

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Joyfully Following the Light of the World

January 25 & 26, 2020

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

In today's Gospel, Matthew tells us how four of the disciples of the Lord were called. In some ways, Peter and Andrew, James and John were unlikely choices. They were not students of the Scriptures or from the nobility of Jerusalem. But Jesus had plans for them. Immediately they left their nets—and it made all the difference in their lives. Hearing the call of Jesus makes a difference in our lives as well. We, too, may be unlikely choices of our Lord. But He has great plans for each of us as well.

WELCOME

"Great, indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, and taken up in glory."

(1 Timothy 3:16, ESV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN #411 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,

And show me the way to the Father.

In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart Lord Jesus.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus.

In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.

People: **The heavens declare His righteousness, for God Himself is judge!**

Pastor: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the
Most High,

People: **and call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now make confession of our sins to our gracious heavenly Father.

People: **Eternal God, we confess that by nature we are sinful people. We have transgressed your Law in many ways, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not always been good friends, faithful neighbors, or caring family members. Our motives and thoughts have not always been pure. We deserve your punishment now and for eternity. O God, in your mercy forgive our sin and restore us to a full and joyful relationship with you through the merits of Jesus, our Lord. Direct our days by your Holy Spirit, that we joyfully follow your will and gladly obey your commandments as your redeemed people.**

Pastor: 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. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Be at peace.

People: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE #803 "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!

Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountainhead of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, you sent your Son, the Word made flesh, to call us to yourself. In response to His call, those He summoned as His disciples followed Him. By the working of the Holy Spirit, help us to hear His call, to believe in Him, and to follow where He leads, through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 9:1–4* (A great light is seen by those in darkness.) But there will be no gloom for her who was 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 has made 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 dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 1:10–18* (Paul makes an appeal for unity.)

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." Is Christ 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 may 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 preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

STUDENTS SING SCHOOL THEME SONG "Be Joyful Always"

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 4:12–25* (Jesus calls four of His disciples in Galilee.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." While walking 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 fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and

proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #399 "The Star Proclaims the King is Here"

The star proclaims the King is here; But, Herod, why this senseless fear?
For He who offers heav'nly birth Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.

The eastern sages, saw from far And followed on His guiding star;
And, led by light, to light they trod And by their gifts confessed their God.

Within the Jordan's sacred flood The heav'nly Lamb in meekness stood
That He, of whom no sin was known, Might cleanse His people from their own.

And oh, what miracle divine, When water reddened into wine!
He spoke the word, and forth it flowed In streams that nature ne'er bestowed.

For this Thy glad epiphany All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,
Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit evermore.

SERMON "Two Words That Will Change Your Life"

(Rise)

APOSTLES' CREED

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.

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: In the light of Christ and with an increase in joy, let us pray to the Lord on behalf of His Church and all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

Pastor: Lord of Light, bless your people that the light of your love and grace may continue to shine among us through the joyful preaching of the Gospel and living out the faith in our daily lives.

People: Shine your light through us into the darkness of unbelief that still holds people captive to sin and its death.

Pastor: Lord of the Church, bless the one holy Christian and Apostolic Church around the world to enjoy unity of doctrine and a spirit of harmony in the work that God has given her to do.

People: Prosper this work by raising up faithful pastors, missionaries, and church workers.

Pastor: Bless St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School to be strengthened through the preaching of the Gospel and the teaching of your holy Word.

People: Bless those who hear the truth to believe it, to follow in your ways, and confirm them in His holy faith and fear all their days.

Pastor: God of every blessing, we give thanks for St. Paul's Lutheran School and all the educational institutions of our church during this National Lutheran Schools week. We praise you for our students growing in Christ day by day and for teachers who teach and serve them.

People: Bless every Christian to learn more of God's Word and bless parents to teach the faith to their own families and children, and that each may be bold in telling the Good News of Jesus Christ to others.

Pastor: Lord of the nations, we pray for peace in our own nations and peace among the nations. Bless us with the gift of good and faithful leaders in our land, justice may be served in every place.

People: Lead each of us in ways that are a blessing for the good of all people and move us all to speak up for the protection of the unborn and the weak.

Pastor: God of healing and compassion, we ask for healing, comfort and peace to the sick in their afflictions, especially Barb, Carol, Sydney, Diane, Dorothy, June, John, Arlene, Jerry, Judi, Nancy, Robert, Russ, Steve, Sharon, Bette, Nathan, Shirley, Cindy, Bill, Katie, Sarah, Gladys, Shirley and Sarah.

People: Grant them all to know the comfort of your abiding presence and give them patience and perseverance in every trial.

Pastor: God of hope, we pray for all those who mourn the passing of loved ones and remember those who have departed this life. We pray especially for the Gallatin family and others who need your comfort and peace.

People: Bless us to support them in this time and give to them hope in Christ who has conquered both sin and death.

Pastor: Lord of life, we give you thanks for life and all its blessings. We especially rejoice with John and Lois as they celebrate 67 years of life together as husband and wife.

People: For those who do not have the blessing of close family ties, grant those who are lonely to find welcome within the fellowship of God's people.

Pastor: Lord of our salvation, we pray for all those who come to the table of the Lord that they may come in faith and repentance to be both forgiven and renewed.

People: By this communion of Christ's body and blood, strengthen our faith and equip us for the good works that show forth our faith in the world.

Pastor: Lord of all, we acknowledge that all we call our own truly comes from your hand, and so we offer the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving with our lips and lives.

People: Receive also the tithes and offerings of our hands, in gratitude for your saving work and all blessings.

Pastor: Everlasting Father, you are the source of all life. Help us to treasure life as a precious gift from your hand, care for all people, and rejoice that you have given your only Son to redeem us, lost and condemned sinners. Hear us, we pray, on behalf of Him who gave His life for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 blessing of almighty God—the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit—be with you, now and forever.

People: Amen.

HYMN #805 "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Preacher

Pastor Noah Kegley

Liturgist

Pastor Harold Bender

Children's Message

School Staff

Lectors

School Staff

Acolytes

Logan Rauter, Brooklyn Hoffman

Director of Parish Music

Michelle Prince