



Time after Epiphany

OUR SAVIOR  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
Sunday, January 24, 2021



**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027  
425-392-4169

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD: TIME AFTER EPIPHANY**

### **GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*This Little Light of Mine* — African American spiritual  
Jiyoung Lee, Scott Hafso

#### **WELCOME**

Pastor Jim Kruse

#### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

PM: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**C: Amen.**

PM: We are joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, where we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of water that sustains life, and praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be honor and praise, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

#### **GREETING**

PM: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; a light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the community of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

#### **GATHERING HYMN**

*We Are Called*

Cantor

Text & Music: David Haas, b. 1957

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.

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.

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.

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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Let us pray. Almighty God,

**C: 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 Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

<sup>1</sup>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 changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

AM: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

<sup>29</sup>Brothers and sisters, 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.

AM: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Arise, Your Light Has Come!*

Cantor

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947; Music: William H. Walter, 1825-1893

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

## THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:14-20

<sup>14</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.

PM: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

The two houses in which I grew up were both designed to be single level homes. And yet my bedroom, along with my two brothers, was always on a second level of the house. That is because both homes originally had unfinished basements which my father finished into sleeping and playing areas for us boys. We literally grew up, sleeping at the bottom of the basement steps. We did not mind this. It was all we knew. And in fact, it gave us a measure of privacy and isolation that we wanted most of the time.

There were many nights when the three of us boys had crawled into bed that we were so wound up, we could not fall asleep. On those nights, we fell into a kind of liturgy, a kind of ritual that always played out exactly the same way. First we would start out by whispering to each other, hoping that no one would be able to hear us upstairs. Then, after a minute or two we would forget ourselves and start to talk in our regular voices. Then, usually more sooner than later, our regular-voice talking would give way to something louder. It might be shouting, or it might be singing, or it might be laughing, or it might be jumping up and down on the beds hitting each other over the heads with our pillows. But whatever it was, it always gave us away. And pretty soon there was my mother, standing at the top of the stairs hollering down at us. "You boys settle down and go to sleep," she would always say. "But we're not tired," we would holler back. "We can't sleep." That is when my mother would say something that made no sense at all to us. She would say, "Well then just be quiet and rest." "Just rest!" we thought, "When we were supposed to be sleeping? How silly!" And yet, it always worked.

What my mother knew, and what most clever mothers know, is that when her children are really tired, they really can go to sleep, they just don't know it. All it would take is to slow down, settle into the quiet of the moment, and let the sleep take over. They know that, even though children think they are not tired, if they act "as if" they are tired, eventually we would become tired, and fall asleep. Mothers can be so smart.

The ability to influence our life by living "as if" something is true, even if you do not believe it is true, or even if it is not yet true, is well known in the helping professions. Patients are asked, even if they do not feel healthy, or even if they have not yet attained what they are hoping to be like, to start living "as if" the condition already exists. The idea is that by living "as if" something is true you begin to turn it into reality in your life. You begin to heal.

Something like this is behind the words of St. Paul as he writes to the people of Corinth in the Second Reading for today. Paul understands that life in the early church was very different than what life was like in the rest of the world. And even though the Corinthians may not feel any different about themselves or their future, they should begin to live "as if" they are different. Those who have spouses, Paul says, can live "as if" they do not. Marriage and family are arranged differently in the God's kingdom. Those who are mourning the loss of a loved one can live "as if" they are not sad. Death is overcome in the new kingdom. Likewise, those who are rejoicing can live "as if" they have no special joy. There is no pleasure in worldly things in the reign of God. Life for them is now different because of the presence and work of Christ in their lives and hearts. But in order for the change to make take effect, they have to live the change in to existence.

In the same way, because we have been called into this same life, baptized as children of this new humanity, gathered into a Christian community, and encouraged to live in a new way, Paul's words are as true for us as they were for the first century church. We live "as if" we are already the ones God says we are. This is the way we break those old habits that threaten our health and our relationships. Act "as if" you have always lived without them. This is the way you live through the crushing blow of the losses of loved ones, the loss of dreams, the loss of security. Act "as if" your life and future are solid in the hands of God. This is the way we bring our future and dreams into reality. We live "as if" they are already the foundations of our living.

There are, however, dangers to living a life where we are constantly pushing back, against the ways of the world around us. There is a danger in living "as if" God has a different reality. We get a clue of that danger in the Gospel for today where Jesus invites Peter and Andrew, James and John into this new life. Mark says that these future disciples respond immediately to Jesus, and that the work that they had set out to do that day goes left undone, "They left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed Jesus." The immediacy and urgency of God's call to live differently can be disruptive to our lives. Things that we used to think were most important, and that others may continue to see as central, no longer grab our attention. And we can begin to feel out of step with the rest of the world.

