

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Jesus' call is effective and immediate

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH | Lodi, California

January 24, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness given to us. If you would like to learn more about our church, please speak with our pastor or one of our members after the service.

- **Bathrooms** are located in the fellowship hall. A changing table is located in the women's bathroom.

WORSHIP THEME

Jesus shows his glory in the kind of people that he calls to serve him and in using the gospel to make them willing to follow him. God calls one and all to repent and believe the good news. That time is now. Jesus still calls select individuals into the ministry. To all however comes the call to follow him with a willingness to abandon everything should faithfulness require it; the calls in these readings bid us have a mindset that has forsaken everything, even when we are not required to do it.

OPENING HYMN

Jesus Calls Us O're the Tumult | CW 463



1 Je - sus calls us o'er the tu - mult Of our
2 As the first dis - ci - ples heard it By the
3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship Of the
4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, Days of
5 Je - sus calls us! In your mer - cy, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea; Day by day his voice in -
Gal - i - le - an lake, Turned from home and toil and
vain world's gold - en store, From each i - dol that would
toil and hours of ease, Still he calls, in cares and
help us hear your call; Give our hearts to your o -



vites us, Say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me!"
kin - dred, Leav - ing all for his dear sake.
keep us, Say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
be - dience, Serve and love you best of all!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt.
Tune: STUTTGART (87 87) Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716, alt.

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

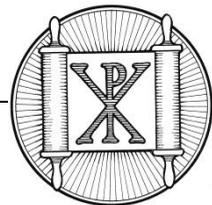
M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The Service of the Word

Having just received absolution for their sins, believers now gather around the Word of God to find encouragement and peace for their lives on earth.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow him wherever he leads.

C: Amen

DEDICATION OF PULPIT

M: We dedicate this pulpit in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. Blessed are you, Lord Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. You stepped into Simon Peter's boat and, anking your pulpit, taught the crowds. Richly bless us with your favor as your saving and merciful Word is proclaimed from this place. Give us faithful pastors to preach your Word with power. Help all who hear the Word to understand it rightly and truly believe it. As you blessed Peter with the catch of fish and called him to be a fisher of men, bless the rpeaching of your Word, that many may be brought to repentance and faith in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

FIRST LESSON

Jonah 3:1–5, 10

God makes a habit of calling the unfit and the unworthy! He does it to magnify the power of the gospel and show that salvation can only be a gift of God. There is no other more unfit than Jonah. There is no other city that deserved destruction than Nineveh. But God called both. The time to repent is now.

3 The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ²“Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach the message that I tell you.” ³Jonah got up and went to Nineveh according to the LORD's command.

Now Nineveh was an extremely great city, ⁴a three-day walk. ⁴Jonah set out on the first day of his walk in the city and proclaimed, “In forty days Nineveh will be demolished!” ⁵Then the people of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth—from the greatest of them to the least.

¹⁰God saw their actions—that they had turned from their evil ways—so God relented from the disaster he had threatened them with. And he did not do it.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 62, page 88

*The **Collect** (also known as the “Prayer of the Day”) is a concise prayer which “collects” the thoughts of the day and presents them to God in his mercy. Many of these prayers have been in use in the church for more than 1,500 years.*

Refrain



The might-y Lord is with us; the God of Ja-cob is our for-tress.

Psalm tone



My soul finds rest in | God alone;*
my salvation | comes from him.

He alone is my rock and my sal- | vation;*
he is my fortress, I will never be | shaken.

Find rest, O my soul, in | God alone;*
my hope | comes from him.

Refrain

Though your rich- | es increase,*
do not set your | heart on them.

My salvation and my honor de- | pend on God;*
he is my mighty rock, my | refuge.

Trust in him at all times, O | people;*
pour out your hearts to him, for God is our | refuge.

*Glory be to the Father and | to the Son**
and to the Holy | Spirit,
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 7:29–31

Paul urges the Corinthians that the time to repent is now.

