

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 24, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING *Jonah 3:1–5, 10*

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. ... When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 7:29–35*

This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live 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 goods, 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. I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the

unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 1:14-20*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON “Seconds”

I. Jonah’s Claim to Fame

II. Jonah’s _____ call (1:1-3)

- “Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ‘Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.’ But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.” (Jonah 1:1-3)
- Who are the Ninevites and what is their evil?
- What is Jonah’s response?

III. Jonah’s _____ call (3:1-5 and 10; 4:1-2)

- What is Jonah’s claim to fame?
- What do the people do because of Jonah’s preaching? What happens?
- “But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. And he prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.” (Jonah 4:1-2)
- What does God work through today?

Among all the prophets in Scripture, Jonah has a unique distinction, and it is not that he was swallowed by a great fish. The prophet Jonah has an interesting claim to fame that no other prophet can lay hold of. In all honesty, it is certainly not something to be proud of, but it certainly makes him unique among all the prophets of Scripture. What is it? What is Jonah’s infamous claim to fame? What do we learn about Jonah from it? We do we learn about us? What do we learn about God? We’ll explore these things today.

In Jonah chapter one, verses one to three, we see Jonah’s *first* call. God tells the prophet, “**Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.**” God wants Jonah to go preach to the Ninevites. Their sin and evil has ascended up to God like an unpleasant smell or stench. Who are the Ninevites? What is their evil? Nineveh is the capital of Assyria. In Jonah’s day, Assyria was the superpower of the world, and it was often hostile towards God’s people. Assyria would later conquer and

destroy the northern kingdom of Israel. The people were known for their violence, bloodshed, and cruelty. In the book of Nahum, the prophet charges them with plotting against the Lord. He accuses them of excessive cruelty (noticing a theme?), prostitution, materialism, and great arrogance. He ends his book of prophecy against them by saying, **“All who hear the news about you [of your destruction will] clap their hands over you. For upon whom has not come your unceasing evil.”** People will celebrate their downfall. The people of Nineveh are also spiritually ignorant, but they are cared for by God. At the end of Jonah, he says, **“And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?”** God wants them repent and He wants to show them His grace. To do so, He will send them Jonah. **“Arise, go to Nineveh...”** God says.

And Jonah rose...to *flee*. Instead of going *up* to Nineveh, he goes *down* to Joppa. He leaves his hometown of Gath-Hepher and starts the 60 mile journey to that port city. This is no whim or rash decision on the part of Jonah. It is intentional and planned. He is persistent in his traveling, and does not change his mind, nor does he decide to head in the other direction. When he arrives at Joppa, he doubles down on his disobedience, and plans to go *west* instead of *east*, where Nineveh is. He buys a ticket to go to Tarshish, which is believed to be modern day Spain, which would have been the known edge of the world at that time. Jonah wants to flee from God’s presence. He wants to leave the land that has God’s temple, and the land where His Word is proclaimed. He wants to leave and be as far away as possible from the places that God has promised to be. Jonah doesn’t want to preach to Nineveh. He wants them to get their deserved punishment. He flees from the land. He abandons his duty. He forsakes his calling. He defies God and scoffs at His will. It seems like shocking behavior from a prophet. It is appalling, jaw-dropping, and unbelievable. Who would do that? Who would do that to God?

We would, too. We do it more than we realize. We are more like Jonah than we would ever want to admit, or even, realize. God speaks, and we often do the opposite. God says, “Trust in me above all things,” but, we say, “Money is more predictable. The word of a friend is more certain. That medicine should do the trick. I can take care of this, but will let you know if I can’t.” God says, “Love your neighbor,” but we can say, “I can’t do that; I won’t let what they did go.” We might say, “They don’t deserve it,” or “They will take advantage of me.” Selfishly, we might say, “What’s in it for me?” God says, “Honor your father and mother, and those whom I have put over you.” We say, “It depends on who they are. What letter is next to their name?” Our Lord says, “Enjoy and use the treasure of my Word,” but, we say, “Maybe tomorrow. Autoplay just started the next episode.” Our hearts echo Jonah. We might not hop on a plan to California, or take a ship to Tarshish, but we still exhibit the same attitude and actions of Jonah.