But there is also the danger that we are stepping out in a direction we do not understand, a direction that is confusing, maybe even frightening to us. We may discover that the way God is leading us is filled with pain and trouble. Peter, Andrew, James, and John learned this soon after they wander off with Jesus. Would they have been so eager to get behind Jesus if they had known that the way he was going would lead to suffering, to persecution, to death on the cross? To be faithful to our Christ is to live as he did—to live "as if" love and care and service to others has already received the power of God to save us. Following Christ means walking right into all kinds of trouble.

Finally, there is the danger that the world will not tolerate us living "as if" another reality is ultimately in charge of things. To associate with Christ is to associate with those who sometimes run contrary to the mainstream of society. It is to share in the cross. But it is also to share in his resurrection from death. Living "as if" the reign of Christ has been established means living "as if" the resurrection has already occurred, even if there is no evidence of it in our lives. It means living "as if" love and peace really do have the power to transform the world, even when there are few believe it. It means living "as if" the burdens and troubles of our lives will ultimately not win out over us even when we see little light at the end of the tunnel.

In fact, the resurrection of Jesus the Christ from death may be the only evidence that the words by which he began his ministry have any validity at all, "The time is fulfilled, the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the Gospel." Yet it is enough to set us about the business of living the resurrection into reality.

Life and hope and resurrection! These are the elements of the call to follow in Jesus footsteps--living "as if" they may actually be true.

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore*

Cantor

Text & Music: Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1936-1991

You have come down to the lakeshore  
Seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,  
But only asking for me to follow.

Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes;  
Kindly smiling, you've called out my name...  
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;  
Now with you, I will seek other seas.

You know full well what I have, Lord:  
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,  
Just these my fish nets and will for working.

You who have fished other waters;  
You, the longing of souls that are yearning:  
O loving Friend, you have come to call me.

## **OFFERING**

A new year has begun, and with it, God again refreshes the daily blessings of life and all that is needed to be sustained. Please open your hearts in gratitude to God as you help to financially support our ministry at Our Savior Lutheran Church.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

PM: O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

**C: Amen.**

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

From the Ministry Site Profile being used to call the next pastor:

"As members of the body of Christ in this place and time, we are a welcoming congregation of people who gather to worship God, to share life together, to grow in love for each other and to be shaped by God's Word, with the purpose of living out God's love and being a sign of God's loving and forgiving presence in our community and world."

## **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 THE PEOPLE**

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

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. We also pray for the Call Committee of Our Savior Lutheran Church as they do their work to identify future pastoral leadership for our congregation. May the Holy Spirit keep and guide them in their work together. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who provide leadership in our cities and around the world, for nonprofit and non-governmental organizations, for planning commissions and homeless advocates, that God inspire all people in the just use of wealth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who are sick, distressed, or grieving; for the outcast and all who await relief, especially Joan and Stephanie, Betty, Brandi, Katia & Rahul, Willie & Mary, Donna, Bruni, the Kowal Family, the Zazueta Family, Roger, Carol, Weatherly Inn residents and staff, Les, Mayah, Judy, Jerry, Mary, Ron, Carol, JD, communities across the country, Dave, Guests of the Community Meals Program, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeannie, that in the midst of suffering, God's peace and mercy surround them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our congregation and community, for families big and small, and for the organizations that meet here during the week, that God's steadfast love serve as a model for all relationships. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to surge in our community and around the world, comfort the families of those who have died, heal the bodies of those who are suffering, sustain those who provide care, encourage those whose livelihood has been affected, and hasten the distribution of medical vaccines. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For what and for whom else do the people of God pray this morning?

*[Here other intercessions may be offered.]*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for our ancestors in the faith whose lives serve as an example of gospel living, that they point us to salvation through Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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 Savior.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

PM: Lord, remember us in your love as you teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

## SENDING SONG

*O Lord, Now Let Your Servant*

Cantor

Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886-1981; Music: Finnish folk song

O Lord, now let your servant depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory of your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the nations unto your holy hill,  
The glory of your people, your chosen Israel;  
Until the saints shall gather upon that shining shore,  
Where Christ, the blessed daystar, shall light them evermore.

## BLESSING

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

**C: Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

*Gigue on 'Ash Grove'* — Christine Schulz

Jiyoung Lee

---

## Serving in Worship:

Worship Leader:	Pastor Jim Kruse
Assisting Minister:	Mary Ann Hult
Cantors:	Marc Montague, Emily Waltzer
Organist:	Jiyoung Lee
Pianist:	Scott Hafso
Videographer:	Leslie Waltzer
Video Editor:	Dave Carlson
Banner:	Elaine Stamm
Bulletin Cover:	Craig Gillin

**Readings for next Sunday:** Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

**Acknowledgements:** Liturgy reprinted from SundaysandSeasons.com, copyright © 2020, Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under **Augsburg Fortress License #32992**. Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA.





