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Worship
Third Sunday After Epiphany
January 22, 2023

GATHERING

Greeting and Announcements
Preparation for Worship

CALL TO WORSHIP

P The invitation is given to every person by Jesus Christ:
"Come to me! Follow me! Be my disciples!"

**C We come to this place, to this time,
at the invitation of Jesus Christ.**

P In the name of Christ,

C we accept the invitation to discipleship.

P In the name of Christ,

C as his disciples, we worship and praise God.

P In the midst of a world where cruelty abounds,

C we proclaim the God of Compassion.

P In the midst of despair that threatens to swallow up
whole lives, whole peoples,

C we proclaim the God of Hope.

P In the midst of indifference and apathy,

C we proclaim the God of Love.

P Come, let us worship together
and share our witness of God's living presence in the world.

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable.

GATHERING HYMN – "I Love to Tell the Story" ELW 661

**1 I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.**

Refrain

*I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.*

**2 I love to tell the story:
how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy word. *Refrain***

**3 I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long. *Refrain***

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy One, source of our renewal,
C 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.

P 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.
C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray:
C 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.

You may be seated

THE WORD

First Reading – Isaiah 9:1-4

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Response: 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

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

Gospel Acclamation –

Alleluia.* Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom and cured every sickness among the people. *Alleluia.

P The holy Gospel according to Matthew,

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 4:12-23

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated

Sermon

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

HYMN OF THE DAY – “Will You Come and Follow Me” ELW 798 (vs 1,2,4,5)

- 1 "Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

- 2 "Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?

- 4 "Will you love the you you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?"

- 5 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

P We affirm our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C 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.

You may be seated

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

P Make your church one in purpose, proclaiming the message of the cross. Help us to work together across differences. Energize ecumenical partnerships, including the World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

P We rejoice at the bounty of your creation. Fill the land and sea with your abundance. Bless harvests in the southern hemisphere and fallow fields in the northern hemisphere. Equip farmers to till and keep the earth sustainably. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

P In Christ your reign comes near and calls all to repentance. Break the rod of the oppressor in every nation. Dispel the shadow of death in places of war and persecution. Grant us leaders who lift the yokes that burden those in need. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

P Be a stronghold for those in trouble and a rock for all who are afraid. Rouse communities to care for neighbors who need shelter, are facing maltreatment, or are isolated and lonely. Especially we pray for our loved ones; Tom, Beth, Judy, Gloria, Jack, Mike, Martha, Brian, Darlene, Don, and Barbara. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

P Sustain the ministries of this congregation and all churches in this community. Nurture each congregation's unique witness to your presence; foster mutual respect; inspire our cooperation in loving our neighbors. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

P What else do the people of God want to lift up to God this day?.....
Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P We praise you for the faithful who have gone ahead of us, both famous and unknown. Help us to leave our nets and follow, and bring us with them to the fullness of your promise of eternal life. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

P We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

THE MEAL

OFFERING HYMN – “Jesus, Come! For We Invite You” ELW 312 (vs 1,3,4)

**Jesus, come! for we invite you,
guest and master, friend and Lord;
now, as once at Cana's wedding,
speak and let us hear your word:
lead us through our need or doubting,
hope be born and joy restored.**

**Jesus, come! in new creation,
heav'n brought near by pow'r divine;
give your unexpected glory,
changing water into wine:
rouse the faith of your disciples—
come, our first and greatest Sign!**

**Jesus, come! surprise our dullness,
make us willing to receive
more than we can yet imagine,
all the best you have to give:
let us find your hidden riches,
taste your love, believe, and live!**

Text: Christopher Idle, b. 1938

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OFFERTORY – “Make Me a Servant”

**Make me a servant, humble and meek.
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be;
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.**

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C 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

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy” (Haugen)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, Heaven and earth are full of you glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P Remembering, therefore, his death, his resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

P Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C Amen, amen, amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C 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.

COMMUNION INVITATION

P Come and taste the joy of God!

You may be seated

COMMUNION HYMN

Kristan

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

C 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.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

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

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN – “Christ, Be Our Light” ELW 715 (vs 1,3,5)

- 1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.**

Refrain

***Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.***

- 3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *Refrain***

- 5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain***

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

DISMISSAL

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

**Bethany’s Mission Statement –
Accepting
Serving
Loving . . .
We Share God’s Embrace**

Accompanist: Kristan Youn

Today’s Assistants: Lector: Colette Toronto
Communion: Jack Stieg & Kim Hepola
Ushers: Colette Toronto