

Sunday, January 25th, 2025 – The Third Sunday after Epiphany

Being on the water, like the fishermen, Simon, Andrew, James and John, does something to us. Are we mesmerized, are we disoriented, are we experiencing clarity? Some place within those possibilities is where we lie. Or maybe we just need a good vacation on the love boat.

**Indicates an invitation to stand in spirit or posture, as able.*

*Opening Hymn

“Trust and Obey” (vv.1-3)

UMH 467

* The Greeting & Call to Worship

℣ The Lord be with you.

℟ **And also with you.**

℣ Children of God, when uncertainty presses in on every side, we can proclaim with confidence:

℟ **God is our light and salvation! Whom shall we fear?**

℣ When our daily challenges overwhelm us and we feel pressed in on every side, we can declare with confidence:

℟ **God is the stronghold of our lives! Of whom shall we be afraid?**

℣ No matter the challenges we face, we seek after God and to live in the house of God forever.

℟ **God shelters and protects us in the day of trouble.**

℣ Come, let us worship God with joy, for God is our light and salvation!

℟ **We come to worship as bearers of the Light. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Opening Prayer

Said by all, with one voice.

Holy God,

**As Jesus walked by the sea and called ordinary people into a new way of life,
we pause to listen again for your voice.**

**In a world full of competing calls and powerful promises,
turn our hearts toward the One who brings light in the darkness
and hope where shadows linger.**

**Give us wisdom to discern who is worthy of our trust, courage to leave behind
what binds us, and grace to follow the One who calls us by name.**

**We pray this in the name of Jesus, the light who still says, “Follow me.”
Amen.**

* Silent Prayer & Response

“Trust and Obey” (v.4)

UMH 467

A Message for Young Disciples (10:45 am)

The First Lesson

A Reading from the Psalter

Ps.27:1,4-9

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? One thing I asked of the Lord; this I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, Lord, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

"Spirit Song"

UMH 347

***The Second Lesson**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

MT. 4:12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Said by all, with one voice.

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, the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

The Sermon

“Follow Me”

Mr. Seitz

***The Affirmation of Faith**

UMH 882

All are invited to stand, in spirit or in posture, and to face the altar as the affirmation of faith is recited.

Pastor: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again 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.**

***The Sign of Peace**

℣. The peace of Christ be with you.

℟. And also with you.

Announcements

At the Offertory

The Offertory Hymn

“O master, let me walk with thee”

UMH 430

***The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication**

UMH 94

***The Sending Hymn**

"Guide me, O thou great Jehovah"

UMH 127

***The Dismissal**

℣. Let us bless the Lord.

℟. Thanks be to God.

*The Benediction

Prayer Concerns

*For the family and loved ones of **John White**, who recently passed away.*

*For the family and loved ones of **Josh Staab**, Mike Staab's son, who recently passed away.*

David Barber, son of Gloria Barber, who is suffering from cancer, that he might have peace and relief from pain.

Gary Henry, undergoing cancer treatment.

The Rev'd **Deborah Ackley-Killian**, undergoing cancer treatment.

Norma Buhrman, enduring serious illness.

For those serving their country or community as first responders or in the armed forces, especially:

SPC **Russell Dale** - CPT **Shaun Hay** - LTC **Azizi Wesmiller** - LTC **Matthew Wesmiller**

2LT **Keith Cable** - LTC **Zachary Allen Finch** - CPL **Wyatt Hoover**

We pray for victims of violence in our nation and around the world.

*This week, we remember and pray for Christ's body throughout the world, especially remembering this week the church in **Cyprus, Greece, and Turkey**. (Prayer Cycle of the World Council of Churches)*

Leaders in Worship this Morning

ABBY PURTILL AND EMMA PURTILL, ACOLYTES

ALAN CHESLEIGH, CROSS BEARER

MR. A. MITCHELL V. STECKER, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & LITURGY

MR. DAVID SEITZ, PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

The altar flowers this morning given by

Barbara Watson

in loving memory of

Joan,

her sister, who will be laid to rest today.