

# THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 24, 2021 - 10:00 AM

## Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223  
www.livingspringscolumbia.org



*As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.*



*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen... since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus... (Hebrews 11:1-3, 12:1-2)*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We stand as able*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**Pastor:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**People:** Amen.

**Pastor:** Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

*(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)*

**Pastor:** Holy God,

**People:** **you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

**Pastor:** How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

**People:** Amen.

We focus on the cross as it enters the sanctuary.

## GATHERING SONG

"Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises"

Refrain— sung twice each time



Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our



hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your



prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.



1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,  
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

Repeat stanza, then sing refrain



I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.  
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

*Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises; Text: South African; Tr. "Freedom Is Coming"; Music: HALELUYA! PELO TSA RONA, South African*

*Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin Walton Music Corp.*

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## APOSTOLIC GREETING

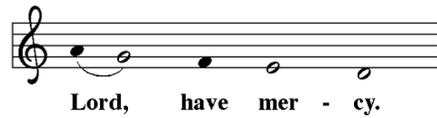
**Pastor:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People:** **And also with you.**

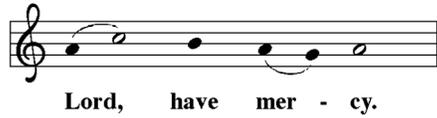


## KYRIE & PRAYER OF THE DAY

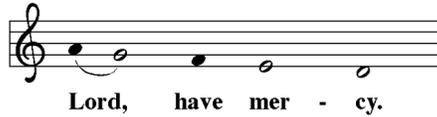
Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



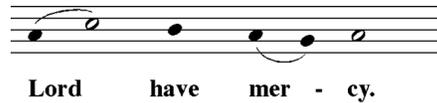
Pastor: For the peace from above  
and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Pastor: For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Pastor: For this community of faith,  
and all who offer their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.



Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us Gracious Lord.



Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

*We are seated*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Helen Doerpinghaus

*Children, youth, and young at heart are invited for a special message. You may collect your coins or dollars at home for the bucket collection and bring them to in-person worship, to the Parking Lot Communion Distributions, or drop them off at the church office. Current collection is for the Disaster Response Fund.*

*For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)*

*For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)*

*Christ is lead-ing us ...*

*For-ward in faith!*

*Forward in faith (clap, clap, clap)*

*Forward in faith (clap, clap, clap)*

*Keepin' our eyes on Jesus,*

*We're runnin' the race!*

## FIRST READING

*The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"*

Lector: A reading from Jonah.

*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. (Jonah 3:1-5, 10)*

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 62:5-12

Lector: For God alone I wait in silence; truly, my hope is in God.

**People: God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

Lector: In God is my deliverance and my honor; God is my strong rock and my refuge.

**People: Put your trust in God always, O people,  
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

Lector: Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted.  
Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

**People: Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;  
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

Lector: God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God.

**People: Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord, for you repay all according to their deeds.**

## SECOND READING

*Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

Lector: A reading from 1 Corinthians.

*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.*

*(1 Corinthians 7:29-31)*

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*We stand for the reading of the Gospel*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Now 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. (Mark 1:14-20)*

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

"You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore "



1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing  
2 You know full well what I have, Lord: nei - ther  
4 You who have fished oth - er wa - ters; you, the



nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly  
trea - sure nor wea - pons for con - quest, just these my  
long - ing of souls that are yearn - ing: O lov - ing



ask - ing for me to fol - low.  
fish nets and will for work - ing.  
Friend, you have come to call me.

*Refrain / Estribillo*



Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind - ly smil - ing,



you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a - ban - doned my



small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

*You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore; Text: Cesareo Gabarain; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall; Music: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES, Cesareo Gabarain  
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**APOSTLES' CREED**

**People: 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 to the dead. 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 catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assist: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*+ A brief silence +*

Assist: For the church throughout the world, for pastors and teachers, for deacons and deaconesses, and for musicians and servers, that all proclaim the good news of God's reconciling love, let us pray.

**People: Have mercy, O God.**

Assist: For skies and seas, for birds and fish, for favorable weather and clean water, and for the well-being of creation, that God raise up advocates and scientists to guide our care for all the earth, let us pray.

**People: Have mercy, O God.**

Assist: For this nation; for our President, Vice-President, and Congress of both parties, as they begin new terms; for all who provide leadership in our cities, states, and world - that they may be filled with an abundance of your wisdom, to serve as instruments of your will for creation and for all people, let us pray.

