

ORDER OF WORSHIP

3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 21, 2024

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8100 SHADY GROVE RD.
MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23111

SAINTPAUL-LCMS.COM

804.427.7500

LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

Sunday Schedule

Adult Bible Study – 9:15 a.m.

Traditional Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Rodney E. Bitely, Pastor
Mr. Bill Moats, Choir Director
Mr. Roger Sethmann, Organist
Mrs. Debbie Harris, Church Secretary

A Word About Communion

We Lutherans believe in the Real Presence, namely that Christ's body and blood are actually present with the bread and wine in a very special way (1 Cor. 10:16). Because we want to honor Christ and to grow closer to Him through this precious gift of forgiveness we practice close communion. Our faith in Christ brings us closer to Him and to each other. This sacrament is His way of keeping us close, that is, in union or communion with Him and fellow Christians. In order to build closeness, please read below before communing. As a baptized Christian:

- ✠ I confess my sins to God and rely on Jesus Christ to save me from them.
- ✠ I believe that Christ is really present in this Sacrament and that with the bread and wine I actually receive His true body and blood.
- ✠ I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to amend my sinful life and live a life that is pleasing to God.



As We Gather

Can't somebody else do it? Those words and thoughts often come to our minds and out of our mouths when being asked to do something we'd rather not do. It happens in our work and jobs, it happens in homes and families, and it even happens within the church. It happened to Jonah when the Lord told him to go to Nineveh. Today we hear the second time God called to Jonah, telling him to again go to a place he'd rather not go. There are many times we hear things in

Scripture we'd rather not hear when it comes to difficult things. Can't somebody else do it? Instead of that thought entering our minds, may we instead be reminded of God's continued promises and presence with us in whatever we do in faith, and wherever we are called to go—even to our own Ninevehs.

Key:

- △ – Stand
- Ⓟ – Pastor
- Ⓐ – Assistant/Reader
- Ⓒ – Congregation

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Stand

913 O Holy Spirit, Enter In



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in, And in our hearts
 2 Give to Your Word im - pres - sive pow'r, That in our hearts
 3 O might - y Rock, O Source of life, Let Your dear Word,



Your work be - gin, Your dwell - ing place now make us.
 from this good hour As fire it may be glow - ing,
 in doubt and strife, In us be strong - ly burn - ing



Sun of the soul, O Light di - vine, A - round and in
 That in true Chris - tian u - ni - ty We faith - ful wit -
 That we be faith - ful un - to death And live in love



us bright - ly shine, To joy and glad - ness wake us
 ness - es may be, Your glo - ry ev - er show - ing.
 and ho - ly faith, From You true wis - dom learn - ing.



That we may be Tru - ly liv - ing, To You giv - ing
 Hear us, cheer us By Your teach - ing; Let our preach - ing
 Your grace and peace On us show - er; By Your pow - er



Prayer un - ceas - ing And in love be still in - creas - ing.
 And our la - bor Praise You, Lord, and serve our neigh - bor.
 Christ con - fess - ing, Let us see our Sav - ior's bless - ing.

Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606-73, adapt.; (sts. 1, 3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.; (st. 2): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
 Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608
 Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

Mt. 28:19b; [Mt. 18:20]

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

[Heb. 10:22], Ps. 124:8, Ps. 32:5

- 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 You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 113:1-2, 4, 7-8; antiphon: v. 3

- 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 Blessed 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 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
C **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
P From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C **the name of the LORD is to be praised!**

Kyrie

Mark 10:47

- P** O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
P O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
P O Lord,
C **have mercy.**

733 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

sts. 1, 3-6



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,
5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, Soon bears us all a - way;
6 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
We fly for - got - ten as a dream Dies at the o - p'ning day.
Be Thou our guard while trou - bles last And our e - ter - nal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
Tune: William Croft, 1678-1727
Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation and Collect of the Day

Epiphany 3

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray... Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Jonah 3:1–5, 10

Jonah goes to Nineveh.

A The Old Testament Reading is from Jonah, chapter 3.

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

When 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 7:29–35

Faithful living with time given.

A The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 7.

This 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, 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 goods, 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.

I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, and 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. I 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choral Anthem

Stand

Gradual

Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

- 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!**

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:14–20

Jesus calls the first disciples.

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.
- C** **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

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

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

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

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.**

Sit

Children's Message

All children, preschool age through elementary school, are invited to come forward for a special message.

685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to
 bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He
 con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to
 from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,
 is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,
 us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion
 You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and
 We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts
 That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that
 Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
 that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,
 shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,
 con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.
 here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
 here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
 let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626-81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.
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 Tune: Public domain

Sermon - *Jonah 3:1-5, 10, "The Lord Calls Sinners"*

*"Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time saying,
'Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city,
and call out against it the message that I tell you.'*

