



3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

January 21, 2024

Opening Hymn #774

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need
That has us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.

2. With might of ours can naught be done;
Soon were our loss effected.
But for us fights the valiant One
Whom God Himself elected.
You ask, "Who is this?"
Jesus Christ it is,
The almighty Lord.
And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.

3. Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill:
They shall not overpower us.
This world's prince may still

Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none.
He's judged; the deed is done!
One little word can fell him.

4. The Word they still shall let remain,
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
And do what they will--
Hate, steal, hurt, or kill--
Though all may be gone,
Our victory is won;
The kingdom's ours forever!

Invocation

P We worship today in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C ♪ **Amen.**

Confession & Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C ♪ **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord

C ♪ **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sins.**

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

P & C O most merciful God, who has given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the sons of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C ♪ Amen.

Introit

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: the name of the LORD is to be praised!

P: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,

C: praise the name of the LORD!

P: Blessèd be the name of the LORD

C: from this time forth and forevermore!

P: The LORD is high above all nations,

C: and his glory above the heavens!

P: He raises the poor from the dust

C: and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

P: to make them sit with princes,

C: with the princes of his people.

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: the name of the LORD is to be praised!

Gloria Patri

C ♪ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Kyrie

C ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis – (Hymn #238 v.1)

All glory be to God alone,
Forevermore the Highest One,
Who doth our sinful race befriend,
And grace and peace to us extend.
Among mankind may His good will
All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.

P The Lord be with you

C ♪ And with thy spirit.

The Collect for the Day

P Let us pray..... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C ♪ Amen

The First Lesson – Jonah 3:1-5,10

¹Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” ³So 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. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And 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. . . .

¹⁰When 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.

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 62
WS p. 40

Antiphon – Surely God's salvation is near to those who fear Him.

1 For God alone my soul waits in | silence;*
from him comes my sal- | vation.

2 He only is my rock and my salvation, my | fortress;*
I shall not be greatly | shaken.

3 How long will all of you attack a man to | batter him,*
like a leaning wall, a | tottering fence?

4 They only plan to thrust him down from his high position. They
take pleasure in | falsehood.*

They bless with their mouths, but inwardly | they curse.

5 For God alone, O my soul, wait in | silence,*
for my hope is | from him.

6 He only is my rock and my salvation, my | fortress;*
I shall not be | shaken.

7 On God rests my salvation and my | glory;*
my mighty rock, my refuge | is God.

8 Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart be- | fore
him;*

God is a refuge | for us.

9 Those of low estate are but a breath; those of high estate are a
de- | lusion;*

**in the balances they go up; they are together lighter | than
a breath.**

10 Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on | robbery;*
if riches increase, set not your | heart on them.

11 Once God has spoken; twice have I | heard this:*

**that power belongs to God, 12 and that to you, O Lord,
belongs | steadfast love.**

For you will render | to a man*
according | to his work.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Antiphon – Surely God’s salvation is near to those who fear Him.

The Second Lesson – 1 Corinthians 7:29-35

²⁹This 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, ³⁰and 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, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. ³²I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. ³³But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, ³⁴and 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. ³⁵I 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.

The Gradual

P: Praise the LORD, all nations!

C: Extol him, all peoples!

P: For great is his steadfast love toward us,

C: and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

P: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

C: bring an offering, and come into his courts! Hallelujah!

Triple Hallelujah

The Gospel – Mark 1:14-20

¹⁴After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

¹⁶Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Confession of Faith *Apostle's Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of the Day #512 (v. 1-3, 5-6)
O Christ, Our True and Only Light

1. O Christ, our true and only Light,
Enlighten those who sit in night;
Let those afar now hear Thy voice
And in Thy fold with us rejoice.

2. Fill with the radiance of Thy grace
The souls now lost in error's maze
And all whom in their secret minds
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.

3. Oh, gently call those gone astray
That they may find the saving way!
Let ev'ry conscience sore opprest
In Thee find peace and heav'nly rest.

5. Shine on the darkened and the cold,
Recall the wanderers to Thy fold,
Unite all those who walk apart,
Confirm the weak and doubting heart.

6. So they with us may evermore
Such grace with wondering thanks adore
And endless praise to Thee be given
By all Thy Church in earth and heaven.

