

**Sunday, January 21, 2024**

**Third Sunday after Epiphany / Lectionary 3, Year B**

**First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

*The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"*

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." <sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" <sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

<sup>10</sup>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.

*The reading may be concluded:*

The Word of the Lord.

*The assembly responds:*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 62:5-12**

**Ask the congregation to: "Please read the Psalm responsively"**

<sup>5</sup>For God alone I wait in silence;  
truly, my hope is in God.

<sup>6</sup>**God alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

<sup>7</sup>In God is my deliverance and my honor;  
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

<sup>8</sup>**Put your trust in God always, O people,  
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

<sup>9</sup>Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted.  
Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

<sup>10</sup>**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;  
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

<sup>11</sup>God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,

that power belongs to God.  
<sup>12</sup>**Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,  
for you repay all according to their deeds.**

## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

*Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>29</sup>Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, <sup>30</sup>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, <sup>31</sup>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.

*The reading may be concluded:*

The Word of the Lord.

*The assembly responds:*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel: Mark 1:14-20**

*Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.*

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.