

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
229 South Broad Street
Jersey Shore, PA 17740
570-398-1676

Sunday, January 21, 2024
3rd Sunday after Epiphany



Children's Church will meet upstairs in the youth Sunday School room at end of the hallway at 9:30 a.m. Please take your child there before worship begins.

Introduction to the day

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.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prelude

The assembly stands

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,

we pour out our hearts before you.

We have known you but have not always loved you.

**We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.**

Remember your covenant.

Renew your creation.

Restore us,

that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: *I Love to Tell the Story* 696

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also, with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE *This Little Light of Mine* 673

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

L: A reading from Jonah

FIRST READING: *Jonah 3:1-5, 10*

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Let us read responsively by verse the Psalm.

Psalm : Psalm 62:5-12

⁵For God alone I wait in silence;
truly, my hope is in God.

**⁶God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor;
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

**⁸Put your trust in God always, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

⁹Those 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.

**¹⁰Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.

**¹²Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,
for you repay all according to their deeds.**

L: A reading from First Corinthians

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and 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 possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

Gospel Acclamation p.205

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.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Mark the first chapter.

C: 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.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net

into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* 815

THE APOSTLES' CREED p. 105 *in the front of the hymnal*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them (*as the martyr, Agnes, ministered to victims of sexual abuse*). Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain (*especially*). God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us.

When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who heals, we give thanks for the work and ministry of Global Health Ministries. They offer medical supplies and accompany indigenous peoples in 14 countries, particularly in the continent of Africa. Guide them in their care and may their shipments of much needed medical equipment and supplies be distributed in a fair and equitable fashion. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you welcome them into your care. Comfort those who grieve, even as we place our hope in your salvation. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM *Wonderful Light*

A TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Blessed are you, Holy One,

for all good things come from you.

In bread and cup you open heaven to us.

Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek

and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *P.206 (in the beginning of the hymnal)*

Dialogue

Preface by the Pastor

Holy Holy Holy p. 207

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

THE LORD'S PRAYER *P 145 (in the beginning of the hymnal)*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.

Come and see.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond **Amen.**

Communion Song *Lamb of God p. 208*

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

(repeat twice)

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,

Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *O Jesus I Have Promised* 810

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C: Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL BRUNCH AND MEETING IN SOCIAL ROOM

Announcements

We welcome our visitors and ask that you sign a Visitor Attendance and Holy Communion Card that is located in the pew rack. We ask that cards be returned via the offering plate during the receiving of the offering. We practice "open Communion" here at St. John meaning that all who believe in the "real presence" of Christ are welcomed to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We offer two choices for Holy Communion, wine or grape juice. Those worshipers desiring grape juice are asked at the communion rail to place their right hand over their heart after receiving "The Body of Christ."

Remember in prayer: Rowan Aldridge, Jim Allen, Connie Barker, Christine and Dave Barner, Agnes Cryder, Don Delaney, Helen Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Joanne Fisher, Dawn Fryer, Margaret Gohl, Dawn Hauser, Dean Hoffman, Myrtle Long, Cabe and Cambell McCracken and their parents Crae and Megan, Mick Miller, Penny Parks-Dean, Cora Pelletier, and all of our shut-ins.

We also remember in prayer Family Promise; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Rev. Michael Burk Presiding Bishop Pro Temp --ELCA; Bishop Craig A. Miller - USS; for our Companion Synods in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany, and for peace in Ukraine and Israel.

We pray for the safety of our military troops around the world including Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jade Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Trevor and Nehemiah Eberhart, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O'Neal, Adam Shaffer, Jeremy and Haley Naugle Sorrell, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Kevin Titus, and Jenna White.

We also lift up in prayer their families who strive to keep a normalcy in the family and continue on often with added stress.

Special thanks to this week's helpers: Lector –Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers--Gary Johnson, Karen Aucker; Head Usher –Christine Barner; Teller–Shane Snyder; Bulletin Sponsor-- Auckers; Children's Church --Cathy Eisner.

Next weeks' helpers: Lector –Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers -- Bill Ely; Head Usher – Christine Barner; Teller–Shane Snyder; Bulletin Sponsor-- Auckers; Children's Church--Holly Dittmar; Flowers -- .

The flowers are to the glory of God.

The Sanctuary Candle in January is in memory of my husband Robert Cryder by Agnes Cryder.

The Lutheran Church Women's **Prayer Chain** is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran. Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons

Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597 Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852.

The Women of the Church wants to determine if there would be any interest in again doing a **Secret Sister exchange**. As last time you would give your secret sister a small inexpensive gift every month and then at the end of the year we would have a little get together for the reveal. You will fill out a questionnaire and we will exchange the forms. Please give Carol Yost or Theresa Levins a call or text if you are interested, and we will plan a get together to do the exchange. Carol Yost 570-295-6335 or Theresa Levins 302-222-8594.

Youth desiring to go to Camp Mt. Luther for the annual Grow in the Snow Synod Youth Event March 15-16, see Pastor Aucker to register. This is for Middle School and High School Youth. **Registration deadline is February 4.**

Pastor and Mrs. Aucker will be on vacation Wednesday, January 24 to Tuesday, January 30, 2024.

Pastoral needs will be covered by Pastor Shumway 570-295-5958

Calendar

Sunday, January 21, 2024 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Children's Church

10:30 Congregational Meeting and Brunch

Monday, January 22, 2024

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

6:30 p.m. choir

Sunday, January 28, 2024 4th Sunday after Epiphany

8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service Hymn Sing

1:00 p.m. Nippenose Worship

2:00 p.m. Catechism Worksheet

JUST A FEW WORDS AND EVERYONE CHANGES!



OH, JONAH DOESN'T WANT TO BE THERE.



BUT HE'S *SO* SUCCESSFUL!



YES, AND HE'LL RESENT THAT SUCCESS AND GOD'S MERCY.



THAT'S A LITTLE FISHY.



NO, IT'S A BIG FISHY.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

JONAH 3:1-5, 10