What happens to him? After being sent overboard and swallowed-up by a great fish, we find Jonah spit-up on the shore. And it is here that we see his claim to fame. The text says, **“Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying....”** Jonah is the only prophet to be called *twice*. He is the only prophet whom God needs to call a *second* time. While that says something about Jonah, it says something *more* about God. Jonah didn’t deserve the second chance, the second call. He defiantly ran away. He purposely rejected his call. He intentionally ignored God’s commands. He blatantly did the opposite. He deserved to be left in that fish that swallowed him. God had every reason to leave Jonah in that fish as it swam around the sea, but He didn’t. God extended to Jonah His grace, which is His undeserved mercy and kindness. He will use Jonah again, despite his disobedience. He does use Jonah again. The grace He extends to Jonah, He also wants to extend to the people of Nineveh as well.

This time, Jonah listens. Instead of going down and west, he goes up and east. Instead of ignoring, he listens. Instead of shutting his mouth, he speaks. The prophet starts the 600 mile journey to Nineveh. Once he arrives, after a day’s journey into the city, he preaches. He says, **“Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”** The people hear Jonah’s word, and it spreads through the city like a wildfire. They hear God’s Word and they repent. **“The people of Nineveh believed God.”** God worked repentance in them through His Word; He worked in them faith. This is a bigger miracle than Jonah surviving in the fish. It is one of the biggest miracles in the entire Bible. Jonah preached God’s Word. Through it, the people repented and came to faith. God relents of the disaster He had promised, and the people receive more than a second chance. They receive life, a restored relationship with God; they receive His grace.

Jonah knew this would happen. In fact, he complains about it. In chapter four, verse two, Jonah says, **“O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to**

Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.” This is Who God is: merciful, gracious, patient, and abounding in love. This is what He does: forgive sinners and give them second chances. He did it for Jonah. He did it for the people of Nineveh, and He does it for...you.

The God Who worked repentance and faith in the hearts of the Ninevites still does so today by the same means. Our God works through His Word to bring us to repent of our sins, and to give us what Jesus won for us at the cross: forgiveness and righteousness. There He satisfied the wrath of God for our disobedience: our failures in loving and trusting in Him above all things. He paid for our struggles to honor authority and to love our neighbors. He paid for every sin and completely satisfied God's Wrath. Our Lord works through baptism, where the old man, the old sinful nature, by contrition and repentance is daily drowned and killed with all sins and evil desires, and where the new man daily arises to live before God in righteousness and purity forever. It is in Jesus that we have received God's grace, His truly undeserved mercy and kindness. He really is merciful, gracious, patient, and abounding in steadfast love. We don't have a God of second chances, but one of third chances, fourth chances, and infinitely more; just ask Jonah. And like him, God will use us for His purposes, and does.

Jonah's claim to fame says a lot about him, and even us, but it also tells us more about God. As Jonah himself says, **“I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.”** Indeed, He is! In Jesus' name, Amen.

THE HOLY BAPTISM OF Bryn Marie L.

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CONG: Amen.

Pastor: Our Lord commanded Baptism, saying to His disciples in the last chapter of Matthew: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.” The holy apostles of the Lord have written: “The promise is for you and for your children,” and: “Baptism now saves you.”

We also learn from the Word of God that we are all conceived and born sinful and so are in need of forgiveness. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son, Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Receive the sign of the holy cross upon your forehead and upon your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

Hear how our Lord Jesus Christ has opened the kingdom of God to little children: “People were bringing little children to Jesus to have Him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, He was indignant. He said to them, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

CONG: Praise to You, O Christ.

Pastor: Dear parents and sponsors: It is your task as parents and sponsors to confess with the whole Church the faith in our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in whose name this child is to be baptized. After this child has been baptized, you are at all times to remember her in your prayers, put her in mind of her Baptism, and faithfully bring her to the services of God's house. As she grows in years, you should place in her hands the Holy Scriptures, provide for her further instruction in the Christian faith, and teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, that living in the covenant of her Baptism and in communion with the Church, she may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ. This, then, you intend gladly and willingly to do?

Parents and Sponsors: Yes.

Pastor: God enable you all to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do. In order to implore the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ upon the gathering of this child into the family of our Father, let us with all the family pray the prayer he gave us.

CONG: 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.

Pastor: The Lord preserve your coming in and your going out from this time forth and even forevermore.

CONG: Amen.

Pastor: Because this child cannot answer for herself, we shall all, together with her parents and sponsors, faithfully speak on her behalf in testimony of the forgiveness of sin and the birth of the life of faith which God our Father bestows in and through Baptism.

Pastor: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

CONG: I do renounce them.

Pastor: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

CONG: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

CONG: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

CONG: Yes, 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.

