

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 24, 2021

*Third Sunday after Epiphany*

*We Gather in God's Name . . .*

## PRELUDE

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*(for silent prayer during the prelude)*

Loving God, through your Son you have called us to repent of our sin, to believe the good news, and to celebrate the coming of your kingdom. Like Christ's first apostles, may we hear his call to discipleship, and, forsaking old ways, proclaim the gospel of new life to a broken world; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.<sup>1</sup> Amen.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (BASED ON PSALM 62)

One: For God alone my soul waits in silence,

**All: for my hope is from him.**

One: He alone is my rock and my salvation,

**All: my fortress; I shall not be shaken.**

One: On God rests my deliverance and my honor;

**All: my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.**

One: Trust in him at all times O people;

**All: pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Let us worship God!**

#### HYMN OF PRAISE: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" #281

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy powerful  
hand; Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no  
more, Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, Whence the healing stream doth  
flow; Let the fire and cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey  
through; Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, Be Thou still my

strength and shield, Be Thou still my strength and shield.  
When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death, and hell's destruction, Land me safe on  
Canaan's side; Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give  
to Thee, I will ever give to Thee.

#### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

Sometimes, we act as Jonah. We flee God's call to us when it  
doesn't match our desires, or we are angry that it brings  
reconciliation between God and people who are not like us. Other  
times, we act as the Ninevites, and we continue in community sin.  
Let us confess all areas where we sin, and seek God's mercy.

#### \*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

#### \*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we often flee your call to us when it's  
uncomfortable and when it doesn't fit our wills. Transform us,  
and ask again that we may be obedient to your will. Other times,  
we benefit from community and institutional sin and fail to  
correct for long-standing injustices. We continue to allow Native  
Americans, Southern and Eastern Europeans, African  
Americans, Hispanics, Africans, and others to suffer from the  
continued oppression of our ancestors and systems that still are  
not dismantled in our day. Forgive our sin. Lead us on a path to  
your Kingdom of Heaven where there will be no Jew nor Gentile,  
no elite nor oppressed but where all will gather before our Lord  
Jesus Christ in unity. In his name we pray. Amen.**

#### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

When Jonah finally took God's word to the Ninevites, they  
repented. Proclaiming a fast, they put on sackcloth and ashes even  
to the king and to all the animals. Let us, also, reflect upon our sin,  
repent, and trust in God's forgiveness. As God offered mercy to the  
Ninevites, so he will offer it to us. Amen.

#### THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

. . . *to Proclaim God's Word*

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:1-10

p. 860

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

p. 170

\*GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:14-20

p. 35

SERMON

"The Kingdom of God Has Come Near"

Rev. Andy Smothers

#### PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 debts, as we  
forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us  
from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,  
forever. Amen.

#### \*CONFESSION OF FAITH *Heidelberg Catechism* (Question 78-79)

One: Do the bread and wine become the real body and blood of  
Christ?

**Many: No. Just as the water of baptism is not changed into  
Christ's blood and does not itself wash away sins but is  
simply a divine sign and assurance of these things, so  
too the holy bread of the Lord's Supper does not  
become the actual body of Christ, even though it is  
called the body of Christ in keeping with the nature  
and language of sacraments.**

One: Why then does Christ call the bread his body and the cup  
his blood, or the new covenant in his blood, and Paul use  
the words, a participation in Christ's body and blood?

**Many: Christ has good reason for these words. He wants to  
teach us that just as bread and wine nourish the  
temporal life, so too his crucified body and poured-out  
blood are the true food and drink of our souls for  
eternal life. But more important, he wants to assure us,  
by this visible sign and pledge, that we, through the  
Holy Spirit's work, share in his true body and blood as  
surely as our mouths receive these holy signs in his  
remembrance, and that all of his suffering and  
obedience are as definitely ours as if we personally had  
suffered and made satisfaction for our sins.**

. . . *to Give Thanks to God . . .*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION (IN UNISON)**

Almighty God, you are the Alpha and the Omega — the beginning and the end. You are transcendent and immanent — beyond this world but also choosing to operate within it. Despite your magnificence, though, you choose to call ordinary people to cooperate in your work to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth. In thankfulness for your call to each of us and for other blessings, we give a portion of what we have for your work on earth. Amen.

... *and to Be Sent in God's Name.*

**CLOSING HYMN:** “Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing” #538

Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing; Fill our hearts with joy and peace; Let us each, Thy love possessing Triumph in redeeming grace. O refresh us, O refresh us, Traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration For Thy gospel's joyful sound;  
May the fruits of Thy salvation In our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, Ever faithful To the truth may we be found;  
So that when Thy love shall call us, Savior, from the world away,  
Let no fear of death appall us, Glad Thy summons to obey.  
May we ever, May we ever Reign with Thee in endless day.

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thurs. Jan. 26	PNC Meeting	1:00 PM
Wed. Jan. 27	Evening Prayer	6:30 PM

*Welcome* to worship this morning! As we continue to social distance, we will not be offering child care for a time. Feel free to keep your children in worship — even if they're a bit noisy. You're also welcome to take them into the coatroom.

**Our thanks** go to our lay reader Jan Carter, and pianist Juanita Rodriquez.

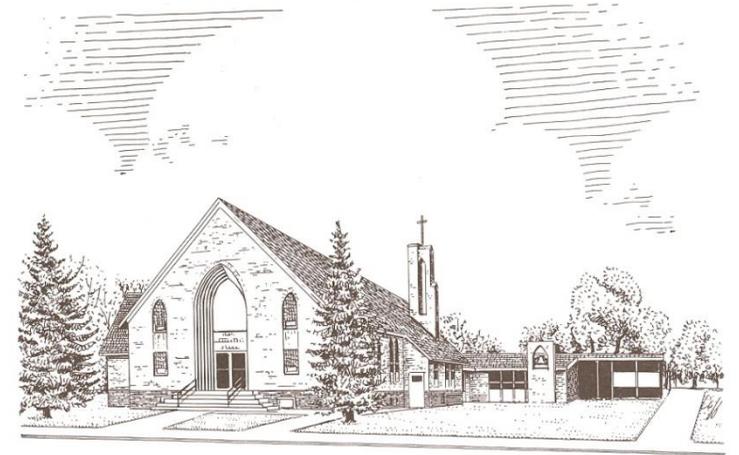
Items for the **February newsletter** are needed in the church office ASAP.

The Session has called our **January annual meeting for January 31<sup>st</sup> after worship** for the purpose of receiving annual reports, voting on new by-laws of the congregation, electing board members for Horizon Lodge, and expressing support for the church budget. **Annual Report** booklets are available today in the narthex.

The cans for **Intermountain Children's Home** need to be turned into the office by the end of the month. Arrangements will be made to have them delivered to Helena.

Last week, combined giving was **\$2,623.00**. In order to meet expenses, we need to average **\$2,588.00** per week.

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