

The Reading: Jonah 3 - 4

^{3:1} Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: ² “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.” ³ 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. ⁴ Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” ⁵ The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. ⁶ When Jonah’s warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷ This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸ But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹ Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.” ¹⁰ 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. ^{4:1} But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. ³ Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ But the Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁷ But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, “It would be better for me to die than to live.” ⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?” “It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.” ¹⁰ But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Children’s Message: *Pastor Eric Hanson* (you may be seated)

2nd-6th Grade Children Sing

Sermon: *Pastor Eric Hanson*

Hymn of the Day & Offering:

Offerings will be collected during the hymn of the day. Thank you also to those who give online. If you’d like to sign up for online giving please visit <http://www.stlukegoodhue.org/online-giving.html>. Children’s coin offering will go toward ELCA Good Gifts serving communities in need around the world.

“I Want To Walk As Child Of The Light” #815

**Vs 1: I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.**

**Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**Vs 2: I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. [Refrain]**

**Vs 3: I’m looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. [Refrain]**

Offertory Response: “Give Thanks” (*ushers bring offerings forward*)
**Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.**

**And now let the weak say, “I am strong”.
Let the poor say, “I am rich Because of what the Lord has done for us”. Give thanks.**

Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray.
**C: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek & follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Apostles’ Creed: (*please stand as you are able*)

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven & 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 into hell. 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.

The Prayers: (*call and response*)

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.* God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain especially for Keith Brown, Dolly Mensink, Judy Carpenter, Jan Benidt, Dave (Pud) Gnotke, Geri Lindholm, Shawn Fredrixon, Marc Bode and the family of Deb Gerber. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you welcome them into your care. Comfort those who grieve, even as we place our hope in your salvation. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace:

P: The peace of Christ be with you always,

C: And also with you.

The Great Thanksgiving:

P: The Lord be with you **C: And also with you**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give Him thanks & praise.**

The Words of Institution

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.

Meal and Hymns: (*you may be seated*)

All are welcome at this meal. We believe in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection experienced in bread and wine.

Please move forward via the center aisle. Bread is received in the hands. Wine is received by dipping the bread into the wine chalice and consuming both together. All ages are welcome to commune. Those not communing may receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded or extending your arms over your chest in the sign of a cross inviting blessing. For those unable to consume either wine or bread, communion is received fully in either element alone, for Christ is fully present in the meal. You may return to your seats via the side aisles after communing. Gluten-free is available, simply make the server aware of your need. Also, if you cannot come forward, but wish for communion or blessing, let the usher know it will come to you at the end.

“When A Star Is Shining”

Vs 1: When a star is shining over eastern hills, when the air is silent, and the clamor stills,
when the night is waiting, & the old hopes rise, then the time has ripened & the heart grows wise.

Refrain: Lead us on, lead us on, to a morning where the promise shines.
Lead us on, lead us on, to a morning where the promise shines.

Vs 2: Where the world is waiting for an unknown day, where a voice forgotten cries, “Prepare the way!”
Where an earthly power makes the heart turn cold,
there the gifts are offered – incense, myrrh, and gold. [Refrain]

Vs 3: Lead us on, O Daystar, in the quiet night; guide us through the shadow with your gentle light;
show us in a manger our redemption’s sign;
bring us to a morning where the promise shines. [Refrain]

“This Little Light Of Mine” #566

Vs 1: This little light of mine I’m gonna let it shine, This little light of mine I’m gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine I’m gonna let it shine, Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Vs 2: Ev’rywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine, Ev’rywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine;
Ev’rywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine, Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Vs 3: Jesus gave it to me, I’m gonna let it shine, Jesus gave it to me, I’m gonna let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I’m gonna let it shine, Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Communion Prayer: *(please stand as you are able)*

P: Let us pray together.

**C: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life.
In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing: P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord’s face shine on you with grace and
mercy. May the Lord look upon you with favor + and give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending: *“O Jesus, I Have Promised” #810*

Vs 1: O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end; remain forever near me, my master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side, nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

Vs 2: Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near; I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me, around me and within; but, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.

Vs 3: Oh, let me hear you speaking, in accents clear & still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; now speak & make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.

Vs 4: O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end; oh, give me grace to follow, my Master & my Friend.

Dismissal: P: Go in peace to love the Lord and serve your neighbor.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Third Sunday after Epiphany

St. Luke Lutheran Church • Pastor Eric Hanson
9:30AM • January 21, 2024

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Greeting:

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

C: And also with you.

Confession and Forgiveness: *(stand as you are able)*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse
the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and
worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin.
We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,
things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, & uphold us by your Spirit,
so that we may live & serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with
Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God
strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: *“God, We Gather As Your People”*

Vs 1: God, we gather as your people to raise our song above, & we dare to claim the promise of your love.
Though the day may not yet be here, we trust it soon will be, when your children will be free.

Refrain: Oh, may our hearts and minds be opened, fling the church doors open wide.
May there be room enough for ev’ryone inside.

For in God there is a welcome, in God we all belong. May that welcome be our song.

Vs 2: Oh, we sing for all the children, that one day they be free; and we sing for generations yet to be,
that they never have a reason to doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest. [Refrain]

Vs 3: Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear & shame, so afraid of who they are & whom they love.
May the message now be banished that your love is for the few; may their faith in you renew. [Refrain]

Vs 4: God, we’re working for the future when children far & wide can live their lives with dignity & pride.
As they grow in strength & stature, may they join us hand in hand, as against all hate we stand. [Refrain]

Prayer of the Day: *(you may be seated)*

P: Let us pray together

**C: 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.**