

*For the week of the Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 21st through January 27th, 2023*

Notes for the Week — They Left Their Father...And Followed Him, Mark 1:14-20

In the Three-Year Lectionary, each year has a different emphasis for Epiphany. One year focuses on the teachings of Jesus and another on His miracles. The year we are in focuses on Jesus' calling of disciples. Last week we had the calling of Philip and Nathaniel. This week we have Jesus calling Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John.

We notice a theme in all of these callings. Jesus calls to them and tells them, "Follow me." And how do the disciples respond? "immediately they left...and followed Him." This is the only proper response when Jesus calls disciples. Jesus calls us into a new life, a life oriented toward Jesus and the eternal things of our salvation.

Does this mean that we should leave father or mother, spouse, or child to pursue a life wholly dedicated to Jesus like the disciples? This is a case where we need to be especially careful when reading Scripture. The twelve Disciples left their lives completely behind in order to physically follow Jesus through His ministry. That is because they were called to the special ministry of being His "eye-witnesses" who would be sent out as Apostles after Jesus ascended. That is why when they go to replace Judas, one of the requirements was that the man had to have been with them from the very beginning.

However, Jesus no longer walks the earth in the flesh. He sent the Holy Spirit, meaning He is with us wherever we are. What does it mean to follow Jesus in light of His ascension? It means for the lives we have here and now being oriented toward Him. It means shedding all in our lives that prevent, hinder, or even distract us from living according to His Word. It means turning against the desires of the flesh and living according to the Spirit. It means that we seek to love one another as He has loved us, and share His message of salvation to all who will hear.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.
Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

INVOCATION

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

APOSTLES' CREED

VERSE: MARK 1:15

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

PSALM 62 and/or the appointed daily psalms.

Prayer on the Psalm

Lord, our God, our sure refuge in need, grant us to love one another, and to honor and obey those You have placed over us. But teach us by Your Spirit to trust alone in You, and not to make flesh our arms, that we may look to you alone for our salvation through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	42, 43	45	48	50	52, 53	54, 56	59	62, 63
Evening	44	46, 47	49	51	55	57, 58	60, 61	64, 65

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

	Bible Narrative for the Week	Second Reading
Sunday	Mark 1:14–20	
Monday	The Sign of Jonah—Matthew 12:38–45	
Tuesday	Jesus Walks on the Water—Matthew 14:22–36	
Wednesday	Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet—John 13:1–15 St. Timothy, Pastor and confessor: Acts 16:1-5	
Thursday	The Parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin—Luke 15:1–10 The Conversion of St. Paul: Acts 9:1-22	
Friday	The Parable of the Prodigal Son—Luke 15:11–32 St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor: Titus 1:1-9	
Saturday	Deut. 18:15–20	1 Cor. 8:1-13

The Catechism: Confession and Office of the Keys

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?	First Grade +
It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.	
Where is this written?	Second Grade +
The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying, “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”	Kindergarten +

DEVOTION OR MEDITATION

DAILY PRAYER

Select from among the following prayers as time and circumstances allow:

Collect of the Week

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. **Amen.**

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday:** *For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacrament.*
- Monday:** *For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.*
- Wednesday:** *For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

In Our Prayers this Week

Our Congregation: *Debi Thompson, Ruth Trickett, Adam & Bekah Wadkins; JD, Flint, Nathaniel, Malorie Wagner, Pat & Janine Wagner, Camrie Wagner, Jayme Wagner*

Baptismal Birthdays: *Ruby Zorn, Ruger Hoke, Sam Hughes, Dawn Leadbetter*

Wedding Anniversaries:

Members of the Congregation: *Deena Rogers, Teresa Falls, Emma Hird, Barb Janssen, Alan Barraza, Doris King*

Friends of our Congregation: *Emmet, Keneth, Cathy Naden*

Our Circuit:

St. John Lutheran Church, Aliceville; Rev. Timothy Booth

Trinity Lutheran Church, Burlington; Vacant

Our District Staff and President, *Rev. Justin Panzer.*

Shannon Fender, Administrative Assistant

Tami Lierz, Administrative Assistant

Our Synod and President, *Rev. Matthew Harrison*

Our Community: *USD 290, Life Care Center, Hope House*

Our State and Governor, *Laura Kelly*

LORD'S PRAYER

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER FROM THE CATECHISM

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

—or—

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

- 1 O Christ, our true and only light,
Enlighten those who sit in night;
Let those afar now hear Your voice
And in Your fold with us rejoice.
- 2 Fill with the radiance of Your grace
The souls now lost in error's maze;
Enlighten those whose inmost minds
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.
- 3 O gently call those gone astray
That they may find the saving way!
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed
In You find peace and heav'nly rest.
- 4 Shine on the darkened and the cold;
Recall the wand'ers to Your fold.
Unite all those who walk apart;
Confirm the weak and doubting heart,
- 5 That they with us may evermore
Such grace with wond'ring thanks
adore
And endless praise to You be giv'n
By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
Text: Public domain

Looking Forward to "The Fourth Sunday After Epiphany"

January 28, 2024

Readings: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 | 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 | Mark 1:21-28

As He promised, the Lord our God has raised up "a prophet" like Moses, namely Jesus, our brother in the flesh. "To him you shall listen," because the Word of the Lord is "in his mouth" (Deut. 18:15-18). Indeed, He is more than a prophet and more than a scribe of the Scriptures; He is the incarnate Word, and He speaks "a new teaching with authority" (Mark 1:22, 27). He enters "the synagogue" of His Church and provides true Sabbath rest, using His authority to silence and cast out "even the unclean spirits" (Mark 1:21-27). By His Word of the cross, He removes the accusations of the Law and of the devil, and He cleanses our consciences before God the Father, "from whom are all things and for whom we exist." Hence, we are now set free from bondage and commended to God by the one Lord, Jesus Christ, "through whom are all things and through whom we exist" (1 Cor. 8:6). Therefore, use your freedom to care for your brothers and sisters, neither causing them to stumble nor wounding their consciences (1 Cor. 8:9-12), but cleansing and strengthening them with the Gospel

