

January 21, 2024  
Third Sunday of Epiphany  
Psalm 130  
The Rev W. Terry Sweeney+

In the Name of God: The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. Amen.

Reader: The Old Testament reading is taken from Jeremiah 3:19-4:4.

<sup>19</sup> “I said, How I would set you among my sons, and give you a pleasant land, a heritage most beautiful of all nations. And I thought you would call me, My Father, and would not turn from following me. <sup>20</sup> Surely, as a treacherous wife leaves her husband, so have you been treacherous to me, O house of Israel, declares the LORD.” <sup>21</sup> A voice on the bare heights is heard, the weeping and pleading of Israel's sons because they have perverted their way; they have forgotten the LORD their God. <sup>22</sup> “Return, O faithless sons; I will heal your faithlessness.” “Behold, we come to you, for you are the LORD our God. <sup>23</sup> Truly the hills are a delusion, the orgies on the mountains. Truly in the LORD our God is the salvation of Israel. <sup>24</sup> “But from our youth the shameful thing has devoured all for which our fathers labored, their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters. <sup>25</sup> Let us lie down in our shame, and let our dishonor cover us. For we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even to this day, and we have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God.” **4** “If you return, O Israel, declares the LORD, to me you should return. If you remove your detestable things from my presence, and do not waver, <sup>2</sup> and if you swear, ‘As the LORD lives,’ in truth, in justice, and in righteousness, then nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory.” <sup>3</sup> For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: “Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns. <sup>4</sup> Circumcise yourselves to the LORD; remove the foreskin of your hearts, O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; lest my wrath go forth like fire, and burn with none to quench it, because of the evil of your deeds.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.                      People: Thanks be to God.

Reader: Let us read responsively by full verse Psalm 130.

**My Soul Waits for the Lord - A Song of Ascents.**

**130** Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

<sup>2</sup> **O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**

<sup>3</sup> If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> **But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup> I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

<sup>6</sup> **my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup> O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

<sup>8</sup> **And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Reader: The Epistle is taken from 1 Corinthians 7:17-24. **(Live as You Are Called)**

<sup>17</sup> Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. <sup>18</sup> Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. <sup>19</sup> For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. <sup>20</sup> Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. <sup>21</sup> Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) <sup>22</sup> For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. <sup>23</sup> You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men. <sup>24</sup> So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Mark 1:14-20

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

### **Jesus Begins His Ministry**

<sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." <sup>16</sup> Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon 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 become fishers of men." <sup>18</sup> And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup> And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup> And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.