Pastor: Who brings this child to be baptized?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: How is this child named?

Parents: Bryn Marie L.

Pastor: Bryn Marie L., I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CONG: Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting. Peace be with you.

CONG: Amen.

Pastor: Receive this burning light. Live always by the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him to the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

Let us pray: Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted Bryn the new birth in Holy Baptism and made her a member of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir of Your heavenly kingdom. We humbly implore You that, as she has now become Your child, You would keep her in her baptismal grace, that according to Your good pleasure she may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

CONG: Amen.

Pastor: Through Baptism, God has added Bryn to his own people to declare the wonderful deeds of our Savior, who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

CONG: We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, to work with us in His kingdom.

Pastor: And you, Bryn, the Lord bless you in all your ways from this time forward and even forevermore. Peace be with you.

CONG: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

MUSIC DURING PREPARATION

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for Your call to repentance has been made from the prophets of old, to John the Baptist, to Your own Son, the Holy One who has destroyed the power of the devil and gives the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation by His sacrifice on the cross. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

People: Amen.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” LSB 922

1 Go, My children, with My blessing,

Never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you;

You are My own.

In My love’s baptismal river

I have made you Mine forever.

Go, My children, with My blessing—

You are My own.

2 Go, My children, sins forgiven,

At peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you,

What I can cure.

Here you heard My dear Son’s story;

Here you touched Him, saw His glory.

Go, My children, sins forgiven,

At peace and pure.

3 Go, My children, fed and nourished,

Closer to Me;

Grow in love and love by serving,

Joyful and free.

Here My Spirit’s power filled you;

Here His tender comfort stilled you.

Go, My children, fed and nourished,

Joyful and free.

4 I the Lord will bless and keep you
And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you
And give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father,
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you
And give you peace.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship 9:30 a.m.

FOR PASTORAL CARE outside of normal business hours, please contact Pastor Nick Kooi at 651-424-6294.

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *Mark 1:14-15* – “... *Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.’*” To repent means to turn away from sins and our former way of thinking and turn toward belief in God and His Gospel of grace and mercy. The whole Christian life is one of repentance and faith. Where is God calling you to repent today? How is He calling you to deeper faith?

ANNUAL MEETING: Mark your calendar for our annual meeting to be held January 31st immediately following our service. You will have the opportunity to participate in this meeting virtually or in person. It is anticipated that we will be dealing with two items of business that need discussion and voting approval to keep this meeting brief and limit the time spent together in the sanctuary. Watch for the agenda and supporting documents which will be provided by mail or email.

SUPER BOWL TRAIL MIX: Are you ready for the big game? Are you ready for the better than normal commercials? Are you ready to have a good time on February 7th? The answer is....NO. You are missing something! What is it, you may ask? Emmaus Youth Trail Mix! To help enhance your Super Bowl experience (along with raise money for upcoming conferences), the Youth will be making a variety of Trail Mixes. They are....

- NUT FREE
- Chex Mix
- Fruit and Nut
- Chocolate

Trail mix comes in a quart sized bag and is a free will donation. Let Pastor Nick or Dawn know how much and what you would like by January 29. Orders will be available February 7 for pick-up before and after Church. You can also pick-up or have it dropped off during the week of 2/1.

LWML WINTER WORKSHOP Hosted by St. Paul Metro Zone January 30, 2021 9-10 am. A Facebook Live Event: access the link through the Emmaus website: www.emmaus-lutheran-church.org or Facebook page. Theme: Persevering with Hope. Speaker: Dr Reed Lessing, Concordia University, to speak on his book: Jeremiah: Overcoming Disasters. Hymn *LSB* 576 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

OFFERING ENVELOPES: Envelopes for 2021 are here and waiting for you in the narthex of the church. We have included one blue promise card for your personal use. If you wish, you can write down your giving promise for the year and keep that with your envelopes. If you have chosen to do all of your giving online, please contact Maria in the office and we will discontinue ordering envelopes for you. Thank you for your continuing financial support of the ministry at Emmaus.

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays at 2:15 p.m. we will have a prayer and Bible Study group. Each week, we will gather together to pray and study a text. We will be meeting in-person and virtually. For those that attend virtually, we will have you join us via Zoom (contact Pastor Kooi for the link). Please contact Pastor Kooi for more details.

HEAR "THE LUTHERAN HOUR" on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week's broadcast: "Under the Impression" Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Jesus overturned and upended people's first impressions of Him. (Mark 5-6)