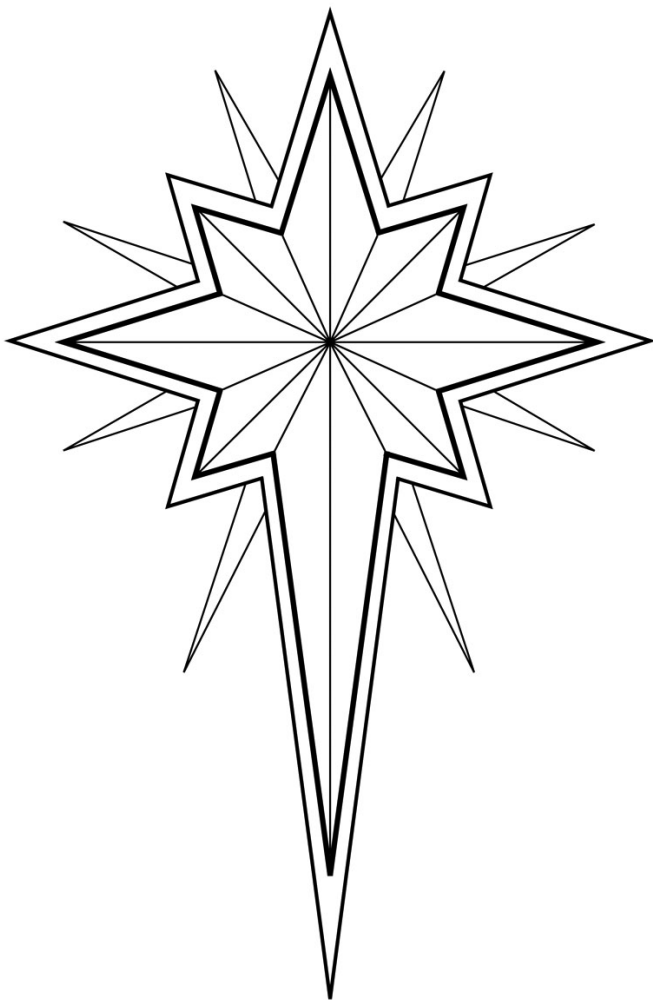


Third Sunday after Epiphany
22 January 2023



Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Service of Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 3

*The liturgy is in the front of the ELW with numbers at the bottom of the pages.
The hymns begin in the middle of the ELW with numbers at the top of the pages.*

Prelude

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness (pages 94-96)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

(There is a time of silence for reflection.)

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Hymn #520 “Dearest Jesus, at Your Word”

Greeting (page 138)

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

C: And also with you.

♫ Kyrie (pages 138-139)

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church
of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and
praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

**♫ This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Sing with all the people of God
and join in the hymn of all creation.
Blessing, honor, glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**For the Lamb who was slain
has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. *concluding:* **C: Amen**

Readings

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

✠ **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

Youth Sermon – Pastor Holloway-Nilsen

Sermon – Pastor Holloway-Nilsen

Hymn #798 “Will You Come and Follow Me”

Confession of Faith: Nicene Creed

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

P: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world,
and all in need.

(Each petition ends: P: Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.)

P: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom
and power revealed in Christ crucified.

C: Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering

Offertory Prayer

P: Holy God, gracious and merciful...our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

✠ Great Thanksgiving (page 144)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right....and join their unending hymn:

**♫ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution

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.**

Holy Communion is celebrated today.

*All who are baptized into Christ Jesus are invited to receive Holy Communion
Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

**♫ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.**

Hymn #696 "Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult"

Post Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

Post-Communion Hymn (Hymn #302)

♪ **As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led by thee.**

Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray.

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn #417 “In His Temple Now Behold Him”

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God!

Ringin' of the Bell / Postlude

Pastor: Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen

Organist: Jason Bousset or Linda Whitman

Acolyte: Kara Olson

Lector: Joyce McCutcheon

Communion Assistant: Dan Burke

Usher: Neil Holmquist

Cleaners: Dan and Cindy Burke

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This Week At A Glance

Wednesday	6:00 pm	Confirmation at Faith
	7:00 pm	Bible Jam at Faith
	8:30 pm	High School Bible Study at Faith
Saturday	9:00 am	Council/Committee retreat at Our Savior's
Sunday	8:00 am	Our Savior's Worship Service
	9:25 am	Sunday School at Faith
	10:30 am	Faith Worship Service

Those to keep in prayer: the homebound: Norman Bousselot, Carol Christensen, Shirley Ferguson, Ron Gasper, Delores Lahann, Myrna Kay Petersen, Rusty Porth, Betty Schau, Bus Seastrand, Joan Shelton; and Vera St. John; and those serving in the military.

The **Council and Committee Retreat** will be held at Our Savior's on Saturday, January 28th, beginning at 9:00 am.

The **annual meetings** are scheduled for Sunday, January 29th, following worship service.

During the month of February, the God Squad will participate in a **Band-Aid Drive** to collect fun and colorful band-aids to donate to the University of Iowa Children's Hospital in Iowa City.

Parent/Youth Bible Jam Night will be held at Faith on Wednesday, February 8th, starting at 7:00 pm. The youth would like to invite their parents to join us for supper, Q&A about the 2024 Youth Gathering and 2023 summer camp opportunities and family card night.

Christ Calls the Fishermen

by William Barclay

Matthew 4:18-22 While he was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, his brother, casting their net into the sea, for they were fishermen. He said to them 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' They immediately left their nets and followed him. He went on from there and saw other two brothers, James, Zebedee's son, and John, his brother. They were in the boat with Zebedee their father getting ready their nets for use. So he called them. They immediately left their boat and their father, and followed him.

