

Hello
my name is

Jesus

Worship Folder for January 24, 2021

Christ Lutheran Church

32962 Vickers St, NE

Cambridge, MN

www.christcambridge.com

Find us on Facebook @ Christ Lutheran Church – Cambridge, MN

Christ Ev. Lutheran Church *Information to help you stay connected and get involved!*

CHURCH INFORMATION

Pastor	Sam Biebert	Church Office	763.689.5333
Contact Information	ChristCambridgePastor@gmail.com 701.471.0341 (cell)	Webpage	www.christcambridge.com

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST | JANUARY 25 — JANUARY 31

TODAY	9:00am	Worship
MONDAY	6:00pm	Women's Bible Study (<i>Wherever Love May Lead</i>)
WEDNESDAY	6:30pm	ZOOM Bible Class (<i>Judges</i>)
SUNDAY	9:00am	Worship

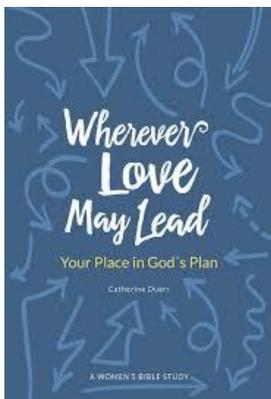
ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Church Directory! Please check out the times available to sign up for your appointment to add your Family's picture to our directory. This is a wonderful way to help new members get to know their new family as well as stay connected with each other! Everyone who is photographed will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a directory. We hope all of you will participate so we can have a complete church directory. Photos will be taken **Tuesday, March 9** and **Wednesday, March 10**.

Judges Join Pastor as we dig into the book of Judges via ZOOM, Wednesdays at 6:30pm!

Call Meeting A meeting to call a teacher to serve God and carry out his work here at Christ has been scheduled for **Sunday, February 7**, following worship. We would love to see you there!

Camp Croix Registration for Camp Croix is filling up! The cost is \$285 if registered by April 1st and \$300 if registered after that. Weeks available are July 11-17 and August 1-7. Check the website (www.campcroix.org) for more information and to register.



Women's Bible Study Join is via Zoom on Mondays at 6:00pm, as we work through the study *Wherever Love May Lead*. Contact Cliss Loescher with questions.

Sunday School Packets are available for your children. Please make sure to grab one.

"Here am I. Send me!"

Isaiah 6:8

Ushers: David, Deacon, Steve O.

Counters: Barry, Brian M.

Cleaners: Panning, Springborn

MEDITATION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS

Opening Hymn: “O God from God, O Light from Light” (Christian Worship #85)

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism)

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:

God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness,

We lie and do not live by the truth.

If we claim to be without sin,

We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Confession of Sin

Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake O God, be merciful to me a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.

Silence for personal examination and confession.

Absolution

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

First Lesson: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Then 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.” ³ So 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. ⁴ Jonah walked through the city for a day, and he called out, “Forty more days and Nineveh is going to be overthrown!” ⁵ The men of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least. ¹⁰ When 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.

The general call to discipleship is a call that envelopes the whole of life, not just the Sunday morning part. That God does not always require the sacrifice of everything should not dull our hearts to the reality that we should be ready to make just such a sacrifice. The call of Christ to follow him is the call to see him as our all in all; only then are we what these verses say we ought to be. It is only the glorious power of the gospel that will make it possible for us to learn the lesson. These verses contain all three uses of the law.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

²⁹ I also say this, brothers: The time is short. From now on, let those who have wives live as if they have none; ³⁰ those who weep, as if not weeping; those who rejoice, as if not rejoicing; those who buy, as if not possessing; ³¹ and those who use the world, as if not getting any use out of it. For the way of life that belongs to this world is passing away.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching, preaching, and healing every disease.
Alleluia. (Matthew 4:23 cf. NIV)

Notice the sharp contrast: the first verse makes all the rest of the verses seem foolish. If God could not keep John out of prison, why would anyone want to follow the one whom John proclaimed as the Messiah? The contrast is all the more striking, when we remember that those called in this reading had been disciples of John first. Why haven't they become bitter or cynical? Don't they grasp that this Jesus may well share in John's fate, and they may share in it with him? Why haven't they just given up on religion and set themselves to making the best of it in their occupation? Jesus for his part could have made, humanly speaking, better choices in his disciples than these. Ah, but there it is again: the hidden glory of the Savior is manifest in a call strong enough to overcome despair and cynicism in the ones called, and strong enough to accomplish the work of God on earth through these outwardly frail and inept workmen.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20

