

**Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
**January 24, 2021**  
Living Faith Lutheran Church, Sechelt, BC

Preservice Music/Welcome/Announcements

**GATHERING**

Gathering Song      #306    “Come, Beloved of the Maker”

- 1 Come, beloved of the Maker, come, behold the Firstborn One;  
see revealed creation's splendor crowned in glory like the sun.
- 2 See the Morningstar now beckon to those bound to doubt and night;  
"Follow me," Christ calls in welcome, "come from darkness into light."
- 3 Follow to the birth of newness; follow to the life of peace;  
follow to the hill of anguish; follow to the garden bliss.
- 4 There we too will burn and brighten, God's resplendent work begun;  
glory will ascend and heighten, crowning us with glorious sun.
- 5 Christ, bright image of the Maker, God, whose glory none may pass,  
Spirit, sun of love and splendor, bear us into light at last.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Apostolic Greeting

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

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**  
For the peace from above, and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**  
For the peace of the whole world, for the wellbeing of the church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**  
For this holy house, for houses everywhere, and for all in these places  
who offer their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**  
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!  
Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!  
To God be glory forever! To God be glory forever!  
Alleluia! Amen! Alleluia! Amen!

### Prayer of the Day

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 Saviour. **Amen.**

### WORD

#### First Reading      Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you. <sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" <sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. <sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God's mind was changed about the calamity that God had said would be brought upon them; and God did not do it.

*Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God.*

#### Second Reading      I Corinthians 7:29-31

<sup>29</sup>I mean, sisters and brothers, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, <sup>30</sup>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 possessions, <sup>31</sup>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.

*Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God.*

#### Gospel verse

**Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!**

#### Holy Gospel

Mark 1:14-20

***Glory to you, O Lord.***

<sup>4</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news."

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

*The gospel of our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.*

#### A Hymn of Praise      #314      "Arise, Your Light Has Come"

- 1 Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

- 2 Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.
- 3 Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,  
bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.
- 4 Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

#### Sermon

#### Hymn of the Day #636 "How Small Our Span of Life"

- 1 How small our span of life, O God, our years from birth till death:  
a single beat within the heart, the catching of a breath,  
a drop within the ocean's deep, a grain upon the shore,  
a flash of light before we sleep to see the sun no more.
- 2 And yet our speck of life is spanned by your infinity;  
our tick of time on earth is caught in your eternity.  
While suns and stars spin endlessly through depths of cosmic space,  
while aeons roll and ages pass, you hold us in your grace.
- 3 O Christ, you left eternity to plunge in time's swift stream,  
to share the shortness of our span, our mortal lives redeem.  
You filled your cross-closed years with love; you loved us to the end  
and touch us with your risen life that ours may time transcend.
- 4 We thank you, God, for kindling faith that lights our transient years,  
illuminating our pilgrimage through mists of doubt and fears;  
for hope that sees a life beyond the swiftly passing days;  
for love, both human and divine, that lifts our hearts to praise.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

#### Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and 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 to the dead.\* 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.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need. *A brief silence.*

For the church throughout the world, for pastors and teachers, for deacons and deaconesses, and for musicians and servers, that all proclaim the good news of God's reconciling love, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For skies and seas, for birds and fish, for favorable weather and clean water, and for the well-being of creation, that God raise up advocates and scientists to guide our care for all the earth, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who provide leadership in our cities and around the world, for non-profit and non-governmental organizations like Canadian Lutheran World Relief, for planning commissions and homeless advocates, that God inspire all people in the just use of wealth, influence and imagination, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who are sick, distressed, or grieving; for the outcast and all who await relief (*especially Ed and Gwen, Dorothy and Ingrid, Merv and Marlene, Erika and Rikki, Pam and Bud, Marianne and Tory, Sharon and Phil, Albert and Randi, and those we name now in silence or aloud. . .*), that in the midst of suffering, God's peace and mercy would surround them, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For our congregation and community, for families big and small, and for the organizations that used to and will again meet here during the week, that God's steadfast love serve as a model for all relationships, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the people and leaders of the United States who mourn all those and all that which was lost over the past years, and who long for light, unity and hope in the midst of darkness and who, along with the nations of the world, need an example of power that serves, cares for and respects everyone, even those with whom we disagree and dislike, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for our ancestors in the faith whose lives serve as an example of gospel living, including Kira and Linda, Maggie and Elizabeth and those near and dear to us whose memories we cherish. . .that they point us to salvation through Christ, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.** Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour and Friend. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace/Offering/Offertory

*A musical reflection is played while the table is prepared*

## MEAL

### Offering Prayer

Good and loving God, **we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Great Thanksgiving

God is with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to our God.**

Let us give thanks to God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

### Epiphany Prayer of Thanksgiving over the gifts of field and vine

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer (sung)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Fraction      The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Invitation      Taste and see that our God is good.

Lamb of God

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.**

Sharing of the Meal      *Music is played during the distribution*

Prayer after the Meal

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood  
of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away  
as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

### Benediction

The God of steadfastness and encouragement  
grant you to live in harmony with one another,  
in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song #536 “God Be With You Till We Meet Again”

- 1 God be with you till we meet again; by good counsels guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.

### *Refrain*

*Till we meet, (till we meet,) till we meet, (till we meet again,)  
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet,) till we meet, (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet again.) God be with you till we meet again.*

- 2 God be with you till we meet again; holy wings securely hide you,  
daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again. *Refrain*
- 3 God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you,  
put unfailing arms around you; God be with you till we meet again. *Refrain*

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude