A dark wooden cross stands on a silhouette of a hill against a sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow behind the cross and casting long, soft rays across the sky. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

*“All these things are
from God, who
reconciled us to
Himself through
Christ and gave us
the ministry
of
reconciliation.”*

Third Sunday after Epiphany

The Order of Worship

Pre-Service Music and Welcome

Opening Hymn

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

Christian Worship 93

Invocation

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; the love of God the Father; and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit—be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The Confession of Sins

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen!

Song of Praise

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are

they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e—
 ter — nal; it stands firm in the heav —
 ens. Your faith — ful — ness con — tin — ues for -
 ev — er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
 Bless — ed are they who take ref — uge in him.

Prayer for the Day

P: O gracious Lord—Father, Son, and Spirit—you have removed every obstacle and made us acceptable to stand in your presence. How can we ever thank you for your undeserved love which rescued us. All we can do is love, praise, and serve you. As your reconciled people, help us live every day recognizing you alone made this special unity possible. Then as we live as your reconciled people, help us put into practice what you have done for us. Make us faithful servants. Use us to proclaim your great good news for all people. Remind us that we have a ministry of reconciliation all made possible through you and to your glory—our only true, triune and eternal God.

C: A ——— men.

The Lessons from God's Word

*"We are called to be messengers to proclaim
the great good news of salvation!"*

Old Testament

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

¹Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time:

²"Get up, go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you."

³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh just as the word of the LORD had commanded. Now Nineveh was a great city to God. It required a three-day walk. ⁴Jonah walked through the city for a day, and he called out, "Forty more days and Nineveh is going to be overthrown!"

⁵The men of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least.

¹⁰When God saw their actions, that they had turned from their evil way, God relented from the disaster which he said he would bring on them, and he did not carry it out.

Psalm for the Day

Psalm 103

Refrain



I will hear what the Lord pro-claims: peace to his peo - ple.

Psalm tone



Praise the LORD, | O my soul; *
all my inmost being, praise his | holy name.

He forgives | all your sins, *
and heals all your di- | seases.

He redeems your life | from the grave, *
and crowns you with love and compassion.

Refrain



I will hear what the Lord pro-claims: peace to his peo - ple.

Psalm tone



The LORD is compassionate and | gracious, *
slow to anger, abound- | ing in love.

He does not treat us as our | sins deserve, *
or repay us according to our in- | iquities.

For as high as the heavens are a- | bove the earth, *
so great is his love for those who | fear him.

As far as the east is | from the west, *
so far has he removed our transgressions | from us.

Refrain

As a father has compassion on his | children, *
so the LORD has compassion on those who | fear him.

For he knows how | we are formed, *
he remembers that | we are dust.

Our days are like grass, like a flower | of the field; *
the wind blows over it and | it is gone.

But the LORD'S love is with those who | fear him; *
from everlasting to ever- | lasting

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son, *
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning, *
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Refrain

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:14–21

¹⁴For the love of Christ compels us, because we came to this conclusion: One died for all; therefore, all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves but for him, who died in their place and was raised again.

¹⁶As a result, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we knew Christ according to the flesh, we no longer know him that way. ¹⁷So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. The new has come! ¹⁸And all these things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹That is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. And he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

Verse of the Day

P: Give thanks to the LORD. Proclaim his name. Make his deeds known among the peoples. Sing to him, make music to him. Meditate on all his wonders. Take pride in his holy name. Let the heart of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Remember the wonders he has done, his signs, and the judgments from his mouth. He remembers his covenant forever, the word he commanded for a thousand generations.

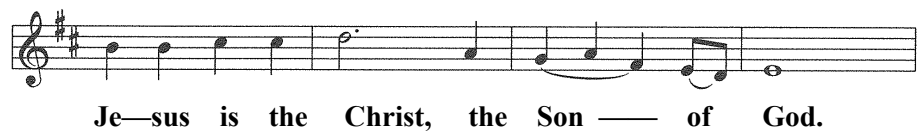
Alleluia!



C: Al—le—lu—ia! Al—le—lu—ia! Al—le—lu—ia!



These words are writ — ten that we may be—lieve that



Gospel

Mark 1:14-20

¹⁴After John was put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. ¹⁵“The time is fulfilled,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near! Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

¹⁶As Jesus was going along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen. ¹⁷Jesus said to them, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ¹⁸Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹Going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately Jesus called them. They left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Children’s Message

“Let’s Go Fishing!”

P: This is the Word of our God; our comfort for life, our strength in temptation; and reason to serve!



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

Christian Worship 353

“We Have a Ministry of Reconciliation!”

Secured and entrusted by Jesus

Cherished and proclaimed by us

The Confession of Faith

(we unite in the words of the Apostles’ Creed)

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven and is seated at the
right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church—the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer, Praise, and Give Thanks!

Prayers for the Lord’s Blessing

The Lord’s Prayer

**C: 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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn

“To God Be the Glory”
Christian Worship 399

Closing Prayer

P: O gracious Lord, we know you never desire the death of a sinner. It is for this reason you sent your Son into this world. Through his faithful work and obedient sacrifice he reconciled all people to you. We thank you for the gift of faith by which we receive the benefit of this reconciliation. It is also by faith that we have been entrusted with the same gift as a ministry we are to carry out. Dearest Savior, give us a heart that seeks out the straying and rebellious. Give us the patience to uncover their sin and their need for forgiveness. Give us joy in sharing the message of complete reconciliation with those who do repent. Bless us with everything we need so we can carry out this precious work. Bless us with a faithful servants reward in heaven. There we will praise you as our good and gracious God—Father, Son, and Spirit—who lives and rules throughout endless ages.



C: A ——— men.

The Benediction

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace; live in harmony with one another; serve the Lord in gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

The Lord look on you with his favor; and
give you peace.



C: A — men. A — men. A — — men.

Closing Hymn

“Blessed are the Saints of God”

Christian Worship 394

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Today—In the name of our blessed God—Father, Son, and Spirit—welcome! All we can do is rejoice when we hear that God has reconciled us, and has given us his blessed ministry of reconciliation.

- If you are visiting this morning, please sign a guest card or the guest book, and visit us again, soon!
- Immediately after the service we will watch the WELS Connection for January.
- Everyone is invited to enjoy a cup of coffee, and the gift of fellowship after the service.
- Bible Class will start around 11:00 am. This morning we will consider the account of Jonah—a reluctant servant and one to whom we can relate.

Wednesday—Bible Class at 7:00 pm. This evening’s lesson will be Psalm 22. Of all the prophecies about Jesus this is the most familiar. It is also the most distressing because it shows the true nature of our sinfulness.

Friday—Office Hours from 10:30 am—2:30 pm.

Saturday—Clean—Florez

- Mowing beginning January 21st—J. Schuler

Sunday, January 28th—Sunday Worship and Live-Streaming

at 9:30 am. It is easy to overlook prepositions, and it is easy to misuse them. However, when the writer to the Hebrew Christians uses prepositions it emphasizes that Jesus is greater than Moses because he was more than faithful *in* God's house. He was faithful *over* God's House.

- Bible Class will follow the service and will review the amazing nature and results of the Gospel of Jesus, our Savior.

Thank You

To Al Todd, our Hymnsoft operator; to Jim Everson and Josh Schueler for controlling the audio and video for the streaming of the service; to Karolyn Hanna for placing flowers on the altar—to the glory of God and in grateful thanks for all of his undeserved blessings.

christ became
obedient
for us unto
death,
even to death
on a CROSS



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