

Church of the Divine Love
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
JANUARY 21, 2024 10:15 AM
HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (sung) page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

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

Psalm 62:6-14

Second Lesson: **1 Corinthians 7:9-31**

Gradual Hymn #

Gospel: **Mark 1:14-20**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze (printed on insert)

The Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn #

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer B	page 367
Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	page 367
Hymn during Consecration printed on insert	
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn #	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn #	
Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday January 21, 2024

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:6-14; 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31; Mark 1: 14-20

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

It is a profound joy to gather here today to reflect upon the word of God and draw inspiration from the sacred Scriptures. As we delve into the Gospel according to Mark, specifically Mark 1:14-20, Jesus said to them, "Follow me." I wonder what that looks like and means for your life today.

Simon and Andrew were casting a net into the sea when they heard those words, and they "left their nets and followed him." James and John were in a boat with their father Zebedee mending the nets. They got out of the boat, "left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him. "They left their nets, their boats, their father. "Follow me," isn't only about going somewhere, it's also about leaving behind. That's the hard part for most of us. We're pretty good at accumulating and clinging but not so good at letting go. More often than not, however, growth involves some kind of letting go. We accept Jesus' invitation to follow, not by packing up, but by letting go.

We can never get to a new place in life unless we are willing to leave where we are. We can never hold anything new or different unless we're willing to drop what's already in our hands. That means letting go of our nets, getting out of our boats, and walking away from old man Zebedee. Let's not literalize the nets, boats, or Zebedee. They are symbols and images descriptive of our lives and they hold a key to the "follow me" moments of our lives. What are the nets in your life? What things or relationships are trapping and entangling you today? What patterns, habits, or beliefs have snared and captured you? What nets do you need to leave behind today and what would that take?

Sometimes the "follow me" moments of life take us to the paradise of Heaven, but not always. Sometimes they take us to places we never wanted to go or to circumstances we never wanted to face. Sometimes they set before us the sublime and other times they reveal the ways in which our lives have become disfigured. Sometimes they are public moments for everyone to see and other times they are moments known only to God and us. Each of these moments, in whatever form they come, can take us more deeply into ourselves and more fully into our lives, and ultimately connect us with the holy. The "follow me" moments of life are less about where we are going or what we are doing, and more about who we are becoming. They touch us deeply and speak to our heart. So much so that Simon and Andrew were willing to drop their nets and walk away, and James and John were willing to get out of the boat and leave their father Zebedee. How crazy is that? What are the moments in your life that have touched you so deeply and spoken so directly to your heart that you couldn't do anything but get up and go? You had to follow that calling. It was real and authentic for you and your life.

These moments are not once in a life time opportunities. They present themselves again throughout our lives. "Follow me" is the ever present and ongoing call of Jesus to every one of us. So let me ask you this. What is the "follow me" moment for you today, right now, in the current circumstances of your life? "Follow me" moments seem to have a common thread. They ask us to let go, to leave behind, to walk away. Isn't that what Simon and Andrew and James and John did? We never get anywhere new unless we are willing to leave where we are. We can never hold anything different unless we're willing to drop what's already in our hands. That means letting go of our nets, getting out of our boats, and walking away from old man Zebedee. We may not fish for a living but we know about casting and mending nets. Days that all seem the same. One looks like another. Life is routine, lived on autopilot. Nothing changes. We don't expect much to happen. This is our life. We cast the nets. We mend the nets. Casting and mending to make a living, to feed our family, to pay the bills. Casting and mending to gain security and get to retirement. Casting and mending to hold our family together, to make our marriage work, to grow up our children. Casting and mending to gain the things we want; a house, a car, books, clothes, a vacation. Casting and mending to earn a reputation, gain approval, establish status. Casting and mending our way through another day of loneliness, sadness, or illness. Casting and mending are realities of life. They are also the circumstances in which Jesus comes to us, the context in which we hear the call to new life, and the place where we are changed and the ordinary becomes the extraordinary.

When Jesus says, "I will make you fish for people," he is describing the transformation of their lives, not simply a job catching new members or followers. He could just as easily have said to the carpenters,

WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING	
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
	8:30 PM	AA MEETING	
SAURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
4 EPIPHANY	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS	

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Roe Prosser	Deb Giordano
Coffee	Prossers	Nolans

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Loving God, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Especially we remember before you:

Grace Schinella	Donna Edwards	Jess
Bob Curley	Beverly Noel	Art
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Deb P.

Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Judy
Christopher	Warren	Kristen
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Mo	Phil Ryder	Carolyn
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Del
Robert Hosey	Lourdes S.	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Sophia	Carol K.
Mary & Family	Ciara	Jan
Nathan Treadwell	Gladys Hadija	Vincent
Michael & Family	Matthew Treasure	Jess
Jean Estinvil Quatorze	Jean Wildy	Nicolas

All people and countries suffering from violence, hatred
and natural disasters.

Help us speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them.
Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen.

The departed: Anne Marie Treasure

To add or make changes to prayer list during the week, email
Janet Croft at jmc220@optonline.net.

Prayer for the New Year

God our Father, thank you for being the God who walks besides those who love Him in the Valley of the Shadow of Death. I rejoice in the continued presence of the Holy Spirit with me, so that I am never alone. Lord, I lift up a sincere request for happiness during this year of difficulty. Help me find joy, that I may be strengthened spiritually, and happiness that I may continue to engage with those around me with Christian love. Sometimes it can be hard to see Your hand moving when everything around me seems dark. Help me find happiness so that I can see Your work, even if I do not understand it fully right now. I know that You use all things for Your glory, and for my good. I ask that You keep my focus on You during this New Year. In the name of Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen.

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father I adore you,

Lay my life before you,

How I love you.

Repeat twice with second verse starting with Jesus
and third verse starting with Spirit.

Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn
but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So
mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that
all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince
of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominions
and glory, now and forever. Amen

