

## Antecommunion Service: January 21, 2024: Epiphany 3B

*Celebrant:* Blessed are you, holy and living One.

*People:* **You come to your people and set them free.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A moment of silence for self-reflection*

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

**God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

**Canticle      A Song of God's Love    1 John 4:7-11**

Beloved, let us love one another, \*

**for love is of God.**

Whoever does not love does not know God, \*

**for God is Love.**

In this the love of God was revealed among us, \*

**that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through Jesus Christ.**

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us \*

**and sent his Son to show us how to love.**

Beloved, since God loved us so much, \*

**we ought also to love one another.**

For if we love one another, God abides in us, \*

**and God's love will be perfected in us.**

Let us pray together: **Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his love, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**First Reading                      Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So 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. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 62:6-14**      *Nonne Deo?*

6 For God alone my soul in silence waits; \*

**truly, my hope is in him.**

7 He alone is my rock and my salvation, \*

**my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.**

8 In God is my safety and my honor; \*

**God is my strong rock and my refuge.**

9 Put your trust in him always, O people, \*

**pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.**

10 Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath, \*

**even those of low estate cannot be trusted.**

11 On the scales they are lighter than a breath, \*

**all of them together.**

12 Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; \*

**though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

13 God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, \*

**that power belongs to God.**

14 Steadfast love is yours, O Lord, \*

**for you repay everyone according to his deeds.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.**

**Second Reading**

**1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, 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 possessions, 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel**

**Mark 1:14-20**

*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying,

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.”

And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**  
**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**  
**He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**  
**He will come again 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. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church,  
those in need, and all of God's creation. In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *Silence*

For this community, the nation, and the world;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For the peace and unity of the world;

**That a spirit of respect may grow among nations and peoples.**

For all who love and trust in God, that divisions may cease;

**And that all may be one, as you and the Father are one.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**That we may treat your creation with the love of the Creator.**

We honor and pray for our Indigenous neighbors.

**That we may dwell together in respectful harmony.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence.* Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *Silence.*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. *Silence.*

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them.

**May they rest in your peace eternally.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray together:

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

We pray together for Christ's presence:

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the bread and wine.  
I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you  
and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* While we long to receive the sacrament of Christ's Body,

*People:* **We become the sacrament of Christ's Body.**

*Celebrant:* Let your lives be manna to feed our hunger for communion.

*People:* **The love we share becomes bread for the world.**

**Blessing** May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and joy; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be in you, among you, and remain with you always.

**Dismissal** Go in peace and hope and joy to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**