memo line).

Please pray this simple prayer that started the Souper Bowl of Caring on Super Bowl Sunday over 30 years ago: “Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat. Amen”.

Together, let us help fight hunger in Williamsport! Thank You!

Camp Mt. Luther is gearing up for Summer 2021! Camping brochures, information regarding openings for staff and volunteers and special events held at the camp are available from the Church Office (570-323-4619).

Flower Tributes: Although we do not have flowers while in-person worship is

suspended, we can still have “Flower Tributes”. The tributes and sponsors from the “Altar Flower Book” will be honored and printed in the bulletin. A donation of \$10.00 is recommended. If you do not have a date scheduled for altar flowers but would like to participate, please contact Sally Bjornstad (570-494-6637). Our worship today is in loving memory of **George Bjornstad** by his wife Sally.

By action of our Congregational Council, all in-person worship services have been suspended until further notice. Virtual worship by way of video will continue to be offered through our web page and Facebook. Should be in need of pastoral care, please contact our church office.

UPCOMING COMEMORATIONS

Conversion of Paul

Monday, January 25, 2021

The week of prayer begun by the remembrance of Peter's confession now comes to an end as we recall the pivotal moment in the life of the other pillar of the early church, the apostle Paul. His encounter with the risen Christ turned him from persecutor of the followers of Christ to one of their leaders.

Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

These three early Christian men were missionary companions of the apostle Paul. Timothy became bishop of Ephesus, Titus bishop of Crete, and Silas was imprisoned with Paul at Philippi until they were delivered by an earthquake.

Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these coworkers of the apostle Paul. Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church; Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchrae.

Thomas Aquinas, teacher, died 1274

Thursday, January 28, 2021

One of the most brilliant and creative theologians in the church's history, Aquinas worked to bring together scripture and the philosophy of Aristotle. A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Aquinas was also a hymnwriter.