Sermon Text – Jonah 3:1-5,10

Sermon

***The Lord Calls Us to Himself by the Preaching of
Repentance in His Name***

Offertory

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, You desire not the death of a sinner but that all would repent and believe the Gospel. In the epiphany of Your Son, Your time of salvation and Your kingdom have come near. As this world passes away, give faithfulness and urgency to Your Church to proclaim the Gospel of our God to all people.

**¹ O God of light, Your Word, a lamp unfailing,
Shall pierce the darkness of our earthbound way**

P: Lord of the harvest, as You called Simon Peter and Andrew, James and John to follow You and made them fishers of men, so send faithful preachers of Your Gospel in our time. Increase the spirit of generosity to all who support the CBP, missionaries, high schools, college, seminary and other institutions of our Synod for the spread of the Gospel and the service of God's people.

**And show Your grace, Your plan for us unveiling,
And guide our footsteps to the perfect day.**

P: Almighty God, preserve our nation with its rulers. Call to repentance those who have forgotten You. Spare our president, our governor and all who serve for the good of this people. Do not let disaster befall us, but preserve us in peace and quietness.

**³ Undimmed by time, Your Word is still revealing
To sinful hearts Your justice and Your grace;**

P: Merciful Father, turn us from every distracting anxiety and the dealings of this world that would draw our hearts away from Your blessed Gospel and its end, eternal life. Give us confidence in the resurrection and the peace of a clean conscience by the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name. Graciously behold and help those for whom we pray [*especially* _____].

**And questing spirits, longing for Your healing,
See your compassion in the Savior's face.**

P: Eternal Lord, in view of every current distress as the present form of this world passes away, give constancy and contentment to Your people in their God-given stations. Give comfort and faithfulness to the married, and strengthen them to pass on the faith to the next generation. Show kindness also to the unmarried and assure them of the holiness of their place in life, that they would be freed from anxiety and attend to holiness in body and spirit, undividedly devoted to You.

**⁴To all the world Your summons You are sending,
Through all the earth, to ev'ry land and race,**

P: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever:

**That myriad tongues, in one great anthem blending,
May praise and celebrate Your gift of grace.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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.

Sermon Hymn #292 (v. 1-4, 6, 8)
Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide

1. Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,
For round us falls the eventide;
Nor let Thy Word, that heavenly light,
For us be ever veiled in night.

2. In these last days of sore distress
Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness
That pure we keep, till life is spent,
Thy holy Word and Sacrament.

3. Lord Jesus, help, Thy Church uphold,
For we are sluggish, thoughtless, cold.
Oh, prosper well Thy Word of grace
And spread its truth in every place!

4. Oh, keep us in Thy Word, we pray;
The guile and rage of Satan stay!
Oh, may Thy mercy never cease!
Give concord, patience, courage, peace.

6. The haughty spirits, Lord, restrain
Who o'er Thy Church with might would reign
And always set forth something new,
Devised to change Thy doctrine true.

8. A trusty weapon is Thy Word,
Thy Church's buckler, shield and sword.
Oh, let us in its power confide
That we may seek no other guide!

Prayer

P Let us pray..... who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever,

C ♪ **Amen**

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you,
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C ♪ **Amen, Amen, Amen.**

Closing Hymn #430 (v. 1, 3-4, 8)

What Is the World to Me

1. What is the world to me
With all its vaunted pleasure
When Thou, and Thou alone,
Lord Jesus, art my Treasure!
Thou only, dearest Lord,
My soul's Delight shalt be;
Thou art my Peace, my Rest,-
What is the world to me!

3. The world seeks to be praised
And honored by the mighty,
Yet never once reflects
That they are frail and flighty.
But what I truly prize
Above all things is He,
My Jesus, He alone,-
What is the world to me!

4. The world seeks after wealth
And all that Mammon offers,
Yet never is content

Though gold should fill it coffers.
I have a higher good,
Content with it I'll be:
My Jesus is my Wealth,-
What is the world to me!

8. What is the world to me!
My Jesus is my Treasure,
My Life, my Health, my Wealth,
My Friend, my Love, my Pleasure,
My Joy, my Crown, my All,
My Bliss eternally.
Once more, then, I declare:
What is the world to me!

Silent Prayer

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