

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Christ Is Calling

January 24, 2021



AS WE GATHER

The Lord always sets the right time for the right people to be used for His mission and purposes. Throughout the Old Testament, He spoke through prophets to proclaim His Word, call the people to repentance, and turn back into a relationship with Him. As His own beloved Son, our Savior, came into the world when the time was right, God used John the Baptist to prepare the way for Christ. As John's ministry and calling people to repentance would cease, and Jesus' earthly ministry began, Jesus echoed and perfectly fulfilled all that would come to fruition in and through Him. As Christ calls His first disciples, the call to repentance and faith continued. Even today, as we gather in His name, that same call through those the Lord has placed in His right time is heard with open ears and willing hearts within His Church, that we may live faithful lives of repentance and faith as we follow Him.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN 412 "The People That in Darkness Sat"

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 113:1–3*

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,

People: **praise the name of the LORD!**

Pastor: Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and
forevermore!

People: **From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be
praised!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Mark 1:15; Psalm 113:1–3*

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God in repentance, seeking his strength to turn from those things that lead us away, and to turn back to Him in faith.

Silence for reflection

Pastor: Almighty and ever-compassionate Lord,

People: we are by nature sinful and unclean. We confess our many failures as we have not followed You joyfully and sincerely . We have not loved others as ourselves, and our thoughts, words, and deeds have not been pleasing to You. We have not always welcomed Your call for us to follow You and You alone. Forgive us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Pastor: The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel. Hear and rejoice in the Good News. Jesus Christ died for you, and for His sake, and by his command, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word and in His stead, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!

People: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!

✠ WORD ✠

HYMN OF PRAISE

940 Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, as the call to follow You comes to us through Your Word, grant us Your Holy Spirit that we trust and serve You in

repentance and faith; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Jonah 3:1–5, 10*

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 7:29–31*

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Mark 1:15*

Pastor: Alleluia. "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand;

People: **repent and believe in the gospel." Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 1:14–20*

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN 688 "Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake

SERMON

CREED *Apostles' Creed*

People: **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 † everlasting. Amen.

OFFERTORY 397 As with Gladness Men of Old

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: 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

Pastor: 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. *Numbers*
6:24–26

People: Amen.

HYMN 917 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise