



January 24, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Christ Lutheran Church
2610 Campbell Street • Valparaiso, Indiana 46385 • (219) 462-6660
Website: clcvalpo.org • E-mail: clcvalpo@clcvalpo.org

INTRODUCTION

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME

If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider [filling out a Connection Card](#). If you'd like to provide a reading or greeting, [sign up here](#). May the peace of the risen Christ be with you!

PRELUDE

Allegro
(from Organ Concerto No. 13)

G.F. Handel

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
you search us and know us.
You are acquainted with all our ways.
We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.
We turn inward, failing to follow
your outward way of love.
We distrust those who are not like us.
We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.
Forgive us, gracious God,
for all we have done and left undone.
Even before the words are on our tongues,
you know them;
receive them in your divine mercy.
Amen.

How vast is God's grace!
 Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus,
 our sins are washed away
 and we are claimed as God's own beloved.
 Indeed, we are forgiven.
 In the wake of God's forgiveness,
 we are called to be the beloved community
 living out Christ's justice
 and the Spirit's reconciling peace.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN #867 *In Thee is Gladness*



1 In thee is glad-ness a-mid all sad-ness, Je-sus, sun-shine of my
 2 Je-sus is ours! . . . We fear no pow-ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv-en the gifts of heav-en, thou the
 death. He sees and bless-es in worst dis-tress-es; he can



true re-deem-er art. Our souls thou wak-est; our bonds thou
 change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto-ry tell of his



break-est. Who trusts thee sure-ly has built se-cure-ly
 glo-ry with heart and voic-es; all heav'n re-joic-es



and stands for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! Our hearts are
 in him for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! We shout for



pin-ning to see thy shin-ing, dy-ing or liv-ing,
 glad-ness, tri-umph o'er sad-ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav-ing; naught can us sev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!
 and still shall raise him glad hymns for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556–1622
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GREETING

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

And also with you.

Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Lord of time fulfilled,
who was not born an angel
but walked the common earth;
with those you called by the lakeside
may we share your mission
to bring good news to all,
to let the world know
that God is among us;
through Jesus Christ, the one who reigns.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

*When children read, they may read a version that is appropriate to their reading level and voice,
which may vary from the printed texts.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

SPECIAL MUSIC

Prelude #4 for Piano

Chopin

READING: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

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

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³So 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. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 62:5-12

For God alone I wait in silence;
truly, my hope is in God.
God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.
In God is my deliverance and my honor;
God is my strong rock and my refuge.
Put your trust in God always, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.
Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted.
Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.
Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.
God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.
Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,
for you repay all according to their deeds.

HOLY 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.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.”

¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #817

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -
 1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing
 2 You know full well what I have, Lord: nei - ther
 3 You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion, work - ing
 4 You who have fished oth - er wa - ters; you, the



ca - do ni a sa - bios ni a ri - cos; tan só - lo
 nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly
 trea - sure nor wea - pons for con - quest, just these my
 love for the rest of the wea - ry— a love that's
 long - ing of souls that are yearn - ing: O lov - ing



quie - res que yo te si - ga.
 ask - ing for me to fol - low.
 fish nets and will for work - ing.
 will - ing to go on lov - ing.
 Friend, you have come to call me.

Refrain / Estribillo

Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos; son - ri - en - do,
 Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind - ly smil - ing,



has di - cho mi nom - bre. En la a - re - na he de - ja - do mi
 you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a - ban - doned my



bar - ca; jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.
 small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

Text: Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1936–1991; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
 Music: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES, Cesáreo Gabaráin

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WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

We gather with new members to our community to affirm our faith, pledge them our prayers, and welcome them into the mission and ministry we share.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Profession of Faith

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

**Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

Address and Questions

The presiding minister addresses those being welcomed.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this community?

Those being welcomed respond:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray. We give you thanks O God for these our new members, whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith.

Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others.

Amen.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

Together we will give thanks and praise to God

and proclaim the good news to all the world.

NOTE ABOUT OFFERINGS

*During this time of physical distancing, your congregation continues to serve: keeping us connected, caring for one another, holding our building ready for our return, supporting our staff and those they serve. Your offerings make that happen. This month a portion is given to **First Contact, Inc.** <http://firstcontactinc.org> and **Mike Steiner Special Needs Memorial Fund.***

We have multiple ways to receive our offerings during this time of coronavirus. Offerings can be given online at <http://clcvalpo.org/give>, by texting 'CLCVALPO' to 77977, by US Mail to 2610 Campbell St., or by dropping an envelope in the locked box outside Door #3 facing the High School.

If you have been impacted by the coronavirus economically, remember that your value to God, and to us, is not dependent on your financial resources. We want to walk with you and want to help; please reach out to pastors@clcvalpo.org. Likewise, if you know someone who has been affected, either with the virus or via the economic situation, please let us know!

INVITATIONS

Brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

PRAYERS

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

A brief silence.

For the church throughout the world, for pastors and teachers, for deacons and deaconesses, and for musicians and servers, for unity of Christians throughout the world and that all proclaim the good news of God's reconciling love, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

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, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who provide leadership in our cities and around the world, for nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations, for planning commissions and homeless advocates, that God inspire all people in the just use of wealth, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who are sick, distressed, or grieving; for the outcast and all who await relief, that in the midst of suffering, God's peace and mercy surround them, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

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, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the people and churches of Cyprus, Greece, and Turkey, with thanksgiving for the Christian witness there over millennia, for the ecumenical and environmental leadership of the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and our Orthodox siblings, and for the strengthening of democracy and growth of justice and peace, let us pray,

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for our ancestors in the faith whose lives serve as an example of gospel living – for Timothy, Titus, and Silas, for Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, and for Thomas – that their witness continually point us to salvation through Christ, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

HYMN #798

Will You Come and Follow Me



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
 Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional
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It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is the One.")

