



**Midweek Service of Word and Prayer  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Lincoln, Nebraska**

## Opening Dialog

The light shines in the darkness,

**and the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Word became flesh and lived among us,

**and we have beheld Christ's glory.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

## Introduction to Sunday

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

## 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.**

## Readings

Jonah 3

1The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, 2“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.”

*Silence*

Where is your Nineveh and who needs to hear what in this place?

Psalms 62:5

5For God alone I wait in silence; truly, my hope is in God.

*Silence*

Why is waiting in silence so important for our faith?

1 Corinthians 7

31...For the present form of this world is passing away.

*Silence*

Is this verse good news or bad news? Why?

Mark 1

17And Jesus said to Simon and Andrew, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.”

18And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

*Silence*

What do you learn about discipleship in these verses?

## Reflection

### Gathering for Others

When Jesus announces that the “kingdom of God has come near,” he is speaking not of a time—in fact, the time has been fulfilled—but rather, a location. In the person of Jesus, the kingdom of God has come near. Insofar as we are each united to and “in” Christ through our baptism, Christians gathering together bring Jesus and the kingdom of God to one another. This underscores the importance of gathering for worship each week, as well as maintaining faithful relationships. When we meet with one another, we are a physical reminder of the presence of God among us. So, amid a pandemic, how do you stay present for others?

### Lord’s Prayer (together)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

### Apostle’s Creed (together)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### Responsive Prayer

Show us your mercy, O God,  
**and grant us your salvation.**  
Give us the joy of your saving help again,  
**and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.**  
Give peace in all the world;  
**for only in you can we live in safety.**  
Keep the nations under your care,  
**and guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
Let your way be known upon earth;  
**your saving health among all nations.**  
Let not the needy be forgotten,  
**nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Create in us a clean heart, O God,  
**and sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**  
Lord, hear my prayer,  
**and let my cry come before you.**

### **Closing Prayer**

O God, in you we live and move and have our being. Guide and govern us every day by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but remember that always we are walking in your promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Blessing**

Almighty God (+) bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.  
**Amen.**