



“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand;
repent and believe in the gospel.”

+ *Mark 1:15*

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 24, 2021



“The Calling of Simon Peter and Andrew” by Herman Coets, 1673, Public Domain

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Lord always sets the right time for the right people to be active in His mission and purposes. Throughout the Old Testament, He spoke through prophets to proclaim His Word, call the people to repentance, and turn back into a relationship with Him. As His own beloved Son, our Savior, came into the world when the time was right, God used John the Baptizer to prepare the way for Christ. Now our Lord begins His earthly ministry and calls Simon, Andrew, James, and John to follow Him and promised that through them God’s call of repentance and faith would sound throughout all creation.

This testimony of the Apostles—the testimony of Scripture itself—is yours also for “He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself . . . And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life” (1 John 5:10a, 11-12a [NKJV]). By His grace and empowered by His Holy Spirit, may we be bold to proclaim this witness and testimony to all in need of Christ’s healing love.

Yours in Christ Jesus, +Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s phone: 760-679-3699

Pastor’s email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION: Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

LSB 394



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
2 Man - i - fest at Jor-dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su-preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak-ing whole Pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
4 Sun and moon shall dark-ened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—



Man - i - fest-ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,
And at Ca - na wed - ding guest In Thy God-head man - i - fest;
Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell - ing all the dev - il's might;
Christ will then like light - ning shine, All will see His glo - rious sign;
Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev - er bring - ing good from ill;
All will then the trum - pet hear, All will see the Judge ap - pear;
That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
Thou by all wilt be con - fessed, God in man made man - i - fest.
And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text and tune: Public Domain

Stand – The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 184

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

C Amen.

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

[Hebrews 10:22]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

Kneel (or remain standing) — Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Mark 16:16; John 1:12

C **Amen.**

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 113:1–2, 4, 7–8; antiphon: v. 3

The pastor and congregation chant responsively. The antiphon is chanted by the pastor before and after the psalm.



(Antiphon) From the rising of the sun to its | setting,*
the name of the LORD is | to be praised!

¹ Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants | of the LORD,*
praise the name | of the LORD!

² **Blessèd be the name | of the LORD***
from this time forth and for- | evermore!

⁴ The LORD is high above all | nations,*
and His glory above the | heavens!

⁷ **He raises the poor | from the dust***
and lifts the needy from the | ash heap,

⁸ to make them sit with | princes,*
with the princes of His | people.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The antiphon is repeated.

KYRIE

Mark 10:47

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT

Jonah 3:1–5, 10

P The Old Testament Reading is from Jonah, chapter three.

¹Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” ³So 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. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And 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. . . . ¹⁰When 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalms 117:1–2a; 96:8

The pastor and congregation chant responsively by half-verse.



¹ Praise the LORD, all | nations!*

Extol Him, all | peoples!

^{2a} For great is His steadfast | love toward us,*

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever.

⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due His name;*

bring an offering, and come in- | to His courts!

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 7:29–31

P The Epistle is from First Corinthians, chapter seven.

²⁹This 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, ³⁰and 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, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Alleluia. The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand;
repent and believe in the gospel. Alleluia.

Mark 1:15



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:14-20

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁴After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, **“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”**

¹⁶Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, **“Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”** ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed Him. ¹⁹And going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed Him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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 sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will 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 in 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.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake

LSB 688



1 "Come, fol - low Me," the Sav - ior spake, "All in My
2 "I am the light, I light the way, A god - ly
3 "My heart a - bounds in low - li - ness, My soul with
4 "I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your
5 Then let us fol - low Christ, our Lord, And take the



way a - bid - ing; De - ny your - selves, the world for - sake,
life dis - play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day;
love is glow - ing; And gra - cious words My lips ex - press,
soul's sal - va - tion, Your heart from ev - 'ry guile to free,
cross ap - point - ed And, firm - ly cling - ing to His Word,



O - bey My call and guid - ing. O bear the cross, what -
I keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and
With meek - ness o - ver - flow - ing. My heart, My mind, My
From sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge
In suf - f'ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e'er be - tide, Take My ex - am - ple for your guide.
well I show How you must so - journ here be - low.
strength, My all, To God I yield, on Him I call.
of the soul And lead you to your heav'n - ly goal."
bat - tle's strain The crown of heav'n - ly life ob - tain.

Text and tune: Public Domain

SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

After the sermon, the pastor may say:

- P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- C** Amen.

Philippains 4:7

Stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10–12



C 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 Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Kneel (or remain standing)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1–4)

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For faithfulness and urgency in the Church, that as this world passes away, we may be bold to proclaim the kingdom of God come near in Christ Jesus, who does not desire the death of a sinner but that all would repent and believe the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Church's mission, that as Christ called Peter and Andrew, James and John to follow Him and made them fishers of men, He would send faithful preachers also in our time, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all Christians, that they may have constancy and contentment in their God-given stations in the face of distress as the present form of this world passes away; for the married, that God would give them comfort and faithfulness, strengthening them also to pass on the faith to the generation yet to come; and for the unmarried, that assured of the holiness of their place in life, they would live freed from anxiety and attend to holiness in body and spirit, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our nation with her rulers, that God would guide Joseph, our president; Gavin, our governor; and all who serve for the common good; that God would call to repentance those who have forgotten Him; and that He would not let disaster befall us but preserve us in peace and quietness, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all of us, that our merciful Father would turn us from every distracting anxiety and the dealings of this world that would draw our hearts away from His blessed Gospel and the life everlasting; for confidence in the resurrection and the peace of a clean conscience by the forgiveness of sins; and that God would graciously behold and help all who are in any need of mind, body, or soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who come to the Blessèd Sacrament, that the Holy Spirit would work repentance and faith, and that we may be united in a sincere confession of His divine truth at this altar, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

The prayers then continue:

- P** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:
- C** **Alleluia.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

- P** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:
- C** **To You, O Lord.**

The live-stream service concludes with the following:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
- 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.

