

I Will Make You Fishermen

Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 21, 2024

KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Golden Valley, Minnesota*

Welcome to God's divine service among his saints in his house this morning. If you experience any kind of barrier to worship, please speak with an usher. There is a hearing assistance system available, and there are activity bags and a cry room for small children just beside the front door.

Service of Preparation

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Use this time in quiet preparation for the Lord's Supper, perhaps with the help of page 129 in the front portion of the hymnary.

HYMN

Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying | #191

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: O almighty God, merciful Father: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to 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: I ask each of you, in the presence of God who searches the heart: Do you confess that you have sinned, and do you repent of your sins?

C: I do.

P: Do you believe that Jesus Christ has redeemed you from all your sins, and do you desire forgiveness in his name?

C: I do.

P: Upon this your confession, I announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the place and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you!
Amen.

HYMN

Gloria

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, for - ev - er - more. A - men.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text. The third staff contains the melody for the third line of text and ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

Service of the Word

The readings for the Third Sunday after the Epiphany tell us when Jesus calls people to follow him, it changes everything that is important in life. And then Jesus calls his followers to be follower-makers through the simple message of reconciliation. That's good news for people worried the job is too hard.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray that we heed Jesus' call to discipleship: Merciful God, we thank you for sending your Son to announce the coming of your kingdom. Make us ready to hear his call, to turn away from our sins, and to believe his good news. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Corinthians 5:14–21

God has repaired our relationship with him ("reconciliation") and has now made us something new—ambassadors to share this message of reconciliation.

¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:14–20

Jesus said, “Follow me, and I will make you . . .” It is not, “Follow me, because of what you already are.” His goal and now our goal is to change people, not agree with them and leave them as they are.

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN

Praise to Thee and Adoration | #596

SERMON

Jonah 3:1–10

Jesus called unlikely candidates to be his fishers of people. This reading from Jonah takes that to the extreme and shows God’s power is in the word, not in the speaker.

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.

HYMN

Create in Me

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Service of Thanksgiving

STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

The teaching and evangelism work of King of Grace is supported entirely by donation. You can support this work by giving a gift in the offering plate or at www.kingofgracelutheran.com/give.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

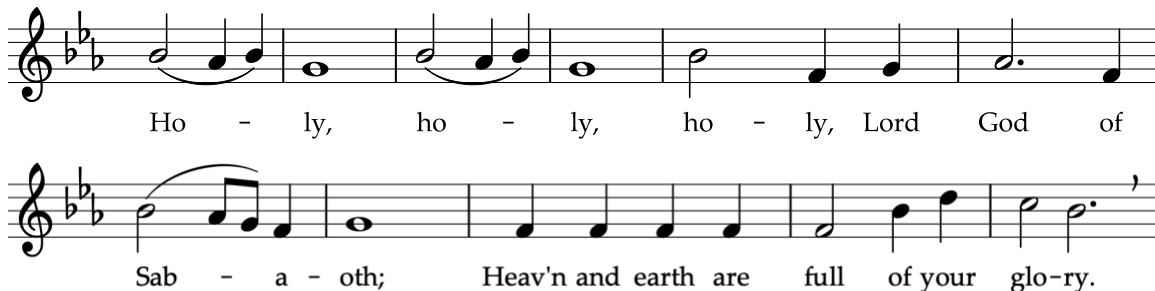
Service of the Sacrament

The members of King of Grace invite members of other ELS or WELS congregations to commune with us. We ask everyone else to please visit with our pastors before our next communion service.

P: Let us pray: It is truly, good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. We praise you that you sent us your only-begotten Son and revealed your full glory in him. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we praise and worship your glorious name, forever praising you and saying:

HYMN

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
Sab - a - oth; Heav'n and earth are full of your 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 who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

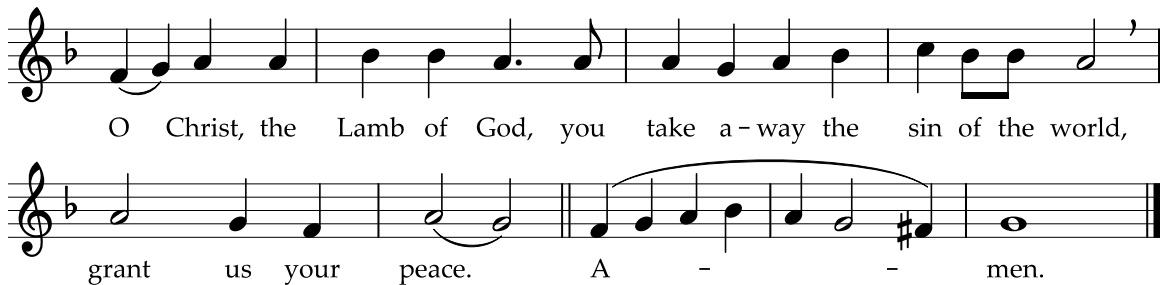
CONSECRATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND RECEPTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and 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 and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Agnus Dei