All
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the One who comes, who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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TABLE PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:

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

Beloved, wherever you are; here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus.

Come to Jesus and be fed.

Thanks be to God!

The body of Christ, given for you.

Amen (*receive the bread*)

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen (*receive the cup*)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Christ Jesus,

at this table we have feasted on your very life
and are strengthened for our journey.

Send us forth from this banquet

nourished in body and in spirit

to proclaim your good news

and serve others in your name.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

God the creator strengthen you;

Jesus the beloved fill you;

and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

In Thee is Gladness

J.S. Bach

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Cyprus, Greece, Turkey.**

We are **thankful** for:

- the 2,000-year presence and witness of the church in Asia Minor (now Turkey, Cyprus, and Greece) – the region in which St Paul and other apostles first planted the seeds of the Christian faith – and for how Greek culture influenced the early church
- the Church Fathers who came from this area, along with many men and women who were Christian martyrs, and where seven ecumenical councils were convened
- the pioneering work of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in quest of Christian unity and for protection of the environment
- those who have reached out to assist people who have fled to, and through, these lands.

We **pray** for:

- the healing of memories and wounds inflicted by early 20th century genocides of Armenian, Greek, and Assyrian communities, and for current tensions in these lands
- enhanced respect for all minority groups and their claims,
- those who work for justice and reconciliation
- the people who struggle because of economic and political crises in these countries
- more stable democratic governments that further the good of all.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

In the Nets of the Kingdom

Jan, wandering seat to seat on the bus, was crossing state lines from Michigan to Wisconsin. Bruce had sent her the ticket. The two met at a church youth convention; now she was going to be his high school prom date. Here's how it happened: At the youth gathering, during each morning's worship, the two held the same green hymn book. During the afternoon Bible studies, sitting cross-legged in a circle on the floor, she read compellingly from her red leatherette Bible. For evening reflections, the prayers she pulled from her blue plastic packet of devotions swept the room. Bruce was bedazzled. That's why he bought the ticket. When Jan stepped off the bus, she shimmered, telling him how from seat to seat along Highway 2 she had saved souls, netting fourteen converts on a colorful missionary journey.

As delighted as Jan might have been, her proselytizing was not the kind of fishing for people Jesus was after when he passed along the Sea of Galilee, calling oily fishermen to "follow me." What shook Simon and Andrew, James and John, and countless women and men throughout the ages to—immediately, impulsively—give up their nets, quit mending, abandon boats, and leave families and homes?

Jesus' wild, sea-changing challenge demands courage. It dares us into a way of living, a manner of seeing, and a risk of not knowing but earnestly believing that when he asks us to step up, something more meaningful than all we have awaits us.

Jesus' "follow me" comes amid a lifetime of rigorous monotony, in which we are constantly casting nets to catch more of what never satisfies. Jesus' "follow me" is an epiphany. It is an invitation, not to "save souls," but to be gathered and to gather the weak and despairing, to minister to the ruined and abandoned, scared and starving, to show compassion to the mean and unloving, and to embrace the great, greedy, proud, and demanding; all of this awaits us in the nets of God's kingdom.

Stewardship Snippet

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people."— Mark 1:17

Are you ready for a new kind of wellness routine in 2021? Jesus calls all of us to follow him and become fishers of people. It's a new kind of exercise with eternal benefits where we become Christ's hands, feet, eyes, and heart in this world. Get ready for a real workout Jesus-style!

COMMEMORATIONS
Week of **January 24, 2021**

January 25

Conversion of Paul

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ends

Today the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity comes to an end. The church remembers how a man of Tarsus named Saul, a former persecutor of the early Christian church, was turned around by God's grace to become one of its chief preachers. The risen Christ appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus and called him to proclaim the gospel. The narratives describing Paul's conversion in the Acts of the Apostles, Galatians, and 1 Corinthians inspire this commemoration, which was first celebrated among the Christians of Gaul.

January 26

Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries

On the two days following the celebration of the Conversion of Paul, his companions are remembered. Timothy, Titus, and Silas were missionary coworkers with Paul. Timothy accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey and was commissioned by Paul to go to Ephesus, where he served as bishop and overseer of the church. Titus was a traveling companion of Paul, accompanied him on the trip to the council of Jerusalem, and became the first bishop of Crete. Silas traveled with Paul through Asia Minor and Greece and was imprisoned with him at Philippi, where they were delivered by an earthquake.

January 27

Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith

On this day the church remembers three women who were companions in Paul's ministry. Lydia was Paul's first convert at Philippi in Macedonia. She was a merchant of purple-dyed goods, and because purple dye was extremely expensive, it is likely that Lydia was a woman of some wealth. Lydia and her household were baptized by Paul, and for a time her home was a base for Paul's missionary work. Dorcas is remembered for her charitable works, particularly making clothing for needy widows. Phoebe was a *diakonos*, a deaconess in the church at Cenchreae, near Corinth. Paul praises her as one who, through her service, looked after many people.

January 28

Thomas Aquinas, teacher, died 1274

Thomas Aquinas (uh-KWY-nus) was a brilliant and creative theologian of the thirteenth century. He was first and foremost a student of the Bible and profoundly concerned with the theological formation of the church's ordained ministers. As a member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), he worked to correlate scripture with the philosophy of Aristotle, which was having a renaissance in Aquinas's day. Some students of Aristotle's philosophy found in it an alternative to Christianity. But Aquinas immersed himself in the thought of Aristotle and worked to explain Christian beliefs in the philosophical culture of the day.

Pastor: Rev. Erica Gibson-Even
Director of Music Ministries: Brian Bartusch
Special Music: Christiana McLean, piano
Sound: Adam Gibson-Even
Reader: Maria Gross

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