

Epiphany 3



In our Gospel we hear Matthew share with us the reoccurring theme of how Jesus would invite people to follow, either by word, deed, or both, and they almost immediately responded. There must have been great power involved with the Light of the World who came to bring the message of the Kingdom of God to all those who would listen.

That call is our call as well. Yet in our day and age, not everyone is all that eager to

begin the process of following Jesus and doing all that is required of a disciple. We have other things we can be distracted with, and we easily allow them to take over our lives. We have ready made excuses how we aren't able to follow Him. It goes with the time we live in.

This moment marks the transition to the actual work Jesus would be all about for the balance of His earthly ministry. Heading toward Capernaum, Jesus would stroll the seashore for those who would answer the irresistible call. What we do not hear about in Scripture are the countless numbers of those who heard the invitation and let it pass. We know they were there, and we know that they were unwilling to count the cost to follow Jesus.

That call Jesus gives to the fishermen, is our call today as well. What are we doing with it?

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

GATHERING PRAYER

Jesus, you come among us to invite us all to leave the darkness behind and follow you into the light of God's eternal Kingdom. Grant us your Holy Spirit's power to see through our resistance and begin to live daily in your Kingdom promises, so that by our words and deeds, others might find a path to you. In your name we pray this day, Amen.

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME

Pre-Service Music
Welcome and Announcements

CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

As we celebrate this Epiphany season, we are reminded of the revelation of Jesus Christ to the entire world through a variety of methods and many people. In our time and place, we forget what Christ has done for us, and at times, we lose our way and pick really terrible alternatives. Recognizing this weakness in our spirit, we pause to offer our confession this day:

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by the things we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake, and by His promise, forgives us all our sin. Therefore on His behalf, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go and sin no more, that the rest of your life might be pure and holy and modeled after our Lord Jesus in all we say and all we do, we pray in His Holy Name, Amen.

HYMN 456 In the Garden 1+3

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison): **Lord God, your loving kindness 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.**

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

“How Great Thou Art”

Dean Carson

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:1-4

New Living Translation (NLT)

Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever. The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory.

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine. You will enlarge the nation of Israel, and its people will rejoice. They will rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest and like warriors dividing the plunder. For you will break the yoke of their slavery and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders. You will break the oppressor’s rod, just as you did when you destroyed the army of Midian.

THE SECOND LESSON :1 Corinthians 1:10-18

New Living Translation (NLT)

I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. For some members of Chloe’s household have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters. Some of you are saying, “I am a follower of Paul.” Others are saying, “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Peter,” or “I follow only Christ.”

Has Christ been divided into factions? Was I, Paul, crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not! I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, for now no one can say they were baptized in my name. (Oh yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas, but I don’t remember baptizing anyone else.) For Christ didn’t send me to baptize, but to preach the Good News—and not with clever speech, for fear that the cross of Christ would lose its power.

The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.

Hymn 237 This is My Father’s World 1+3

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

New Living Translation (NLT)

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he left Judea and returned to Galilee. He went first to Nazareth, then left there and moved to Capernaum, beside the Sea of Galilee, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. This fulfilled what God said through the prophet Isaiah:

“In the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali, beside the sea, beyond the Jordan River, in Galilee where so many Gentiles live, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow, a light has shined.” From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” And they left their nets at once and followed him.

A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And he called them to come, too. They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind.

Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness.

The Gospel of our Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

SERMON “The Irresistible Call”

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

SERMON HYMN: 460 What a Friend We Have in Jesus 1+3

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: 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 into hell. 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERING:

After the consecration of the Offering, we will sing the Doxology:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

-PRAYERS OF PRAISE, WORDS OF INSTITUTION, LORD'S PRAYER

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE COMMUNION BLESSING

HYMN 446 O Jesus, I Have Promised 1+4

THE BENEDICTION & THE DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. **Thanks be to God**

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WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN! Thank you for joining us as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are happy you are here! Please take a moment to turn your Cell Phone or other devices to mute, so they do not go off during the service and become disruptive. We appreciate your help to this regard. And thanks again for being here with us this morning!

IN OUR PRAYERS: We take time during our service to offer petitions for the prayer needs of ourselves, our families, our friends, and the world. Please give those requests to Pastor at the beginning portion of the service so they can be included in our prayers during worship today.

THE 2017 OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING will be held immediately following worship this morning. You are invited to stay to enjoy a relatively short meeting. More information will be announced this morning.

Our Savior Lutheran Church

January 22nd, 2017

OUR NEXT BIBLE STUDY will be held this week on Wednesday, January 25, 2017, at 10:00 AM. Please take the time to join us as we dig further into the Word of God.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, LCMC

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Worship Time: Sunday 10 A.M.

Bible Study Twice Monthly, Wednesdays at 10:00 AM

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