



Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 24, 2021
9:30 am

FOLLOW ME



and I will make you fish for people

MARK 1:17

Bethel Lutheran Church
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Rev. Trina Johnsten

A congregation of the Montana Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

INTRODUCTION

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

ELW 532

Gather Us In (vs 1,2,&4)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit✝ one God,
whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

you search us and know us.

You are acquainted with all our ways.

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**

**We turn inward, failing to follow
your outward way of love.
We distrust those who are not like us.
We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.
Forgive us, gracious God,
for all we have done and left undone.
Even before the words are on our tongues,
you know them;
receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

How vast is God's grace!
Through the power and promise of ✝ Christ Jesus,
our sins are washed away
and we are claimed as God's own beloved.
Indeed, we are forgiven.
In the wake of God's forgiveness,
we are called to be the beloved community
living out Christ's justice
and the Spirit's reconciling peace.
Amen.

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.

KYRIE

- 1. Have mercy on us Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.*

2. *Have mercy on us Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may
begin.*
3. *Have mercy on us Lord; make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!*

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

1. *Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you,
we lift high our thanks and praise. Saints and angels bow
before you;
here on earth our songs we raise.*
3. *Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to
all: Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor
bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. Amen.**

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 62:5-12

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

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

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

**Put your trust in God always, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

Those 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.

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

God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The holy gospel according to Mark the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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

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. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. 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

Rev. Trina Johnsten

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 817 You Have Come To The Lake Shore (vs 1,3,&4)

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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 THE CHURCH

*Lord in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.***

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

We are so very blessed with the continued support of this congregation during this time of physical distancing and online worship. We are thankful that you are joining us from home and are encouraged to mail in your pledge to the church, to give on-line, or to give through an arrangement you can set up through your bank. Thank you for your faithful support.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Generous God,
**you have created all that is,
and you provide for us in every season.
Bless all that we offer,
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.
Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 866 *We Are Marching*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

SERVING TODAY

Accompanist	Mary Seim
Lead Vocals	TBD
Lay Assistant	Walt Nuessle
Tech	Adam Elkin and Greg Grosenick
Counters	Tim Lightbourne and Greg Grosenick

Flowers are given by Leonard and Shelly Murphy in memory and celebration of Fern Myhre who is celebrating her 95th birthday in heaven. Love to you from all your family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today at Bethel we celebrate the Third Sunday after Epiphany. The **2021 Annual Meeting** will be held immediately following worship. To attend, please contact Tami in the Bethel Office and she will get you the information to connect via Zoom.

Lenten devotionals are on order and will be available. If you would like a devotional mailed to you, please contact the office 406-761-1543 or email bethelgf.church@gmail.com .

THIS WEEK

Tuesday 1/26

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast, via Zoom 7:00 am.

Wednesday 1/27

- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 10:00 am
- Confirmation on Zoom 6:30 pm

Thursday 1/28

- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm

Friday 1/29

- Bethel office is closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 2/2

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast, via Zoom 7:00 am.

Wednesday 2/3

- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 10:00 am
- Confirmation on Zoom 6:30 pm

Thursday 2/4

- Executive Board conference call 5:30 pm
- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm

Friday 2/5

- Bethel office is closed.

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Worship Songs: Gather Us In, We Are Marching and You Have Come To The Lake Shore used with permission under One License #A704354.