

Third Sunday After Epiphany

21 January 2024

Collect

Bountiful God,
through your Son you have called us to repent of our sin,
to believe the good news,
and to celebrate the coming of your kingdom:
teach us, like Christ's first apostles,
to hear the call to discipleship,
and, forsaking old ways,
to proclaim the gospel of new life to a broken world;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1st Reading

Jonah 3.1-10

¹ The 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.' ³ So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord . Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴ Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, 'Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' ⁵ And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. ⁶ When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷ Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: 'By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. ⁸ Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. ⁹ Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may

turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.’¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Psalm

Psalm 62.5-12

- ⁵ Nevertheless, my soul, wait in silence for God:
for from him comes my hope.
- ⁶ He only is my rock and my salvation:
my strong tower, so that I shall not be moved.
- ⁷ In God is my deliverance and my glory:
God is my strong rock and my shelter.
- ⁸ Trust in him at all times, O my people:
pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.
- ⁹ The children of Adam are but breath,
the children of earth are a lie:
place them in the scales and they fly upward,
they are as light as air.
- ¹⁰ Put no trust in extortion,
do not grow worthless by robbery:
if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.
- ¹¹ God has spoken once, twice have I heard him say:
that power belongs to God,
- ¹² That to the Lord belongs a constant goodness:
for you reward each one of us according to our works.

2nd Reading

1 Corinthians 7.29-31

²⁹ I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰ and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹ and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Gospel

Mark 1.14-20

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.' ¹⁶ As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.