¹⁴ After 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.” ¹⁶ As 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. ¹⁷ Jesus said to them, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ¹⁸ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ Going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat mending the nets. ²⁰ Immediately Jesus called them. They left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

"This Little Light of Mine"

Sermon on Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Theme: Get to Know Jesus "In Who He Works With"

[Click Here For Message](#)

[Click Here For Children's Message](#)

Theme: Get to Know Jesus "In Who He Works With"

January 24, 2021

I want to tell you about Nineveh, but I cannot, at least not completely. I cannot because to be real with you about it would just simply not be proper. But at the same time, it is not enough to say it was a bad place. In Genesis 10 we see it was founded by Nimrod, the great grandson of Noah, shortly after the flood, grew and eventually became the capital city of the mighty Assyrian empire. Over time it became known for its evil and violence. The prophet Nahum tells us in Nahum 3 that Nineveh was a city of blood, full of lies. History tells us of corpses piled in the streets, gruesome treatment of conquered peoples, disgusting idolatry, and worship practices to false gods. It was not a city high on anyone's radar as a warm and welcoming place. Even the king of Nineveh had to admit things were bad when he urged his people to give up their evil and violence. It reminds us of Sodom and Gomorrah in how God took notice of its wickedness and the very thought of proclaiming God's judgement upon the city sent Jonah running in the opposite direction. Yeah, it was a bad place. It really brings up the question, "Why would God even care about warning them? Why wouldn't he just destroy them?"

Then, there is Jonah. Jonah is a prophet who is mostly recognized by the fish who swallowed him. In fact, the fish sometimes gets more focus than anything else in the book, God included. But that is probably because there is not much good to talk about when it comes to Jonah. He did not like what God wanted him to do. He did not want God's mercy to bless the Ninevites. In all honesty, it really does not seem like Jonah ran in the opposite direction out of fear, it seems far more likely based off his own words and actions that Jonah went in the opposite direction because of some warped thinking. He knew well the sins of the Ninevites, and he did not want them to have the option of repentance. He knew God would do as he said so if they happened to repent, he did not want to assist in that. Nineveh was the big city of Assyria, Israel's worst enemy. Why would he spend efforts on them? It would seem as though his efforts would be best spent on God's people, on people of the promise, not these heathen gentiles.

So here we have these two, Nineveh and Jonah. Neither seem like good choices for God's focus or ours for that matter. Here we have an unlikely servant and an even more so unlikely audience, seems to be a waste of time. We can predict the outcome even before it happens, we can almost hear the laughter that meets the message. Besides that, it is one person. Maybe, just maybe, if there was a hoard of people who flooded Nineveh to warn them and maybe if those people were gifted would they stand a chance at convincing some, maybe. You can learn a lot about a person by the people someone associates with. At first glance, it seems like God likes to waste his time and the time of those he asks to serve him. But as we study this portion of God's word, may we see how God reveals himself in outwardly frail, foolish, and frustrating individuals so that which is done can only highlight God and draw us to him that much more tightly. We listen as God speaks to us through his Word.

Then 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.

Is the outcome what you expected? Maybe, but is that only because you have heard it so many times this miracle has lost its luster? Maybe, but is that because we just associate it with so many amazing truths told us in God’s Word that it really does not surprise us all that much? I mean, do something like this today God, then I will be impressed.

But that begs the question, why would Jesus make sure this portion of his word was preserved for thousands and thousands of years if the purpose was just to entertain us with some fanciful tale? Why would Jesus make sure to let us know that not one portion of scripture should be added to or subtracted from because what was written and what is preserved by his hand is for the certainty of our salvation? In other words, all of scripture, these verses included is meant to throw open the curtains to the view of God, strengthen and empower our faith. What we are hearing and seeing here has nothing to do with the linguistic talents of Jonah or the great listening skills of the Ninevites, what we are hearing and seeing here has everything to do with an amazingly powerful God and how he reveals that power in his word and how he works through those who are unfit to proclaim it. God called both Jonah and those in Nineveh to repentance and showed the power of his Word in giving grace to both according to his goodness.