**People: Have mercy, O God.**

Assist: For those who are distressed or are outcast; for those who sick or grieving; for all who await relief. We pray especially *the McMurphy family; the Kaiser family; Alice Renaud; Tammy Mancuso; Bill Ramsey; Anne Hanford; Ann Lynn Caughman; Elizabeth Maddox; Helen Bradham; Ed Brennan; Dolores Harmon; Rhea Pye; Wendy McKenzie; Karl Schmidt; Charles Kauffman; Bunie Talbert; Kathy Nelson; Pam Deselem; Bob Holmstrom; Kelly Koziol; Lila Bell; Wilma Bracey; Levi Brown; and and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...*, that in the midst of suffering, God's peace and mercy surround them, let us pray.

**People: Have mercy, O God.**

Assist: For Pastor Carl Taylor & his family, that they might sense your peace & loving embrace; for your church & this community; and for our congregation, that we may be guided by your Spirit in final discernment of your call, let us pray.

**People: Have mercy, O God.**

Assist: In thanksgiving for our ancestors in the faith whose lives serve as an example of gospel living, that they point us to salvation through Christ, let us pray.

**People: Have mercy, O God.**

Pastor: O God, as we face ongoing uncertainties around coronavirus, we continue to pray for ..., let us pray.

**People: Have mercy, O God.**

Pastor: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**People: Amen.**

## SHARING OF PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**People: And also with you.**

*We greet one another, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."*

## OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

*Offering may be dropped off at the office during the week or sent through the mail. For those who wish to give electronically, you may use the secure Givelify app.*

Google Play



App Store



## OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

**People: O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

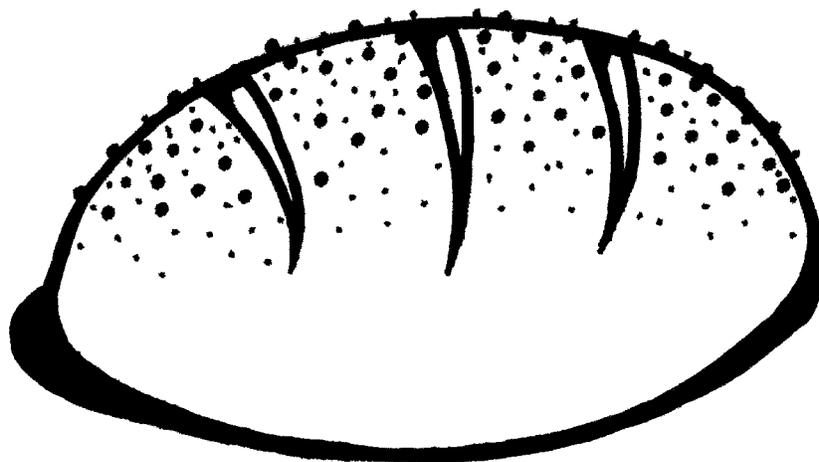
Pastor: We have been made one as the body of Christ through the waters of baptism. In our journey of faith & life, we are fed with Christ's own body and blood. Even though we do not celebrate Holy Communion in this virtual gathering, we pause to give thanks for the gift of Holy Communion — as we anticipate, with joy, those times when we are fed at your table.

Pastor: O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we offer our praise and give you thanks. When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation; David fought Goliath; the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life. You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he conquered death and granted the people your life.

We give you thanks and praise for the gift of Holy Communion and for the blessing it brings to your people. Even though we abstain from your meal in this moment of worship, for reasons you understand, we still sense the power of your forgiveness and grace offered to us and the world through your Son. Awaiting those times when we share in this meal, we still cherish in our hearts the words which Jesus gave us:

**People: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of Me."**

*We take time for prayer and reflection as we sing together, giving thanks to God for all the times we have been fed with our Lord's body & blood—and look forward to the time when we gather with others around the Lord's Table.*



# COMMUNION REFLECTION

## "I Saw The Light"

1. I wan - dered so aim - less, — life filled with sin,  
2. Just like a blind man I wan - dered a - long,  
I would - n't let my dear Sav - ior in; Then Je - sus  
Wor - ries and fears I claimed for my own; Then, like the  
came like a strang - er in the night— Praise the Lord! \_\_\_\_\_  
blind man that God gave back his sight— Praise the Lord! \_\_\_\_\_

### CHORUS

I saw the light. I saw the light, \_\_\_\_\_ I saw the  
I saw the light.  
light, \_\_\_\_\_ No more in dark - ness, no more in night; \_\_\_\_\_ (And)  
now I'm so hap - py, no sor - row in sight— \_\_\_\_\_ Praise the  
Lord! \_\_\_\_\_ I saw the light. \_\_\_\_\_

*I Saw The Light; words and music by Hank Williams, Sr.  
CCLI Song #45064 © 1948/1975 Sony/ATV Acuff Rose Music.  
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### LORD'S PRAYER

**Pastor:** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**People:** **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.**



It is with great joy that the  
Council of Living Springs Lutheran Church announces....

