

January 22, 2023 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Holy One, source of our renewal, **we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of ☩ Christ our Savior. Amen.

Opening Hymn *O Word of God Incarnate*

1 O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high, O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky: we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page, a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

2 The church from you, dear Master, received the gift divine; and still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine. It is the chart and compass that, all life's voyage through, mid mists and rocks and quicksands still guides, O Christ, to you.

3 Oh, make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of burnished gold to bear before the nations your true light, as of old; oh, teach your wand'ring pilgrims by this their path to trace, till, clouds and darkness ended, they see you face to face.

Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, **your loving kindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading – Isaiah 9:1-4 *Light shines for those in darkness*

Psalms: Psalm 27:1, 4-9

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.

For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

My heart speaks your message—"Seek my face." Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23 *Revelation of Christ as a prophet*

Message

Hymn of the Day *Will You Come and Follow Me*

1 "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"

2 "Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?"

5 Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Prayers of the People

Response: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Giving Prayer

Liberating God, **you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, Amen.**

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.

Announcements

Blessing

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ☩ bless, strengthen, and uphold us, today and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn *I Love to Tell the Story*

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know it's true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

Refrain

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

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2 I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat what seems,
each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet! I love to tell the
story, for some have never heard the message of salvation
from God's own holy word. *Refrain*

3 I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem
hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest. And when, in
scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, I'll sing the old, old
story that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**