

# ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Worship At Home

### Third Sunday of Epiphany

Sunday, January 24, 2021

This service is intended to be done alone or with your loved ones. The prayer and readings are the assigned ones for this Sunday.

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

**Opening Prayer:** Let us pray. 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.**

**Readings:** First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 – Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**  
Psalm: 62:5-12  
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 - Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**  
Gospel: Mark 1:14-20 – The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Reflection:** *Having read these readings, think on this:* Our world is full of death and the very real possibility of destruction. Nineveh can be an image for us. Yet after Jonah finally acted on the call of God and spoke God's word to Nineveh, the people immediately repented. That word changed everything. Trusting God, they could live hopefully in their world. After John was arrested, Jesus preached the nearness of the dominion of God, and the world became utterly different for those fishermen. Mark says they immediately followed. After Jesus was arrested and killed, the Risen Christ once again begins his ministry, coming into our assemblies and into our homes, speaking the gospel. The dominion of God is near to us because, in the Spirit and through the word, Christ is near to us. We too are called, and the world becomes utterly different for us. We are like fish pulled out of the chaotic sea into the light and air, only unlike fish we are made alive together with Christ. We may live "as though not" engaged in the values of the world around us, but according to the values of the mercy of God, turning to the needs of our neighbors, inviting them also to live in hope.

If you have a hymnal, you may now sing or read "Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship #696).

**Prayers of Intercession:** *Then pray these prayers for our church and world:* Responding together to Christ's call, let us offer our prayers for all in need, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "**Our hope is in you.**" We pray for the church, especially our bishops, pastors, deacons, musicians, and servers, that God's Spirit empower all the baptized with wisdom to follow Christ's call. O God of eternal might, receive our prayer... We pray for Sunday schools and for all parish education, for teachers and participants, young and old, that God form the faithful even when classes cannot regularly meet in person. O God of eternal might, receive our prayer... We pray for the earth, its seas, lakes, and rivers, for their myriad creatures, and for those whose livelihood depends upon them, that God raise up advocates and scientists to guide an ecological care for creation. O God of eternal might, receive our prayer... We pray for the nations, for our elected and appointed leaders, for racial concord in our cities, and for those who have been considered our enemies, that God lead the world into commonwealths of justice and peace. O God of eternal might, receive our prayer... We pray for those who are charged with maintaining an ordered society, for state and local law enforcement, and for the military, that God guide the powerful to serve the common good. O God of eternal might, receive our prayer... We pray for relief from COVID-19, for the fearful, the sick, and the dying, for medical workers, for all who await the vaccine, for the unemployed and the quarantined, that God uphold the world's people through this time of affliction... We pray for all who are sick, distressed, or grieving, that God sustain and comfort those who suffer. O God of eternal might, receive our prayer... We pray finally for ourselves, that as we pour out our hearts to God, our faith in divine mercy be renewed. O God of eternal might, receive our prayer... We join in thanksgiving for all your people from ancient times until today who have lived and died in faith, and we pray that at our end God unite us with them in everlasting peace. O God of eternal might, receive our prayer... Merciful God, receive the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

If you have a hymnal, you may now sing or read “I Love to Tell the Story” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship #661)

**We continue our worship with this prayer:** Holy God, Light of the universe, Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness, we hear your Word in the Scriptures, proclaiming to us your wisdom and inviting us to follow your call. For speaking this Word, we thank you, O God. **We thank you, O God.**

Your Word came among us in Jesus, our brother, who preached your righteousness, healed the sick, and revived the brokenhearted. For giving us this Word, we worship you, O God. **We worship you, O God.**

By your Spirit bless all who receive this Word, that upheld by the mystery of the body of Christ, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son. For sustaining us with your Word, we praise you, O God. **We praise you, O God.**

Blessed are you, holy God, around us, with us, and in us, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**We end with reciting the Blessing:** God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace. Amen.

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## Announcements and Further Prayer Requests

- Join Pastor Tom on Tuesday evenings at 7 PM on ZOOM as he leads us in a Bible study on Moses. This will run until February 9<sup>th</sup>. You can find a link on our website or call in to 1-929-205-6099 using Meeting ID# 843 9728 2129 and passcode 349704.
- Please keep in your prayers the following individuals: Margaret Miller, Philip Paul and Jennifer Buchanan, Beverly and Jim Penman, Dan Kramer, Joyce Zimmerman, Brian Volo, Diane Kraft, Rick, Mike, Olivia Williams and family, Cathy Niccola, Matt Stzaba, Ben Richard, Joanne M., Robert Miller, Louis Volo Jr, Dottie Roehrig, Karen Geng, Sylvia and Joe Smith, Lorraine Pfohl, Jerry Peete, Tamara Proctor, Cheryl Rosati, Rosaria Phillippone, Robin Bengalio Richard, the Maris Family, Charlene Faleski, and those we name out loud and in the silence of our hearts.
- As our nation undergoes this presidential transition, we pray: “Thy Kingdom Come.” May your Holy Spirit instill in our president the righteousness, values and principles of your kingdom to exercise the sacred trust of administering the nation. Give our new president, his administration, and Congress the ability to honor you by doing what is right, fair, and just for all citizens, especially the poor, hungry, and marginalized. We ask that all the people in our nation, irrespective of race, gender, ethnicity, or religious faith be treated with dignity. We pray for the wholeness, health, integrity, soundness, welfare, security, prosperity, harmony, and justice of all the citizens of our nation. Help our nation develop a foreign policy that fosters peace, justice, equality, and freedoms that can advance the development, rights, and privileges of our global neighbors. (*Bread for the Word*)
- God, our refuge and strength, you have bound us together in a common life. In all our conflicts, help us to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, to listen for your voice amid competing claims, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (ELW page 76)