## **CALLED CONGREGATION MEETING**

**\*\* Vote for Call of Associate Pastor \*\***

(plus possible Updated Action on Road-Widening, if needed)

**Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> @ 11:50am**

**Church Parking Lot**

**(immediately following 11am worship)**

*Persons may remain in their vehicles in the parking lot,  
utilizing FM station 87.9.*

*Following our recent 2020 Constitution Update,  
a VIRTUAL LINK is also available:*

[meet.google.com/uaf-mtkk-yqx](https://meet.google.com/uaf-mtkk-yqx)

***\*\*If at all possible we encourage you to come to the parking lot  
and participate from your vehicle, as this simplifies the voting procedure.***

### **LEADERS NEEDED FOR LENTEN DISCIPLE GROUPS**

Lent is a time for reflection and preparation. Sometimes we see it as a time for listening God to speak to us and for solitary contemplation. However, it is also a time for sharing how we hear and see the Holy Spirit at work in the word and in our lives...how the Spirit tugs us to be disciples of Jesus.

We would like to have a dozen or so virtual Disciple Groups, which will meet at least twice during Lent. Group leaders are needed to host the virtual group gatherings. Don't worry about managing your way through Google Meet or Zoom. Lifelong Discipleship will arrange for that. Don't worry about needing to plan the program. That will all be taken care of, too. No need to provide refreshments or even tidy up your home, since gatherings will be virtual. You just need to invite others to be part of your group.

Won't you step forward to help make this important journey of sharing and growth possible? Please contact Steve Bloss at [sbloss1947@gmail.com](mailto:sbloss1947@gmail.com) or 803-467-8287 to find out more.

### **"SOUP"-ER BOWL SUNDAY**

The Youth will be participating in "Soup"-er Bowl of Caring in a new and creative way this year, and they need your help!

Do you love a bowl of classic chicken noodle or do you crave a creamy potato soup when the weather gets cold? "Vote" for your favorite soup by donating cans for those in need. Labeled bins (chicken noodle, potato, tomato, vegetable, other) will be set up in the Admin. building. Donations can be dropped off through Super Bowl Sunday, February 7th. The Youth will count the cans, announce the winning soup, and distribute them to local food pantries. If you are unable to come by the church, monetary donations are also welcome via the Givelify app. Contact Leslie Bloss with any questions. Thanks in advance for your support!



# God's Love Shared Through You ...



## One Life Deeper !

Our prayerful goal is that God will work in every LS disciple to have an impact of faith and hope in the life of one person during the year. **What shoes might they be wearing?** It may be someone you know already—at work, at home, at school, in the neighborhood, in your daily life. It may be a stranger whom God will bring to you this year. How will the Spirit work through you to bring someone deeper? **Deeper in Christ, Deeper in Grace, Deeper in Love!**

**BUILD RELATIONSHIPS: inviting, involving, mentoring, discipling relationships 1 person at a time!**

**BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS: for the work of God's kingdom in our community and world!**

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE: with those who are hurting, alone, marginalized, or feeling unloved!**

**SHARING GOD'S STORIES: so we do not remain silent about God's ongoing work in the world!**

### THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY:

#### *In the Nets of the Kingdom*

Jan, wandering seat to seat on the bus, was crossing state lines from Michigan to Wisconsin. Bruce had sent her the ticket. The two met at a church youth convention; now she was going to be his high school prom date. Here's how it happened: At the youth gathering, during each morning's worship, the two held the same green hymn book. During the afternoon Bible studies, sitting cross-legged in a circle on the floor, she read compellingly from her red leatherette Bible. For evening reflections, the prayers she pulled from her blue plastic packet of devotions swept the room. Bruce was bedazzled. That's why he bought the ticket. When Jan stepped off the bus, she shimmered, telling him how from seat to seat along Highway 2 she had saved souls, netting fourteen converts on a colorful missionary journey.

As delighted as Jan might have been, her proselytizing was not the kind of fishing for people Jesus was after when he passed along the Sea of Galilee, calling oily fishermen to "follow me." What shook Simon and Andrew, James and John, and countless women and men throughout the ages to—immediately, impulsively—give up their nets, quit mending, abandon boats, and leave families and homes?

Jesus' wild, sea-changing challenge demands courage. It dares us into a way of living, a manner of seeing, and a risk of not knowing but earnestly believing that when he asks us to step up, something more meaningful than all we have awaits us.

Jesus' "follow me" comes amid a lifetime of rigorous monotony, in which we are constantly casting nets to catch more of what never satisfies. Jesus' "follow me" is an epiphany. It is an invitation, not to "save souls," but to be gathered and to gather the weak and despairing, to minister to the ruined and abandoned, scared and starving, to show compassion to the mean and unloving, and to embrace the great, greedy, proud, and demanding; all of this awaits us in the nets of God's kingdom.

## January Book of the Month: Proverbs