***Additional worship resources:***

Reading: Psalm 62: 5-12

Suggested Hymn for Listening: *Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult*

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895; Music: William H. Jude, 1851-1922

*Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via email at [office@oslcissaquah.org](mailto:office@oslcissaquah.org). All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.*

**Joan Perry** admitted to the hospital for COVID 19, and her daughter, **Stephanie**. (Cheryl Neeb)

**Betty Anderson**-healing of intestinal issues. (mother of Shelley Howe)

**Brandi Kowal**-peace and strength after a miscarriage. (niece of Shelley Howe)

**Katia & Rahul, Willie & Mary, Donna, Bruni, the Kowal Family, the Zazueta Family** recovering from COVID (Shelley & Mark Howe)

**Roger Stanley** strength and healing. (Alice Lewis)

**Carol Harbolt** peace and healing. (Ray Harbolt)

**Weatherly Inn** residents and staff (Ray Harbolt)

**Les Gagnon** peace and healing. (Kate Gagnon)

**Mayah** healing. (Connie Fletcher)

**Judy Shaffer** comfort and peace of mind. (Sandy Aldworth)

**Jerry Nack** healing and strength. (Kate Gagnon)

**Mary** healing, wholeness, comfort and a clear sense that God is in control. (Marilyn Carlson)

**Ron Gerde** healing for recent medical issues. (Brother to Bob Gerde)

**Carol Johnson** ongoing medical issues and mourning her husband & her brothers. (Mary Fricke)

**JD Golick** diagnosed with stage 3 stomach cancer, completed one cycle of chemotherapy. (nephew to Patty Gerde)

**Safety and peace for communities** being torn apart during these difficult times. (Karen Hansen)

**Dave Carlson** continued healing and following kidney transplant surgery.

**Guests of the Community Meals Program** safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)

**Sonja** 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer. (granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson)

**Nicole DeCamp** healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)

**Josee Jordan** peace of mind as she faces health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)

**Jeannie Lindquist** continued healing and strength.

**Healing and peace of mind: Henrik & Patty Christopherson** (Dianne Tanner); **Vern Lindquist; Marian James; Gregory** (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); **Doug Patur; Katie Moeller; Margot Inman; Ken Acker** (son of Lucy Acker); **Marilyn Carlson; Taufik Hidayat** (Ken Konigsmark); **Don**

**Wilkinson** (husband of Gwynn Wilkinson); **Rebecca Thomas; Tanisha Foote** (Marilyn Carlson); **Dorothy Soland; Randi Strom; Jeanne Kuipers; John Pass; Florence Kinnune; Carol Harbolt; Sandy Aldworth; Jen Winslow; Larry Pruitt.**

**Undergoing cancer treatment: Carol Howe** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Tom Killoran** (Shelley Howe); **Les Carlson** (father of Dave Carlson); **Harold Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Chris Howe** (brother of Mark Howe); **Peggy Scalise** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Eileen Letts** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Keith DeCamp** (brother of Ken DeCamp); **Barbara Jones** (mother of Ron Sordahl); **Doug McVety** (Helen Nychay); **Al Batt** (Connie Fletcher); **Larry Harbolt** (Ray Harbolt); **Gerald Welch** (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); **Christy Williams** (Bill Bergsma); **Dana Mancini** (Jan Setterlund); **Greg Petersen** (Wes Collum); **Barry Donker** (Joan Parish); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Kathryn Aitcheson** (Gerrie Hendrickson); **Yuko Takiguchi** (Teiko Soland); **Barb** (Janette Singley)

**Living with cancer: Liz Kidd** (Bob Beck); **Duane Jacobson; Mary Lewis** (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Mark Becker** (uncle of Paula Seeger); **Barbara Krogh Jarvis** (sister of Steve Krogh); **Suzanne Lewis** (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Mira Bergsma**

**Expectant Mothers: Alyssa Saavedra** (Cheryl Neeb); **Shawna McIntyre** (Cheryl Neeb)

**Mourning the death of loved ones:** For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: **Alec Wright** (Shelley & Mark Howe); **Beverly** (sister of Ashley Saunders); **Gail** (sister of Sandy Aldworth); **Mike Golick** (brother-in-law to Patty Gerde); **Ray Kruckenberg** (uncle of Dianne Tanner); **Tom Wiese** (Sandy Aldworth)

**Members and friends serving in the military; fire & police departments, & emergency rooms: Mike** special ops, unexpectedly called up. (nephew of Dave and Marilyn Carlson)

**Global Missions and Missionaries:** Congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: **Pepe** at Las Brisas, **Merci** in San Antonio and **Harold** at Las Lomas. **MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School** in Tanzania.

**Thanksgiving:** for successful surgery for **Sue Schmeichel** (Karen Hansen).