All Galilee centered round the Sea of Galilee. It is thirteen miles long from north to south, and eight miles across from east to west. The Sea of Galilee is therefore small, and it is interesting to note that Luke, the Gentile, who had seen so much more of the world, never calls it the sea (thalassa -Greek), but always the lake (limne -Greek). It is the shape of an oval, wider at the top than at the bottom. It lies in that great rift in the earth's surface in which the Jordan valley runs, and the surface of the Sea of Galilee is six hundred and eighty feet below sea level. The fact that it lies in this dip in the earth's surface gives it a very warm climate, and makes the surrounding countryside phenomenally fertile. It is one of the loveliest lakes in the world.

W. M. Thomson describes it: "Seen from any point of the surrounding heights it is a fine sheet of water--a burnished mirror set in a framework of rounded hills and rugged mountains, which rise and roll backward and upward to where Hermon hangs the picture against the blue vault of heaven."

In the days of Josephus there were no fewer than nine populous cities on its shore. In the 1930's, when H. V. Morton saw it, only Tiberias was left and it was little more than a village. Today it is the largest town in Galilee and steadily growing.

In the time of Jesus the Sea of Galilee was thick with fishing boats. Josephus on a certain expedition had no difficulty in assembling two

hundred and forty fishing boats to set out from Tarichaea; but nowadays the fishermen are few and far between.

There were three methods of fishing. There was fishing by line.

There was fishing with the casting net. The casting net was circular, and might be as much as nine feet across. It was skillfully cast into the water from the land, or from the shallow water at the edge of the lake. It was weighted with pellets of lead round the circumference. It sank into the sea and surrounded the fish; it was then drawn through the water as if the top of a bell tent were being drawn to land, and in it the fish were caught. That was the kind of net that Peter and Andrew, and James and John, were handling when Jesus saw them. Its name was the amphiblestron (Greek).

The drag net was used from a boat, or better from two boats. It was cast into the water with ropes at each of the four corners. It was weighted at the foot so that, as it were, it stood upright in the water. When the boats were rowed along with the net behind them, the effect was that the net became a great cone, and in the cone the fishes were caught and brought into the boat. This kind of net is the net in the parable of the dragnet; and is called the sagene (Greek).

So Jesus was walking by the lakeside; and as he walked he called Peter and Andrew, James and John. It is not to be thought that this was the first time that he had seen them, or they him. As John tells the story, at least some of them were already disciples of John the Baptist (John 1:35). No doubt they had already talked with Jesus and had already listened to him, but in this moment there came to them the challenge once and for all to throw in their lot with him.

The Greeks used to tell how Xenophon first met Socrates. Socrates met him in a narrow lane and barred his path with his stick. First of all Socrates asked him if he knew where he could buy this and that, and if he knew where this and that were made. Xenophon gave the required information. Then Socrates asked him, "Do you know where men are made good and virtuous?" "No," said the young Xenophon. "Then," said Socrates, "follow me and learn!"

Jesus, too, called on these fishermen to follow him. It is interesting to note what kind of men they were. They were not men of great

scholarship, or influence, or wealth, or social background. They were not poor, they were simple working people with no great background, and certainly, anyone would have said, with no great future.

It was these ordinary men whom Jesus chose. Once there came to Socrates a very ordinary man called Aeschines. "I am a poor man," said Aeschines. "I have nothing else, but I give you myself." "Do you not see," said Socrates, "that you are giving me the most precious thing of all?" What Jesus needs is ordinary folk who will give him themselves. He can do anything with people like that.

Further these men were fishermen. It has been pointed out by many scholars that the good fisherman must possess these very qualities which will turn him into the good fishers of men.

(i) He must have patience. He must learn to wait patiently until the fish will take the bait. If he is restless and quick to move he will never make a fisherman. The good fisher of men will have need of patience. It is but rarely in preaching or in teaching that we will see quick results. We must learn to wait.

(ii) He must have perseverance. He must learn never to be discouraged, but always to try again. The good preacher and teacher must not be discouraged when nothing seems to happen. He must always be ready to try again.

(iii) He must have courage. As the old Greek said when he prayed for the protection of the gods: "My boat is so small and the sea is so large." He must be ready to risk and to face the fury of the sea and of the gale. The good preacher and teacher must be well aware that there is always a danger in telling men the truth. The man who tells the truth, more often than not takes his reputation and his life in his hands.

(iv) He must have an eye for the right moment. The wise fisherman knows well that there are times when it is hopeless to fish. He knows when to cast and when not to cast. The good preacher and teacher chooses his moment. There are times when men will welcome the truth, and times when they will resent the truth. There are times when the truth will move them, and times when the truth will harden them

in their opposition to the truth. The wise preacher and teacher knows that there is a time to speak and a time to be silent.

(v) He must fit the bait to the fish. One fish will rise to one bait and another to another. Paul said that he became all things to all men if by any chance he might win some. The wise preacher and teacher knows that the same approach will not win all men. He may even have to know and recognize his own limitations. He may have to discover that there are certain spheres in which he himself can work. and others in which he cannot.

(vi) The wise fisherman must keep himself out of sight. If he obtrudes his own presence, even his own shadow, the fish will certainly not bite. The wise preacher and teacher will always seek to present men, not with himself, but with Jesus Christ. His aim is to fix men's eyes. not on himself, but on that figure beyond.

-Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT)

<https://bibleportal.com/commentary/section/william-barclay>