O Christ, the Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world,
 have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



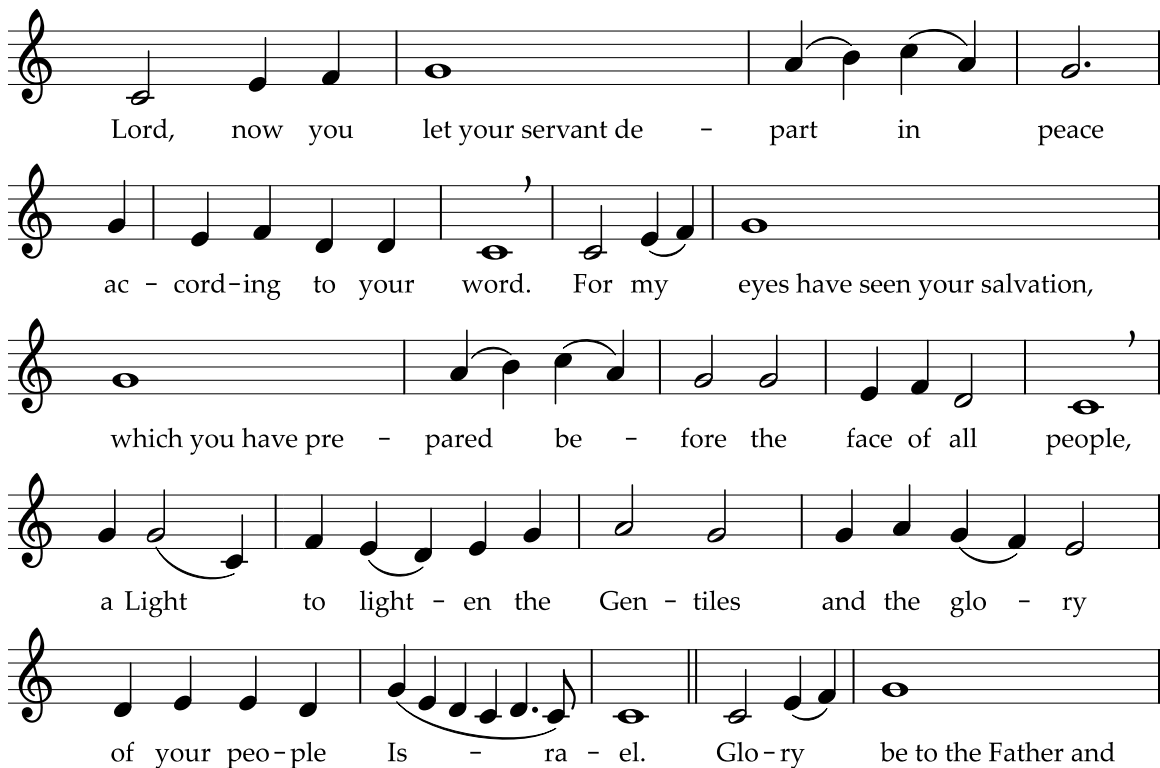
O Christ, the Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world,
grant us your peace. A - - men.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Take My Life and Let It Be | #444

THANKSGIVING HYMN

Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace
ac - cord-ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a Light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry
of your 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, for - ev - er-more. A - men.

PRAYER

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 on the basis of his work you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We ask you not to abandon your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit, so that we may be empowered constantly to serve you. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

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.

Meditate on how Psalm 62 relates to today's theme at home throughout this week.

Preacher..... Pastor Bernt Tweit | **Liturgist**..... Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad
Organist (Sunday)..... Karen Merseth | **Pianist (Monday)**..... Lynn Handberg



King of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and School
6000 Duluth Street | 763-546-3131 | www.kingofgracelutheran.com
Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Pastors Aaron Ferkenstad & Bernt Tweit | Principal Allen Labitzky