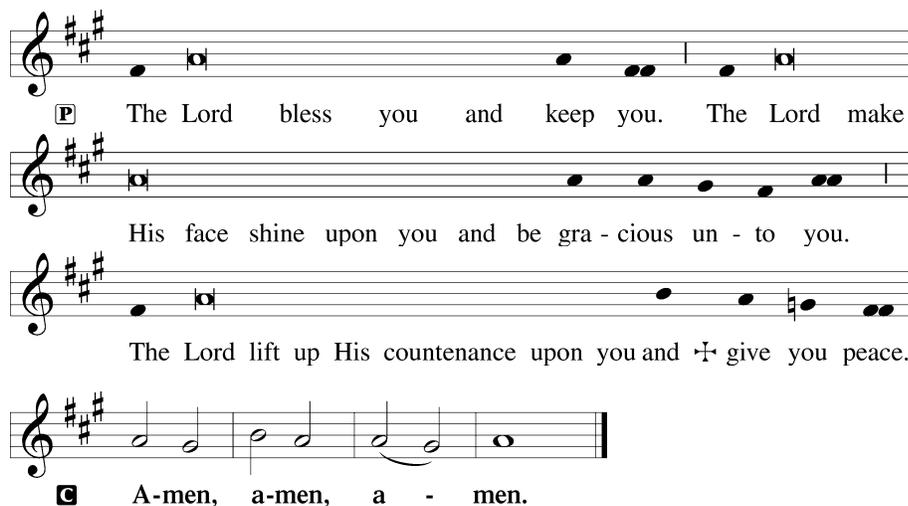
CONCLUDING COLLECT

- P** Let us pray.
Blessèd Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Stand

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make
His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C A-men, a-men, a - men.

The Divine Service continues with the Lord's Supper for those at the church. Please sing/read aloud the closing hymn and come by later for Holy Communion between 10:30am and 11:30am, parking by the concrete ramp along Holt Avenue.

CLOSING HYMN: O Christ, Our True and Only Light

LSB 839



1 O Christ, our true and on - ly light, En - light - en
2 Fill with the ra - diance of Your grace The souls now
3 O gent - ly call those gone a - stray That they may
4 Shine on the dark - ened and the cold; Re - call the
5 That they with us may ev - er - more Such grace with



those who sit in night; Let those a - far now
lost in er - ror's maze; En - light - en those whose
find the sav - ing way! Let ev - 'ry con - science
wan - d'ers to Your fold. U - nite all those who
won - d'ring thanks a - dore And end - less praise to



hear Your voice And in Your fold with us re - joice.
in - most minds Some dark de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.
sore op - pressed In You find peace and heav'n - ly rest.
walk a - part; Con - firm the weak and doubt - ing heart,
You be giv'n By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

Text and tune: Public Domain

✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠
(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

“Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord,” said Saint Paul, paraphrasing Psalm 34:2 (which, by the way, happens to be the Psalm for our Tuesday “Zoom” Bible Study this week).

Where am I going with this? Well, today I am going to boast—not *directly* in the Lord but in one of the greatest gifts that He has given to me: my amazing helpmeet Holly!

She an amazingly faith-filled and faithful woman, a patient, supportive, and loving wife (actually, the word “longsuffering” comes to mind with all the craziness that I bring into her life LOL), and a tender and devoted mother of our two boys.

Truly, God has blessed me in giving Holly to me and me to her—one flesh. Now, some of you may be concerned since it seems like I’m laying it on a bit thick but, fear not, I haven’t done anything particularly egregious that might precipitate such praise (in retrospect, I should have saved some of this for Valentine’s Day, right? LOL).

But I am just so proud of Holly (as I am of my kiddos and of our little church here in El Centro . . . but that’s a letter for another day).

At the start of the year, Holly was asked to join the Board of Directors of the Imperial Valley Coalition for Life (also known as the IV Life Center). Holly eagerly accepted the invitation.

Advocating for the sanctity of human life has always been especially important to Holly and me. We were fortunate to be able to attend the 2015 National March for Life in Washington, D.C. and assist with the National LCMS Life Conference during my vicarage.

The IV Life Center has a special video about what they are doing in our community. Holly and I invite you to check it out (<https://www.gracelutheranelcentro.org/ivlifecenter>) and ask that you keep the IV Life Center in your prayers.

I also invite you to join me as we continue our study of the Psalms, meeting on “Zoom” every Tuesday at Noon. We’ll be looking at Psalm 34. Then tune-in on Wednesday at 7:00pm on Facebook for our Midweek Prayer Service.

- To join the study on your computer, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7603525715>
- To join by phone, call either “669-900-9128” or “346-248-7799” and enter 7603525715#
- The password for both (computer or telephone) is “12345”

Lastly, please continue to mail your tithes and offerings to the church’s post office box: Grace Evangelical-Lutheran Church, PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