²⁹This is what I mean, brothers and sisters: The time is limited, so from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none, ³⁰those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as

though they didn't own anything,³¹ and those who use the world as though they did not make full use of it. For this world in its current form is passing away.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 4:23

Alleluia. Alleluia. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching, preaching, and healing every disease. Alleluia

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:14–20

If God could not keep John out of prison, why would anyone want to follow him? Why haven't John's disciples become bitter or cynical? Jesus for his part could have made, humanly speaking, better choices in his disciples than these. Ah, but there it is again: the hidden glory of the Savior is manifest in a call strong enough to overcome despair and cynicism in the ones called, and strong enough to accomplish the work of God on earth through these outwardly frail and inept workmen.

¹⁴ After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee, proclaiming the good news^{[a][b]} of God: ¹⁵“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

¹⁶ As he passed alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew, Simon's brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷“Follow me,” Jesus told them, “and I will make you fish for^[c] people.” ¹⁸ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ Going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat putting their nets in order. ²⁰ Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

O God from God, O Light from Light | CW 85



1 O God from God, O Light from Light, O Prince of
 2 Deep in the proph-ets' sa-cred page, Grand in the
 3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death of
 4 Sing to the Lord a might-y song; Sing to his



Peace and King of kings, To you in heav-en's
 po-ets' wing-ed word, Slow-ly, in type, from
 pain mid hate and scorn—These all are past, and
 name, his glo-ries tell! Sing, heav'n-ly hosts, your



glo-ry bright The song of praise for-ev-er rings.
 age to age The na-tions saw their com-ing Lord;
 now a-bove He reigns, our King once crowned with thorn.
 praise pro-long, And all on earth, your an-them swell!



To him who sits up-on the throne, The Lamb once
 Till through the deep Ju-de-an night Rang out the
 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates! So sang the
 Wor-thy the Lamb for sin-ners slain! For-ev-er



slain but raised a-gain, Be all the glo-ry
 song, "Good will to men!" Sung by heav'n's hosts in
 an-gel hosts a-gain. Lift up your heads—your
 let the song as-cend! Wor-thy the Lamb en-



he has won, All thanks and praise! A-men, A-men.
 splen-dor bright, Re-ech-oed now, "Good will!" A-men.
 King a-waits. We lift them up, A-men, A-men.
 throned to reign; Glo-ry and pow'r! A-men, A-men.

Text: John Julian, 1839–1913, abr., alt.

Tune: O GROSSER GOTT (LM D) *Johann Störks . . . Schlag-Gesang-Und Noten-Buch*, Stuttgart, 1744.

God Works Through Those He Has Called

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

2 Cor. 6:18

Is. 51:13

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

1 Cor. 8:6; Jn. 3:18

Lk. 1:35

**born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

Lk. 1:34; 2:7

Lk. 23:16

**was crucified, died,
and was buried.**

Mt. 27:32-61; Mk 15:21-47

Lk. 23:26-56; Jn. 19:16b-42

He descended into hell.

1 Pet. 3:19

The third day he rose again from the dead.

1 Cor. 15:4b

He ascended into heaven

Ac. 2:33-34

**and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty.**

Heb. 1:13

**From there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

Mt. 25:31

2 Tim. 4:1

**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.**

Mt. 3:16-17

Eph. 5:23

Eph. 4:3-6

Rom. 4:6-8

1 Cor. 15:13-19

1 Th. 4:17

*Upon bearing the Word preached, the congregation unites in one voice to speak a summary of the Christian faith that **all Christians profess.** The creeds signify our allegiance to the Christian faith and unite us with over 2,000 years of Christian history. By repeating the creeds weekly, we equip ourselves for public witness by grounding our confession in the fundamentals of*

OFFERING

Of all the gifts God gives to us, forgiveness in Jesus Christ is the most precious. No gift we could give back to God for what he did through his Son Jesus Christ could ever balance the debt we owe for what our Lord accomplished for us on the cross. Yet Jesus says the debt we owe has been canceled, that means that we do not give out of obligation but as an act of worship and thanks to God. The offerings of the members of Christ Lutheran are gathered at this time. Guests need not feel obligated to give an offering.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord God, you created the heavens and the earth.

C: Every animal of the forest is yours as well as the cattle on a thousand hills.

M: Lord, from your hand come boundless blessings.

C: We thank you, Lord, for making us your stewards. We pray that you will grant us faith so we can please you in our stewardship.