So where does that leave us this morning? How does this portion of God’s word serve us in opening the eyes and minds of our souls to see and know our Savior better? Maybe the simplest way to put it is that it is for the purpose of encouragement, encouragement in our faith and encouragement in our work.

There may be no clearer example of God’s truth that salvation is not something earned or deserved but rather, it is only a gift. Nothing else explains the complete turnaround in Nineveh. There may be no clearer of an example that salvation is never the work of man or even a cooperative venture between God and man. Nineveh clearly deserved destruction and Jonah was clearly unfit as a workman.

Those are hard words to swallow unless we take a good look at ourselves. As a whole we are no different than Nineveh, we are citizens of a country that has great wickedness attached to its name. As a country we have strayed from worship of the one true God and have run into the waiting arms of the worship of self, what I want and my happiness. We have a history of and continue to see rebellion as something noble and good. We murder hundreds of thousands of unborn children and call it our right. As individuals we are as close to Jonah as it gets. Be honest, do you have someone you just can’t stomach? Hopefully not here but I know it is not a stretch to look outside these walls and find that. Now imagine you were sitting next to that individual today. Imagine you went up to the Lord’s alter alongside that person today. Imagine you worked side by side with that person and knew they would enjoy the exact same eternal blessings and joys of God’s grace in heaven. Not to hard to see why Jonah was upset when Nineveh repented is it?

Yet despite our collective and individual wickedness, God uses us. He pursues us as we stray and gives us the direction to go and the words to say. He builds us up to see ministry is never about us, about how big we are, how smart we are or how good we are at crafting words, but it is all about our great and mighty God and the message he places on our tongues. A message about a merciful God, a God who desires to relent and forgive repentant hearts. A message about how he shows just how serious he is about forgiveness and salvation because he gave up his only Son for you and for me. He planned for his Son to suffer and die, to be separated from himself in punishment for the sins of the world, your sins and mine, so we can be close with him. It is a message that is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.

This is the message we have the joy of living in, sharing, and showing. Yes, we can tell a lot about Jesus by who he works with. We can tell of our God's power as he works in us to shine in this dark world. We can tell of our God's mercy as he works with those, you and me, who are not deserving of even knowing it let alone having the privilege of sharing it. We can tell of the greatness of his Word as it changes and transforms not just our lives but also those he puts us in contact with. Because of that, I can tell you about Nineveh, I can tell you about me, it is message that starts off ugly but the ending is pretty great because the ending is all about Jesus. God help us to know our Savior better by seeing how he lights up you and me to in turn shine the light of Jesus in this World and know because of who works in us, that ending will be great as well. Amen.

Offering: (Though we are not meeting together at this time please do not forget the opportunity to give back what is rightfully God's with respect to what he has given us. Offerings can be mailed or dropped off at church. You can also make use of online giving through the giveplus app or by going to the church's website (www.christcambridge.com) and selecting the "Donate" tab under "About" in the site menu.)

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we praise you for your kindness and mercy to us. You have not treated us as our sins deserved but crowned us with love and compassion. You have satisfied our desires with good things and renewed our strength. You have revealed your Son Jesus to us and given us rest for our souls in him. Keep us ever mindful of the eternal blessings which are ours. We are daily tempted to focus our attention on the here-and-now, forgetting that our current circumstances are only temporary. Help us to keep hold of the life that is truly life.

Lord Jesus, you came into this world to save sinners. You called those of your own time to repentance that they might have eternal life. You laid down your life to redeem all people. You established your disciples to carry the message of salvation to others. You have caused your Word to be spoken to us and through the work of your Holy Spirit brought us to believe it. Strengthen us to share your Gospel with others. Continue to raise up prophets like Jonah who will bring your message to the lost. Be with us as a congregation and all those who hold to your word so we faithfully bring the message of Law and Gospel, sin and grace to those in our communities.

“The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the world be silent before him.” In just a few moments, O Lord, we will be leaving this earthly temple. We know that, as we do so, even with the many different directions we depart, you will be with each of us. Guide, guard and protect us so that we may let our lights shine as we go our separate ways and then return to this place next week and again be silent before you as we listen to your Word, but also raise our voices in thanks and praise for all that you have done.

We bring you, O Lord, our private petitions.

Private Petitions

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, hear your people for the sake of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who has taught us to pray:

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.

Children’s Message

BLESSING:

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 favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn: “Dear Lord to Your True Servants Give” (Christian Worship #542)