

Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 24, 2021

Faith Lutheran Church

Online

Georgetown, TX 78628

512-863-7332

flcms.org

(The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod)

WELCOME

INVOCATION:

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Psalm 62:1-2*

Pastor: For God alone my soul waits in silence;

People: from Him comes my salvation.

Pastor: He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress;

People: I shall not be greatly shaken.

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

People: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: “Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower” (LSB, #694, vs 1, 2, and 5)

Thee will I love, my strength, my tower;

Thee will I love, my hope, my joy.

Thee will I love with all my power,
With ardor time shall ne'er destroy.

Thee will I love, O Light divine,
So long as life is mine.

Thee will I love, my life, my Savior,
Who art my best and truest friend.

Thee will I love and praise forever,
For never shall Thy kindness end.

Thee will I love with all my heart—
Thou my Redeemer art!

Thee will I love, my crown of gladness;
Thee will I love, my God and Lord,
Amid the darkest depths of sadness,
And not for hope of high reward,
For Thine own sake, O Light divine,
So long as life is mine.

Text: Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, our salvation comes from God alone. Apart from Him we have no good thing and can do no good work. Left to ourselves we wallow in wickedness and are consumed by our own hatefulness. Only through Christ Jesus do we escape death and hell. His blood washes away our sin, and His victory over Satan secures our places in Paradise. To Him we turn to pray, "Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy."

People: To You, Jesus, we cry. You are our Rock and Fortress. In Your presence fears cannot shake us, enemies cannot harm us, and persecutions cannot distress us. Forgive us for seeking safety and prosperity through earthly realms and rulers. Contentment can never be found in wealth, nor security in might. Grant us faith that clings in love to You and finds life, peace, and every good in Your death and resurrection. Amen.

Pastor: Fear not, my friends! God, Who is rich in mercy, has heard Your plea. Since Jesus sacrificed Himself in your place, the Father's favor rests on you. He welcomes You with delight and rejoices to bless you. As a called and ordained messenger of this good news, and with the authority the risen Christ bestowed on His Church, I, therefore, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Pastor: Let us pray:

People: Lord Jesus, Loving Savior, You died for all. Enlarge our hearts, we pray, and overcome our prejudices. Make us daily more like You, ever willing to expend ourselves for others, until all nations bow before You in faith; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Jonah 3:1–5, 10*

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.

RESPONSORY: *Psalm 62:8*

Lector: Trust in [God] at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him;

People: God is a refuge for us.

EPISTLE READING: *1 Corinthians 7:29–35*

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.

RESPONSORY: *Psalm 62:11*

Lector: Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this:

People: that power belongs to God, and that to You, O Lord, belongs steadfast love.

Lector: Please rise, as you are able.

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter:

People: Glory to You, O Lord!

GOSPEL READING: *Mark 1:14–20*

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.

Lector: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

Lector: We confess together our Christian faith, using the Apostles' Creed

CONFESSION OF FAITH: The 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!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The Children's Message will return to its regularly scheduled place when we are able to increase the length of the worship service. Until then, it is available online at www.flcms.org/index.php/media/sermons.

HYMN: “Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace” (LSB, #844)

Lord of all nations, grant me grace
To love all people, ev'ry race;
And in each person may I see
My kindred, loved, redeemed by Thee.

Break down the wall that would divide
Thy children, Lord, on ev'ry side.
My neighbor's good let me pursue;
Let Christian love bind warm and true.

Forgive me, Lord, where I have erred
By loveless act and thoughtless word.
Make me to see the wrong I do
Will grieve my wounded Lord anew.

Give me Thy courage, Lord, to speak
Whenever strong oppress the weak.
Should I myself the victim be,
Help me forgive, rememb'ring Thee.

With Thine own love may I be filled
And by Thy Holy Spirit willed,
That all I touch, where'er I be,
May be divinely touched by Thee.

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SERMON: "Go Where?" (*Jonah 3:1-5, 10*)

OFFERTORY:

While the Coronavirus may have changed the way we come through the front doors of church, thanks be to God it has not prevented us from coming to Church! Please consider, as you are able, returning thanks and giving today at www.flcms.org/index.php/give.

OFFERTORY by FAITH'S BELL CHOIR: "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"

Arranged by Sondra Tucker (2013 Lorenz Publishing Co.) based on the hymn tune
Wie schon leuchtet by Phillipp Nicolai.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.

BENEDICTION: *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you;
the Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “How Shall They Hear,’ Who Have Not Heard” (LSB, #831)

“How shall they hear,” who have not heard
News of a Lord who loved and came;
Nor known His reconciling word,
Nor learned to trust a Savior’s name?

“To all the world,” to ev’ry place,
Neighbors and friends and far-off lands,
Preach the good news of saving grace;
Go while the great commission stands.

“Whom shall I send?” Who hears the call,
Constant in prayer, through toil and pain,
Telling of One who died for all,
To bring a lost world home again?

“Lord, here am I:” Your fire impart
To this poor cold self-centered soul;
Touch but my lips, my hands, my heart,
And make a world for Christ my goal.

Spirit of love, within us move:
Spirit of truth, in pow’r come down!
So shall they hear and find and prove
Christ is their life, their joy, their crown.

DISMISSAL:

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Go in peace and serve the Lord!

In Christian Service:

All disciples of the Lord Jesus

with

Proclaimer – Rev. Bill Crowe

Liturgist – Rev. Walt Pohland

Musicians:

Adam Perez, Austin Angerman, and Janine Alford

Lay Reader: Rick Schmidt

Children's Chapel:

DCE Jonathan Loesch, DCE Austin Angerman