



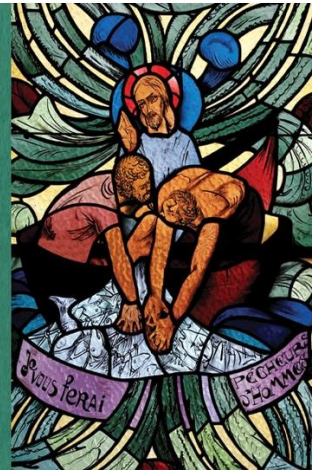
## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 22, 2023

9:30 AM

I will make you  
fish for people

MATTHEW 4:19



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Pastor Jessie Obrecht

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

*Large print bulletins are available, please see the ushers for a copy.*

*As we gather for worship and prepare our hearts, we would ask that you please silence your cell phones for the duration of the service.*

## INTRODUCTION

*Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*ELW 671 Shine, Jesus Shine*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who makes all things new,  
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One, source of our renewal,  
**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,  
and cannot free ourselves.  
We have not practiced your righteousness.  
Our hearts have turned away from you.  
For the sake of the world you so love,  
forgive us,  
that we may be reconciled to one another  
for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass  
and new things I now declare.”

God’s mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior. **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

ELW 154

*Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy; have mercy, O Lord.*

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*ELW 870 We Praise You, O God [1,2,3]*

*1. We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;  
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.*

*2. We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;  
Through trial and tempest our guide you have been.  
When perils o'er-take us, you will not forsake us,  
And with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.*

*3. With voices united our praises we offer and  
Gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.  
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Lord God,  
**your lovingkindness always goes before us  
and follows after us.**  
**Summon us into your light,  
and direct our steps in the ways of goodness  
that come through the cross of your Son,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Bethel Bell Choir

### 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.*

<sup>1</sup>There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] 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 27:1, 4-9**

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my  
life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in  
the temple.**

For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,  
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high  
upon a rock.

**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who  
surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary,  
sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to  
the LORD.**

Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;  
have mercy on me and answer me.

**My heart speaks your message—"Seek my face."  
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

## **SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-18**

*Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.*

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW 172      *Hallelujah*

*Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.*

*Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew the fourth chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:12-23**

*Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.*

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the  
Gentiles—  
the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND SERMON**

Pastor Jessie Obrecht

## HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 798     *The Summons [1,4,5]*

### 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

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

### THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### OFFERING/OFFERTORY

*BOB 65 Give Thanks*

*Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks for the Holy One,*

*Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son,*

*Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks for the Holy One,*

*Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son,*

*And now let the weak say "I am strong."*

*Let the poor say "I am rich"*

*because of what the Lord Has done for us.  
And now let the weak say "I am strong."  
Let the poor say "I am rich"  
because of what the Lord Has done for us.*

*Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks for the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son,  
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks for the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son,  
Give thanks, give thanks.*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. Liberating God,  
**you break the bonds of injustice  
and let the oppressed go free.**  
**Receive these offerings in thanksgiving  
for all your works of merciful power,  
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.**  
**You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,  
Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,...and join their unending hymn:

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

*ELW 525 You Are Holy*

*You are holy, you are whole.  
You are always evermore than we ever understand.  
You are always at hand.  
Blessed are you coming near.  
Blessed are you coming here to your church in wine and bread,  
raised from soil, raised from dead.  
You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present.*



*Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!  
Sing hosanna in the highest!  
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!*

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught us:*

**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.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

*The Lord's Table is open to believers of all Christian traditions. We believe that Christ comes to us in the bread and cup for the forgiveness of sins and new life. Gluten free wafers are available, please let your server know. Choice of red wine and white grape juice offered.*

### **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*BOB 46 Do This In Remembrance of Me  
ELW 465 As the Grains of Wheat  
ELW 466 In the Singing  
LH 232 Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise  
LH 515 Freely, Freely*

### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Holy One,  
**we thank you for the healing  
that springs forth abundantly from this table.  
Renew our strength to do justice,  
love kindness,  
and journey humbly with you. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

The God who faithfully brings forth justice  
and breaks the oppressor's rod  
✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,  
today and always. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*LH 528 Love They Neighbor*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God.**

And all God's children said: **Amen.**

## SERVING TODAY

<b>Accompanist</b>	Mary Seim piano; Rev. Steve Nelson, guitar; Mac Carlson, violin; Sara Graft, djembe
<b>Lay Assistant</b>	Sue Hesse
<b>Usher</b>	Laurie Turner
<b>Tech</b>	Adam Elkin
<b>Children's Church</b>	Allison Marr and Olivia Violett
<b>Counters</b>	Tim Lightbourne and Laurie Turner

**Flowers are given** by Earl Terwilliger in loving memory of Trudy.  
"The year has past but still you are as near and dear as  
yesterday."

Additional arrangement given by Daren and Patty Braget in  
celebration of their grandson Sterling Stubbs' birthday.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today at Bethel** we celebrate Third Sunday of Christmas.

After worship today in our sanctuary is the **Budget Review meeting**, all are welcome.

**Mark your calendars** next Sunday our Annual Meeting will take place after worship in the sanctuary, a quorum is needed for voting. Voting members are asked to attend. All are welcome.

## **THIS WEEK**

### **Tuesday 1/24**

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am.
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

### **Wednesday 1/25**

- Bible Study led by Pastor Jessie on Zoom 10:00 am
- Logos Youth 5:30 pm; High School 6:30 pm

### **Friday 1/27**

- Bethel office closed
- Aitz Chaim Friday worship 6:00 pm

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Sunday 1/29**

- Worship led by Pastor Jessie in-person & live stream 9:30 am
- Jubilate Choir Sings
- Annual Meeting after worship, quorum required for voting

### **Tuesday 1/31**

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am
- Church Council meeting in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm

### **Wednesday 2/1**

- Bible Study led by Pastor Jessie on Zoom 10:00 am
- Logos Youth resumes 5:30 pm; High School 6:30 pm

### **Friday 2/3**

- Bethel office closed
- Aitz Chaim Friday worship 6:00 pm

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