Jonah 3:1

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the Church of God and for all people according to their needs, for You, O Lord, in all times and in all places, promise to hear our prayers and to answer them according to Your will. In this season of Epiphany where the light shines on our Savior, manifested as the Word made flesh, continue to reveal to us through Your Word the mercy and grace found in Jesus Christ alone. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P As You work Your will and send the salvation message through Your people, we are sometimes asked to go where we'd rather not go. Though not to Nineveh like Jonah, we have been called by the working of Your Spirit to go and make disciples of all nations. Grant to us a confident and bold faith to live as Your witnesses to the ends of the earth beginning in our homes, our church and community, and among all our neighbors in this world. Soften the hearts of the hard-hearted and open the minds of the close-minded that all may come to repentance and know You as the one true God who sent His Son into this world to redeem the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P As the present world is passing away and time is short, we see the brokenness and results of sin in our daily lives. For those who struggle in body, mind, or spirit, affirm to them Your promises of peace in Your time as Christ has overcome the world. Point us all to Your continued presence, and assure us that Jesus is victor over anything that we might fear. In Your good time, come and make all things new. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P As Jesus called His disciples to become fishers of men, they responded immediately to drop their nets and follow. Give us such an urgency to also hear and heed the call and to follow in faith where Christ leads. As we do not know the hour of Your return, give an eagerness to our lives as faithful stewards of all we have been given with time, treasures, and abilities, that we use them to Your glory and for the sake of others. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Additional petitions may be added.

P Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Offering

Voluntary

Stand

805 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

△ Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

The musical score consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff covers the first line of lyrics, the second staff covers the second line, and the third staff covers the third line. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Sacrament

Preface & Proper Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P The Lord be with you.

The musical notation for 'The Lord be with you' is a single staff in G minor (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and consists of a few notes: G4, A4, Bb4, A4, G4.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

The musical notation for 'Lift up your hearts' is a single staff in G minor (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and consists of a few notes: G4, A4, Bb4, A4, G4.

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

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.**

The Words of Our Lord *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

Peace of the Lord

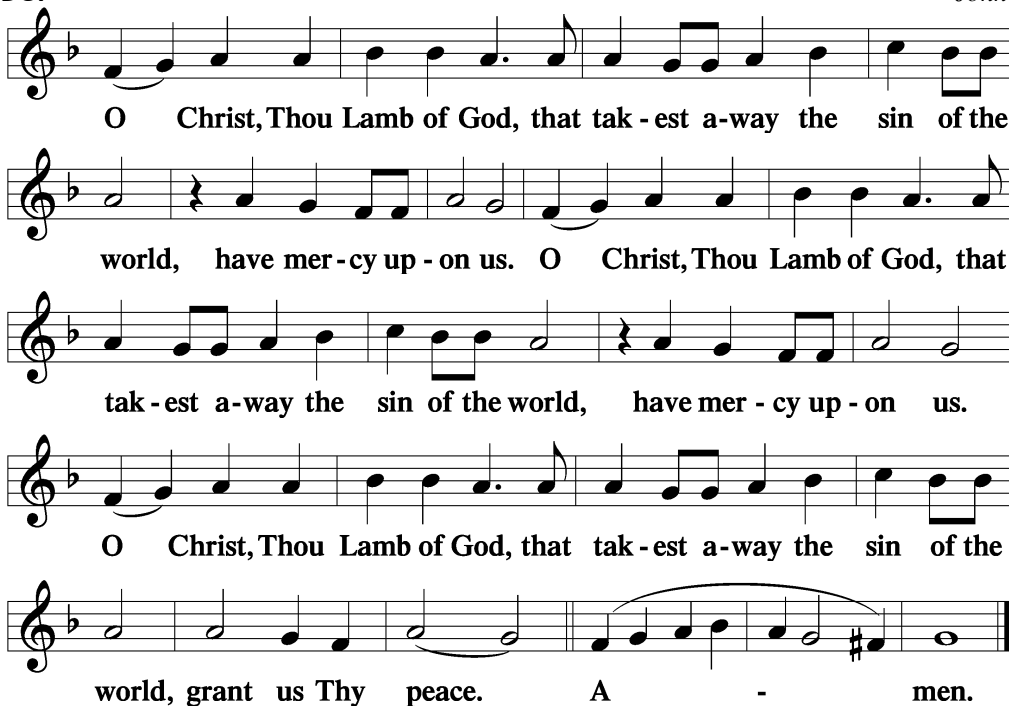
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

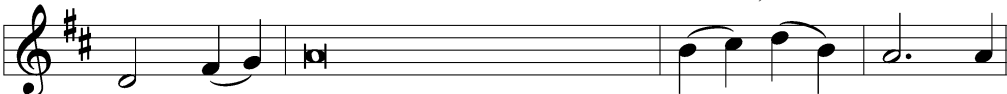
Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, Now Dismiss Your Servant



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-




cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,




which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



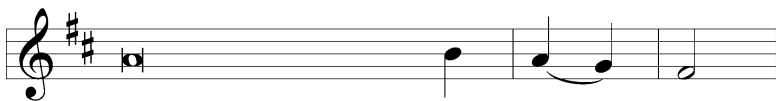
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray... O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

P Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer



1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;
stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,



Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,
Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,



bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no
strong de - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and
songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to



more; Feed me till I want no more.
shield; Be Thou still my strength and shield.
Thee; I will ev - er give to Thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717-91, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722-96, alt.; (sts. 2-3): tr. William Williams, 1717-91
Tune: John Hughes, 1873-1932
Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

Acknowledgments

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A Congregation Sharing Christ's Salvation
By Grace...
Through Faith...
Revealed in Scripture...
Alone.