M: Lord, help us to see the time, the talents, and the financial resources we have are a sacred trust from you.

C: We ask for your help, Lord, to use all our resources in worthwhile activities that will give you honor and praise.

M: Lord, help us to spend time in your Word and in prayer that you might nourish the faith you give us.

C: Please change us, Lord, from fear and selfishness to trust and generosity.

Special prayers and petitions may be offered here.

M: Help us, Lord, to be wise and fruitful stewards of the opportunities that you give us to use our gifts.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

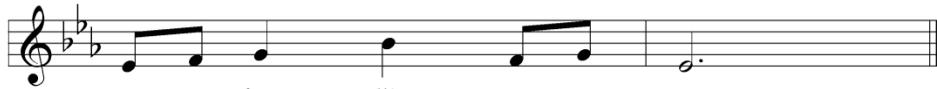
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

O Christ, Who Called The Twelve | CWS 770



bound in heart and will to you, Find
 teach - er, be for all who seek Their
 love in - forms and hope sus - tains Both
 hymns a sac - ri - fice of praise, Our



per - fect lib - er - ty.
 light, their life, their Lord.
 life and min - is - try.
 lives an of - fer - ing.

This hymn leads us to consider the cost of discipleship and to pray for Jesus' guidance and strength to fulfill his will.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007 © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: TERRA BEATA (66 86 66 86) English; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930

PRAYER

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BLESSING

Numbers 6:22-27

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

*The **blessing** of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So I will put my name on them, and I will bless them."*



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

Praise to You and Adoration | CW 470



1 Praise to you and ad - o - ra - tion, Bless - ed Je - sus,
2 Hold me ev - er in your keep - ing; Com - fort me in



Son of God, Who, to serve your own cre - a - tion,
pain and strife. In my laugh - ter and my weep - ing



Came to share our flesh and blood. Guide me that I
Be with me through - out my life. Give me great - er



nev - er may From your fold or pas - tures stray,
love for you, And my faith and hope re - new



But with zeal and joy ex - ceed - ing
In your birth, your life, and pas - sion,



Fol - low where your steps are lead - ing.
In your death and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1643–1703; tr. composite.

Tune: FREU DICH SEHR (87 87 77 88) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551.

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The Common Service: Texts revised from The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941. Music revised by James Engel.

Scripture Quotations: From the Holy Bible, New International Version (NIV 1984), © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.

God's Word for Today

Is God calling you today to sell everything you have, give it away, and move to a foreign country to be a penniless missionary? His Word does not say that. God does call some people to public ministry. He sends some far from home. He gives some of his ministers hard assignments. Note: He calls all believers by our baptisms to be ready to leave anything for him. He left everything for us. He gave his holy life for us.

Gospel (Mark 1:14-20)

1. When did Jesus go into Galilee? What difference does this make?
2. What message did Jesus proclaim?
3. Did Jesus preach his message of repentance by himself?
4. If Jesus has not called you to public ministry, what is God teaching you by this story?

1. Jesus went into Galilee after John the Baptist was put in prison. Think how ironic Jesus' call to his first disciples was in that case, since these first followers had followed John formerly. If God seemingly could not keep John out of Herod's prison, what would happen to Jesus? What would come from them following Jesus? They should not expect ease and enjoyment.

2. Jesus preached: "Repent and believe the good news." (Here Jesus uses the word "repent" in a specific, narrow way, referring to sorrow over sin and admitting to God how bad it is and all the punishment it deserves.)

3. Jesus did not preach repentance by himself. He began to call his disciples to proclaim that message, too. What faith the Holy Spirit gave them: They dropped everything and followed Jesus.



Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

My Personal Spiritual Growth Time and Talents – 2021

“*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*” These regular Bible study opportunities are how the Lord equips and gives us Strength to serve him in thankfulness with our time and talents.

- Tuesday Women’s Bible Study (Every Tuesday at 6:00 pm)
- Wednesday Online Video upload (15 minute video on Rumble)
- Thursday Evening Worship at 7:00 pm
- Saturday Men’s Breakfast Bible Study (*Saturdays, 7am at Church*)

List any bible study topics you would like to study:
