



Jesus said to them,

**"Follow me
and I will make you fish
for people."**

**And immediately they left
their nets and
followed him. Mark 1.17-18**



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Welcome to the Lord's House!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Pierpont, S.D. • Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

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Jan. 25, 2009 - Third Sunday after Epiphany

(LBW 381)

♪ **Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,
"Who will go and work today?
Fields are ripe and harvests waiting,
Who will bear the sheaves away?"
Long and loud the Master calls us,
Rich reward He offers free;
Who will answer, gladly saying,
"Here am I, send me, send me"?**

♪ **If you cannot cross the ocean,
And the distant lands explore,
You can find the lost around you,
You can help them at your door;
If you cannot give your thousands,
You can give the widow's mite;
What you truly give for Jesus,
Will be precious in His sight.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we welcome all travelers to this house of worship and praise. This is the day that the Lord has made. **P: Let us all be glad and rejoice in it.**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

♪ **Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

This church confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in the one and only God.

We confess that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation for all who believe.

I believe that Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death and resurrection God fashions a new creation.

We proclaim that God's message to us is both Law and Gospel and is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in the history of Israel and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

I believe that the Bible is the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them, God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain our faith and fellowship for service in the world.

We confess that we have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God. The Law is good, pure, right and holy; however, it is impossible for us

to keep the law and all of the commandments. While the law comes from the very heart of God, so does His forgiveness through faith in Jesus in Christ.

I believe that faith comes by hearing and by hearing of the word of God. (Rom. 10:18) I have been justified through faith and I have peace with God through my Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom. 5:1)

Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus, the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to us all. Through Him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses. (Act. 13:38-39)

The Nicene Creed describes the faith into which we are baptized and therefore let us join together in confessing our faith according to the words of the Nicene Creed.

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 Christian 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.

**♪ If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say He died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked,
With the judgment's dread alarms,
You can lead the little children
To the Savior's waiting arms.**

**♪ If you cannot be the watchman,
Standing high on Zion's wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven,
Offering life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties
You can do what heaven demands;
You can be like faithful Aaron,
Holding up the prophet's hands.**

Jonah 3:1-5,10

Jonah is the archetypical reluctant prophet. Earlier, God has called him to "Go at once to Nineveh ... and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me" but he has tried to escape by sailing to the ends of the earth. God has punished him by having a large fish swallow him.

Jonah Goes to Nineveh

- ¹ Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ² "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."
- ³ Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very important city—a visit required three days. ⁴ On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned." ⁵ The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.
- ¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Paul has written that, in his opinion, the dawn of the new era is close at hand so this is no time to complicate one's life by changing one's status or taking on new earthly responsibilities. One should devote all one's energies to serving God.

- ²⁹What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; ³⁰those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; ³¹those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

Mark 1:14-20

After being tempted to misuse his power by the Devil, Jesus has returned to Galilee. He now begins his public ministry with words that summarize his mission.

The Calling of the First Disciples

- ¹⁴After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of

God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

¹⁶As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷"**Come, follow me,**" Jesus said, **"and I will make you fishers of men."** ¹⁸At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

P This is the gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ**

♪ **If among the older people,
You may not be apt to teach,
"Feed My lambs," said Christ, our Shepherd,
"Place the food within their reach."
And it may be that the children
You have led with trembling hand,
Will be found among your jewels,
When you reach the better land.**

♪ **Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do."
While the lost of earth are dying,
And the Master calls for you;
Take the task He gives you gladly;
Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calls you,
"Here am I, send me, send me."**

♪ LBW #487: Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

Response to the Word and Prayer

We are encouraged, comforted and urged to live lives worthy of God, who calls us into his kingdom and glory.

I thank God for receiving His word. (1 Thessalonians 2:12-14)

Jonah tried to run from God, but fleeing God's work is impossible. When God calls us, we need to respond.

Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.

Four fishermen left their nets, left their families and obeyed Jesus at his calling.

When You say, "Follow Me," we are to take up the cross and follow you!

We need to take Paul's warning about this present world fading away as a new earth will be ushered in.

You are the Son of God. Alleluia.

God of infinite mercy, hear the prayers of your people and stir up our souls with longing to embrace your gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Our Thankoffering

♪ Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn: ♪ LBW 213: "I Come O Savior To Thy Table"

★ Benediction & AMEN

♪ LBW #518: Beautiful Savior

Word Search Puzzle

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Words are in a straight line in all directions

W E Y W O U L D I D
H V T S J O N A H O
A I I B Y S S B F G
T L M C R A A O R N
T D A H N I W U O R
H T L A O D N T M S
E H A N P W H G I V
I A C G U E T H E Y
R T N E M N E H W P
M I N D E N R U T N

(Jonah 3:10) When 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. (NRSV)

Word List

CALAMITY	THEM	DID
CHANGED	THAT	AND
TURNED	SAID	
WOULD	NRSV	
THEIR	MIND	
JONAH	FROM	
BRING	EVIL	
ABOUT	SAW	
WHEN	NOT	
WHAT	HOW	
WAYS	HIS	
UPON	HAD	
THEY	GOD	

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W A S M O U R N I N G R E
H H N M D L R O W X A E S
A T O D W I V E S W V J O
D R I S G N I L A E D O H
F E S W O N T Y N S Y I T
H J S N W O R G R E W C E
A O E M I T O E H B E E L
V I S N A I H T N I R O C
E C S R E T S I S M E A N
F I O A O I P R E S E N T
O N P R H U P A S S I N G
R G B T H O U G H N R S V
M A P P O I N T E D B U Y

(1 Corinthians 7:29-31) I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, {30} and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, {31} and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. (NRSV)

Word List

POSSESSIONS	PASSING	THIS	WHO
CORINTHIANS	THOUGH	THEY	NOW
REJOICING	WORLD	NRSV	NOT
APPOINTED	WIVES	NONE	LET
MOURNING	THOSE	MEAN	HAS
DEALINGS	SHORT	HAVE	HAD
BROTHERS	GROWN	FROM	BUY
SISTERS	WITH	FORM	AND
REJOICE	WERE	EVEN	BE
PRESENT	TIME	AWAY	