

# THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Saturday, January 23, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

4101 Washington Street NE

Columbia Heights, MN 55421

+ CONNECT +

**OPENING MEDLEY: “O Christ, Who Called the Twelve” (st. 1-4)**

O Christ, who called the Twelve To rise and follow You,  
Forsaking old, familiar ways For ventures bold and new:  
Grant us to hear Your call To risk security  
And, bound in heart and will to You, Find perfect liberty.

O Christ, who taught the Twelve The truth for ages sealed,  
Whose words and works awakened faith, The ways of God revealed:  
Instruct us now, we pray, By Your empow’ring Word.  
True teacher, be for all who seek Their light, their life, their Lord.

O Christ, who led the Twelve Among the desolate  
And broke as bread of life for all Your love compassionate:  
Lead us along the ways Where hope has nearly died  
And help us climb the lonely hills Where love is crucified.

O Christ, who sent the Twelve On roads they’d never trod  
To serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim The nearer reign of God:  
Send us on ways where faith Transcends timidity,  
Where love informs and hope sustains Both life and ministry.

*(“O Christ, Who Called the Twelve”, text by Herman G. Stuempfle, copyright 1993 GIA Pub., OneLicense.Net #A-704112)*

## “Listen, God Is Calling”



Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing through the Word in - vit - ing,



of - fer - ing for - give-ness, com - fort and joy. joy.



1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news  
2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.  
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,



that he came to save us and set us free.  
 In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.  
 walk-ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

*("Listen, God is Calling", Tanzanian traditional song, copyright 1995 Augsburg Fortress, OneLicense.Net A-704112)*

**INVOCATION:**

**L:** Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES:**

**L:** Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,

**C:** **Praise the name of the LORD!**

**L:** Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!

**C:** **From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!**

**L:** The time has come!

**C:** **The kingdom of God has come near.**

**All:** ***Repent and believe the good news!***

**L:** Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples!

**C:** **For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**

**L:** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name

**C:** **Bring an offering, and come into His courts!**

**CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:**

**L:** We listen to the stories of the call of the disciples and find them interesting but unrealistic. When we look at our own lives, we believe that we could not leave everything to follow someone we didn't know. We have many responsibilities and ties which keep us from following. But God is persistent. God understands our confusion and doubts. And God continues to call us to be in ministry and mission in this world. It may not mean leaving everything behind, but it does mean being willing to serve wherever God calls us. That's hard. We want to place conditions on service, and usually those conditions are "if we have time", "if we have energy", "if we can just try serving God for a little while to see how it all works out". Still God calls to each of us. Discipleship is difficult. Let's ask for forgiveness

**C:** **Forgive us, patient and persistent Lord, for the very many times we turn our backs on serving you and focus on our own comforts. Forgive us when we look the other way when people are in need. Forgive us our angry attitudes and actions which hurt rather than heal. Wrap your arms around us, healing our wounds, binding us to you. Gently move us to follow you into service in the name of Jesus, Amen.**

**FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED**

## SONG OF PRAISE: "I Will Glory in the Cross"

D G D Dsus/E  
 I will glo - ry in the cross where my  
 (opt. lyric) (Hal - le - lu - jah for the cross)

3 D/F# Bm Asus A Em  
 Je - sus was cru - ci - fied. Through His blood I stand for -

6 Bm G Asus A  
 giv - en, cleansed from sin and jus - ti - fied. I will  
 (Hal - le -

9 D G D Dsus/E D/F# Bm  
 glo - ry in the cross. I will ev - er lift it  
 lu - jah for the cross.)

12 Asus A Em Bm Gmaj7  
 high as a ban - ner for sal - va - tion, as the

15 D/F# A7 1. D 2. D  
 stan - dard for my life. I will life.  
 (Hal - le -

("I Will Glory in the Cross", by Kirk & Deby Dearman, copyright 1999  
 ThreeFold Amen Music, CCLI Lic. #921494.)

### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.  
 C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.  
 C: **O God, you are our light and our salvation. Living in your presence, we have nothing to fear. Open our hearts to your word this day. As we hear the story of the call of the first disciples, make us ready to follow Jesus on whatever path He leads us. Cast aside our fears and doubts, and teach us to trust wholly in you. For we ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.**

### GREETING TIME

+ NURTURE +

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three

days to go through it. Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth...When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

**EPISTLE LESSON: I Corinthians 7:29-31**

What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

**HOLY GOSPEL:**

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter one.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling"**

**Hark, the voice of Jesus calling, "Who will go and work today?**

**Fields are white and harvests waiting, Who will bear the sheaves away?"**

**Loud and long the master calls you; Rich reward he offers free.**

**Who will answer, gladly saying, "Here am I. Send me, send me"?"**

**If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul,**

**You can tell the love of Jesus; You can say he died for all.**

**If you cannot rouse the wicked With the judgment's dread alarms,**

**You can lead the little children To the Savior's waiting arms.**

**If you cannot be a watchman, Standing high on Zion's wall,**

**Pointing out the path to heaven, Off'ring life and peace to all,**

**With your prayers and with your bounties You can do what God demands;**

**You can be like faithful Aaron, Holding up the prophet's hands.**

**Let none hear you idly saying, "There is nothing I can do,"**

**While the multitudes are dying And the master calls for you,**

**Take the task he gives you gladly; Let his work your pleasure be.**

**Answer quickly when he calls you, "Here am I. Send me, send me!"**

**MESSAGE: "Just Follow Me, That's All – Part 2" – Pastor Bill Hugo**

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' 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 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.**

**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.**

**+ EMPOWER +**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:**

*(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)*

**P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:**

**C: 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.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING HYMN: “O Christ, Who Called the Twelve” (st. 5)**

**O Christ, th’ apostles’ Lord, The martyrs’ strength and song,**

**The crucified and risen King to whom the saints belong:**

**Though generations pass, Our tribute still we bring,**

**Our hymns a sacrifice of praise, Our lives an offering.**

*(“O Christ, Who Called the Twelve”, text by Herman G. Stuempfle, copyright 1993 GIA Pub., OneLicense.Net #A-704112)*

**+ + +**

**Lay Minister: Bob Nehring**