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January 21, 2024

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

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Rev. Ken Bersche

Janis Lapham, Organist  
Maggie Kent, Secretary

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## Prelude

**Processional Hymn** *Please Stand* Music: “All Glory, Laud”, Hymn 442 “O Jesus, King”

- ♪ O Jesus, King of Glory, Both David’s Lord and Son!  
Your realm endures forever, In heav’n is fixed Your throne.  
Help that in earth’s dominions, From pole to farthest pole,  
Your reign may spread salvation To each benighted soul.
- ♪ The eastern sages, kneeling Their richest tributes bring,  
Where witnessing Your glory, They worship You, their King.  
To You the star is pointing The sure prophetic Word;  
So joyously we hail You: Our Savior and our Lord!
- ♪ You are a mighty monarch, As by Your Word is told,  
Yet You care very little For earthly goods or gold;  
You come not proudly riding, You seek no great renown,  
You dwell in no high castle, You wear no jeweled crown.
- ♪ Yet You are decked with beauty, With rays of glorious light;  
Your works proclaim Your goodness, And all Your ways are right.  
O Lord, protect Your people With Your almighty arm  
That they may dwell in safety From those who mean them harm.
- ♪ Oh, look on me with pity Though I am weak and poor;  
Admit me to Your kingdom To dwell there, blest and sure.  
I pray, Lord, guide and keep me Safe from my bitter foes,  
From sin and death and Satan; Free me from all my woes.
- ♪ Then let Your Word within me Shine as the fairest star;  
Your reign of love revealing How wonderful You are.  
Help me confess You truly And with Your Christendom  
Here own Your King and Savior With all the world to come.

Lutheran Worship, Hymn 79; Text Martin Behm 1557-1622; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-78;  
Tune Melchior Teschner, 1583-1635; Public Domain.

## Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*Matthew 28:19b*

**Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**Who made heaven and earth.**

*Psalm 124:8*

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Psalm 32:3*

O Almighty God, merciful Father,

**I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment.**

**But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

*A Time of Silence*

Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn of Praise** *Please Be Seated*

“Softly and Tenderly”

♪ Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, Calling for you and for me;

See on the portals He’s waiting and watching, Watching for you and for me.

~Come home, come home, Ye who are weary, come home;

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, Calling, O sinner, come home!

♪ Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, Pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not His mercies, Mercies for you and for me? ~Come...

♪ Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing, Passing from you and from me;

Shadows are gathering, death’s night is coming, Coming for you and for me. ~Come...

♪ O for the wonderful love He has promised, Promised for you and for me!

Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon, Pardon for you and for me! ~Come....

*The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration, Hymn 326 -Text & Tune: Will L. Thompson 1847-1909;  
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## **Old Testament Reading**

Jonah 3:1–5, 10

<sup>1</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet

forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”<sup>5</sup> And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Epistle**

1 Corinthians 7:29–35

<sup>29</sup>This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, <sup>30</sup>and 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 goods, <sup>31</sup>and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

<sup>32</sup>I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, <sup>34</sup>and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. <sup>35</sup>I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gradual Hymn** *Please Stand*

“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

♪ Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross. Lift high His royal banner;  
It must not suffer loss. From vict’ry unto vict’ry His army He shall lead  
Till ev’ry foe is vanquished, And Christ is Lord indeed.

♪ Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The trumpet call obey; Stand forth in mighty conflict  
In this His glorious day. Let all His faithful serve Him Against unnumbered foes;  
Let courage rise with danger And strength to strength oppose.

♪ Stand up, stand up for Jesus; Stand in His strength alone. The arm of flesh will fail you,  
Ye dare not trust your own. Put on the Gospel armor; Each piece put on with prayer.  
Where duty calls or danger, Be never wanting there.

♪ Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The strife will not be long; This day the din of battle,  
The next the victor’s song. The soldiers, overcoming, Their crown of life shall see  
And with the King of Glory Shall reign eternally.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 660 -Text: George Duffield, Jr. 1818-88; Tune: George J. Webb 1803-87;  
Setting: Service Book and Hymnal 1958; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

## **Holy Gospel**

Mark 1:14–20

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

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

<sup>16</sup>Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make

you become fishers of men.”<sup>18</sup> And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup> And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup> And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **Nicene Creed**

### **Children’s Message** *Please Be Seated*

#### **The Hymn**

“Just As I Am without One Plea”

♪ Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidd’st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

♪ Just as I am and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

♪ Just as I am, though tossed about With many\_a conflict, many\_a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

♪ Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

♪ Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

♪ Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken ev’ry barrier down;  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 570 -Text: Charlotte Elliott 1789-1871; Tune: William B. Bradbury 1816-68;  
Setting: George J. Elvey 1816-93; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

#### **Proclamation of the Word**

“Called to Our Nineveh’s”

Jonah 3:1–5

#### **Offering and Musical Offering**

**Prayer of the Church** *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Arise and shine,

**For our light has come.**

#### **Admonition to Communicants**

#### **Lord’s Prayer**

#### **Words of Our Lord**

#### **The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Be Still, My Soul”

- ♪ Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
Leave to your God to order and provide;  
In ev’ry change He faithful will remain. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav’nly Friend  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.
- ♪ Be still, my soul; your God will undertake To guide the future as He has the past.  
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know  
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.
- ♪ Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart And all is darkened in this vale of tears;  
Then you will better know His love, His heart,  
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears. Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay  
From His own fullness all He takes away.
- ♪ Be still, my soul; the hour is hast’ning on When we shall be forever with the Lord,  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 752-Text: Catharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel 1697-1752, tr. Jane L. Borthwick 1813-97  
Tune: Jean Sibelius 1865-1957, setting: The Hymnbook 1955; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

## Benediction

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*

**Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

- ♪ O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:
- ♪ Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.
- ♪ Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.
- ♪ A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.
- ♪ Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the op’ning day.
- ♪ O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 733-Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748; Tune: William Croft 1678-1727;  
Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

## Postlude