

THE 3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

HOLY COMMUNION

24 January 2021

GATHERING

OPENING HYMN “The Night You Gave Us, God, Has Ended”

1. The night you gave us,
God, has ended,
the darkness hails
the sun’s bright rays;
as shadows flee
and earth awakens,
we rise again
to sing your praise.
2. We thank you for
each glorious sunrise
that paints the earth
a golden hue;
each day your grace
grants new beginnings,
the chance to start
again anew.
4. We pray for energy
and passion
to live our lives
each day for you;
may all around us
sense your presence
in all we say
and all we do.
5. We praise you, God,
for nature’s rhythms,
for dark and daylight,
stars and sun;
your whole creation
sings your glory,
O Trinity,
Most Holy One.

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THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

People: **And also with you.**

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HYMN OF PRAISE

Spirited (refrain)

Our God of love will host the cel - e - bra - tion, And has called us to

share the feast, Our God of love will host the cel - e - bra - tion, And has called us to

(verses)

share the feast. 1. Ev - 'ry na - tion, all peo - ple are in - vit - ed, From

2. God calls us to part - ti - ci - pate com - plete - ly, And

north and south, from west and east, God pro - vides the

meets us with God's grac - ious care, We're to come, in

(repeat refrain)

sup - per set be - fore us, and sup - plies ev - ry - thing we'll need:

joy - ful ce - le - bra - tion, to this feast we are called to share:

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Living God, your word summons us to faith; your power transforms our lives. Free us to follow in Christ's footsteps, so that neither human loyalty nor earthly attachments may hold us back from answering your call. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

From *Book of Common Worship*, edited, © 1993 Westminster/John Knox Press.

WORD

CHOIR ANTHEM

“The Call”

Ralph Vaughan-Williams, comp.

THE FIRST LESSON

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Ninevah will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah’s dismay, the people of Ninevah repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question “On whom should God have mercy?”

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

SING

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -
 - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Your Word is a lamp, a lamp un - to my
 feet, Your Word is a light, a light up - on my path: Al - le -
 - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -
 - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

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THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:14-20

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

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CHILDREN’S TIME

THE SERMON

Pastor Melinda Wagner

HYMN OF THE DAY

“We Are Called”

1. Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy
and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light
for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom
of the city of God.

Refrain:

**We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.**

2. Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy
to all those in fear!

We are called to be hope
for the hopeless
so all hatred and blindness
will be no more.

Refrain

3. Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day
when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk
with each other
as sisters and brothers
united in love.

Refrain

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Assistant: Led by the light of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition...

Assistant: Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude...

Pastor: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

People: Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

SHARING THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

SETTING THE TABLE



Farms and fields and gar - dens, Filled with gold - en grain,
Orch - ards, vine - yards yield - ing Fruits of your de - sign.

In the bread You've gi - ven, We live in Your reign. We re -
Signs of your a - bun - dance, In this bread and wine.

turn to You, God, gifts you have gi - ven, Know - ing that you love us,

Know - ing we're for - giv - en, Know - ing we're for - giv - en.

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: Blessed are you, O holy God: You are the Life and Light of all....

...To you be honor and glory, now and forever.

People: **Amen**

THE 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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

READ

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God. The body of Christ is given for us.
The blood of Christ is shed for us.

BLESSING

Pastor: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of Christ's body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

People: Amen

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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assistant: Let us pray.

**People: We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Be the light for our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever.
Amen**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the light of Jesus Christ fill your hearts and illumine your path.
Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

People: Amen

CLOSING HYMN

“Bring Forth the Kingdom”



1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the king-dom of God!
2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the cit - y of God!
3 You are a seed of the word, O peo-ple: bring forth the king-dom of God!
4 We are a blest and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the king-dom of God!



Share the fla - vor of life, O peo - ple: life in the king - dom of God!
Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: shine for the king - dom of God!
Seeds of mer - cy and seeds of jus - tice, grow in the king - dom of God!
Love our jour - ney and love our home - land: love is the king - dom of God!



Bring forth the king - dom of mer - cy, bring forth the



king - dom of peace; bring forth the king - dom of jus - tice,



bring forth the cit - y of God!

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SENDING

Assistant: Go in peace. You are light for the world.

People: Thanks be to God.