

*A Jewish leader seeks Jesus under cover of night to ask him the questions which plague his mind, safe from the criticism of his colleagues. What he gets is an education in keeping things hidden.*

January 23, 2022

Third Sunday of Epiphany



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
“Participating in God’s mission of life”  
7104 - 39th Avenue  
Kenosha, WI 53142

*We are a Reconciling in Christ Congregation  
(All are welcome here)*

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Phone 262-694-5050

*The mission of God is life. Hope replaces despair. Faith replaces fear. Life replaces death. How are you participating in God’s mission of life?*

## WELCOME

AM: Good morning and welcome to worship. This morning we offer a special welcome to all persons watching our livestream for the first time. Please know we experience you as a gift from God. Trinity welcomes and affirms all persons into full participation in the life of our faith community. Later in today's service, as we prepare to remember our baptismal identity, you are invited to fill a small bowl with water for use during this remembrance. Welcome to worship.

## GATHERING SONG

 *The Church of Christ, in Every Age, vv. 1 & 2*      *Hymn #729*

*The church of Christ, in ev'ry age beset by change, but Spirit led,  
Must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.*

*Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry  
For shelter and for bread to eat, and never live before they die.*

## FORGIVENESS AND CONFESSION

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

P: Merciful God,

**You know all the ways we fail to live according to your Word. Yet through Jesus, the Word made flesh, you provide a way out of the holes we've dug for ourselves. Through Christ's atoning work on the cross, forgive us our sins, and show us how to make life-giving and life-affirming choices. Empower us to be better church members, friends, parents, children, partners, and co-workers. Let Christ's light shine through us, for the sake of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

P: Jesus does, indeed, forgive. Jesus cleanses us of our sin and recreates us in God's image. Receive the entire forgiveness of all your sins. Go, and

walk free of guilt, shame, and sin. You are made new! In Jesus' name we pray.

**All: Amen**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

AM: Let us pray together the Prayer of the Day. Light of the world,

**AM: ...You sent Nicodemus by cover of night to learn from Jesus, and Jesus shone a light on the darkness many were living under. Shine your light on us so that we may be beacons for others. Amen.**

### **PEACE**

AM: The peace of the Lord be with you all... If you are gathered with friends or family, greet one another with the sign of peace.

### **WORD**

AM: Let us pray... Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from you. Make us hunger for the Word of life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Through the proclaimed word of God, the Holy Spirit moves to instill and deepen faith.

The gospel according to John.

**P: Glory to You, O Lord.**

### **John 3:1-21**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the

kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

AM: The gospel of the Lord

**P: Praise to You, O Christ**

**SERMON**

Pastor Tom

*A moment of silence follows to allow the Holy Spirit to instill and deepen faith in Jesus Christ.*

## **BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE**

AM: As we prepare to remember our baptismal identity, you are invited to fill a small bowl with water for use during this remembrance.

The candle Pastor Tom is lighting is the Christ candle. This candle symbolizes the light of Christ that came into our lives at our baptism and shines through us every day.

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

 *Baptized and Set Free, vv. 1 & 2*

*Hymn #453*

*We are people created, chosen by God.  
Then we're washed, ever gently, in mercy and love.  
Sin has power no more. Jesus opened the door  
to a fountain bringing healing, and wholeness and more.*

*We are fed and we're nourished, filled and refreshed.  
Then our hunger returns and again we are blessed.  
For whatever the need, God is greater indeed:  
endless ocean, always deeper than all of our need.*

## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**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.**

### **REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM**

P: Eternal and gracious God, we give you thanks. In countless ways you have revealed yourself in ages past, and have blessed us with signs of your grace. We praise you that through the waters of the sea you led your people Israel out of bondage, into freedom in the land of your promise.

We praise you for sending Jesus your Son, who for us was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, and was anointed as the Christ by your Holy Spirit. Through the baptism of his death and resurrection you set us free from the bondage of sin and death and give us cleansing and rebirth.

We praise you for your Holy Spirit, who teaches us and leads us into all truth, filling us with a variety of gifts, that we might proclaim the gospel to all nations and serve you as a royal priesthood.

We rejoice that you claimed us in our baptism, and that by your grace we are born anew. By your Holy Spirit renew us, that we may be empowered to do your will and continue forever in the risen life of Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever. Amen.

I invite you to dip your fingers in the bowl of water and mark yourself with the sign of the cross. If gathered with family, mark one another. You may say aloud these words or similar ones: “Remember your baptism and be thankful. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.”

 **Baptized and Set Free, vv. 3 & 4**

**Hymn #453**

*We are nourished by water, all living things,  
and by life that the Spirit abundantly brings.*

*As we journey toward home, may your presence be known:  
precious river, ever-flowing, now carry us home.*

*Now with praise and thanksgiving, we join the song.  
All are welcome! We gather to sing loud and strong.  
Not enslaved, but set free! From now on, all will be  
one in Jesus, one in water, baptized and set free!*

### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

AM: If you have a prayer concern this morning, please take a moment to text it to 262-287-8098.

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. After the words ‘God of wisdom’ please respond **‘Hear our prayer.’**

AM: We bring our doubts, our questions, our confusion before you, O Lord, knowing that nothing is foolish or unworthy of your time. Give us faith to trust your counsel and to learn from the messengers which you have sent throughout the ages. God of wisdom, **Hear our prayer.**

AM: We are indeed fearfully and wonderfully made, along with your whole creation. Open our eyes to the wonders of this world, and humble us to be taught by all of nature, that we might learn respect and responsibility. God of wisdom, **Hear our prayer.**

AM: So often the darkness suits us better than the light, when we hide in the shame of our memories, our shortcomings, our misdeeds. Bring us into the open where forgiveness is real and redemption is the cleansing our souls desire. God of wisdom, **Hear our prayer.**

AM: We are by no means the first to question, to wonder, to misunderstand. Generations have done so before us, and have found

their peace in you. Join us with all the saints of every age, in your eternal communion where light shines perpetually. God of wisdom, **Hear our prayer.**

P: Give us daily chances to be reborn in you. Bless our lives and our loved ones with your healing presence, especially those whom we name before you... God of wisdom, **Hear our prayer.**

P: (Here other petitions are offered.) God of wisdom, **Hear our prayer.**

AM: Hear our prayers, O Lord, and make of us the very answers we seek, light to the world and hope for your people. Amen.

## **OFFERING**

AM: When we give a financial gift, we give it not to receive God's forgiveness but in gratitude for it. Give today with intentionality by reminding yourself that God is the source of all that we have. The slide outlines the different ways you can give.

Thank you and thank God for you.

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

AM: Let us pray:

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. Amen.

## **SENDING**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS**

Pastor Tom

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

**AM: And also with you.**



P: Lift up your hearts.

**AM: We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**AM: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,  
you pour out the fire of your Spirit,  
uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.  
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the  
resurrection,  
with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new  
covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and  
on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with  
your presence.

**AM: Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your Holy Ones of all times and places, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**AM: Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

P: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

 *In Christ Called to Baptize, vv. 1 & 3*

*Hymn #575*

*In Christ called to baptize, we witness to grace  
and gather a people from each land and race.  
In deep, flowing waters, we share in Christ's death,  
then, rising to new life, give thanks with each breath.*

*In Christ called to witness, by grace we will preach  
the lifegiving gospel; God's love we will teach  
By grace may our living give proof to our praise  
in costly compassion reflecting Christ's ways.*

## **DISMISSAL**

**AM:** Go out into the world with passion and great joy. Christ is with you.  
Follow Him!

**P & AM: Thanks be to God!**