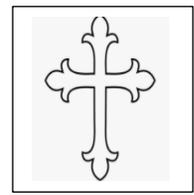


Perley Lutheran Parish  
January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Third Sunday of Epiphany



**Gathering Hymn: We are Called**

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly:

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart! Show you mercy to all those in fear!

We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and blindness will be no more.

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

**Welcome and Announcements**

Continued Prayers for our country

Annual Congregational meetings moved to February

Continue to reach out if you need something

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God,

**You search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin-our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of +Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

Psalm 62:5-12 (Read Responsively)

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. **He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.** On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God. **Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.** Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath. **Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.** Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, **and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord. For you repay to all according to their work.**

First Reading Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” 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. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. 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.

**Holy Gospel** according Mark 1:14-20, **Glory to you O Lord**

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

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

### **Children’s Message**

Do you enjoy fishing? Have you ever caught a fish?

Fishing is a great sport, and if you have ever been fishing and have caught a fish, you know that there’s a great feeling of excitement when you catch a fish. One of the things that makes fishing such a great sport is that it doesn't matter if you’re young or old...you can still be good at fishing.

What does it take to be good at catching fish? First of all, you need to be properly equipped. You can't just get a piece of string, put a hook on it, and tie it on the end of a stick and expect to catch many fish, can you? No! If you're serious about fishing, you'll make sure you have all the right equipment. You'll want a nice rod and reel like this one I have this morning.

The next thing you need to know is that you have to go where the fish are to catch fish!

Finally, if you want to be good at fishing, you must be patient. Sometimes the fish just aren't biting. You have to wait patiently.

Our Bible lesson today has something to do with fishing. One day, Jesus was walking along the seashore when he saw two brothers named Peter and Andrew. Jesus knew they made their living by fishing, so He called out to them, "Follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" Do you know what they did? They laid down their fishing nets and followed Jesus.

Jesus wants you and me to fish for people, too. That means that Jesus wants us to tell others about what He has done for us and what He wants to do for them. Fishing for people is a lot like fishing for fish.

First, we need to be properly equipped. We need to know what the Bible teaches and learn how to share it with others.

Next, we go out where the people are and tell them about Jesus.

Finally, we must be patient.

If we will do these things, we can really become fishers of people like Jesus wants us to be. If you think there is a great feeling of excitement in catching a fish, just imagine how exciting it must be to bring someone to Jesus!

Dear Jesus, help us become fishers of people. Help us tell others what You have done for us and what you want to do for them. In Jesus' name, amen.

## **Message**

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

We continue this morning of discipleship and call. Last week we heard in our Gospel how Jesus began to call the first four disciples, Andrew and Simeon, Philip and Nathaneal. Today we continue to hear more about his call to them, how he called to these four – the four who believed in Him – to follow him to a new and very different life. We will look at how faith plays a part of their call and how faith continues to play a part in all of our calls.

Let's put our passage into context first. Jesus, had been baptized by John by this time, anointed with the Holy Spirit as the dove descended upon him and had been told my God the Father that he was his "beloved Son, to whom he is pleased." So Jesus now is beginning his ministry – proclaiming the good news of the Gospel and that's where we pick up the story today.

John has been arrested by Herod by now. Not the same Herod that was searching for baby Jesus but rather King Herod's nephew. John starts his ministry this day with proclaiming that "the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent and believe in the good news." This not only kicks off the beginning of his ministry but also gives us a message of repentance and the kick off of the kingdom of God. That was the same message that John the Baptist had been sharing as well but as John has now been arrested one would think they might choose to be a bit more careful in proclaiming the same message in order to end up with the same consequences. But that's not what Jesus does or did, he doesn't play it safe. He knows that it's dangerous to question the rulers and their laws but that doesn't stop him. Being a follower therefore isn't going to be easy – there will indeed be danger following them as well.

We hear how Jesus is now walking along the shores of the Sea of Galilee. This would've been a pretty busy place with both fishermen coming in and out of shore. There would've been merchants there and just plain a bunch of people in a bustling place. It is here where he runs into Andrew and Simon and says to them "come and follow me for I will make you fish for people". And they do! They drop everything - put their fishing nets down – and follow him.

Well not far down the shore from this is another boat. Inside that boat is a man named Zebedee and his two sons - John and James. They had already finished up their fishing and were sitting down to mend the holes in their nets when Jesus calls to John and James. They drop what they are doing and take off. They follow. So now we have Andrew, Simon, John and James. All of them have left what they know and have and follow.

*Follow – to come after in sequence, order of time, etc.; move behind in the same direction:* as dictionary.com explains requires something. You can't follow if you don't have a leader. Think about times that you've had to work in a group – I have to tell you any time I had group projects in my classes and even in my jobs – I hated them almost every time. What happens when you have a group – well sometimes you have a group of leaders and very few followers which leads to what? Chaos because every one wants to be in charge, all of them want to be leading the rest and all of them have much better ideas than the others. Have you ever been in one of those groups?

But wait, there are also those times when you have a group of just followers too. And how does that work out?? Well most times you don't get much done because everyone is waiting for someone else to step up and make, direct and follow through on their plan so that they don't have to be the one to do so. Again, we've probably all dealt with times like these as well. These four men, they are followers. They aren't going to be the ones leading the way – at

least not while Jesus is alive – but rather they will follow Jesus and let him make the decisions of their journey and plan. He will be responsible for what will and won't be happening and yet, these followers give up everything – the surrender it all to follow the leader.

Perhaps even more difficult for us to believe is the fact that as a follower – you really don't get to choose your path of course or have any idea or say about what lies ahead. Only the one leading knows that. Remember, the definition of follow is *to come after in sequence, order of time; move behind in the same direction*. Think about how much worry YOU would have if you just walked away from your life and headed down the road with no idea of what was ahead. That's some serious trust that these four men had – trust in Jesus whom at this point they have really only heard stories about. Trust in the decisions Jesus will make. Faith in Jesus to be the leader in their lives.

Again, these first four disciples were called to a life of faith and they didn't even take a moment to hesitate – they came and followed right from the beginning. Hadn't they heard what had happened to the last man who had proclaimed repentance and the kingdom of God? After all, when John did that he was done so being a follower of Jesus might just lead them to the same end – prison or even death. They didn't hesitate though, Jesus was true to them. He was bringing to all the mission from God. They heard Jesus' call and his Word and that gave them faith. Faith in him and faith in this journey that they were beginning with Jesus.

What about you and me? Jesus calls us too. We too don't have a chance to know just what our future holds. What 2021 and all the rest of the years will bring. We too have to decide to follow – decide to trust – decide to put our faith in him. Following that call to follow isn't going to be easy we know it. We can be a call that not only brings to change but also to the end of things. Maybe it's a career, maybe a way of life or even a cherished dream or plan. Letting go of those things are scary and they hurt when we have to let them go by the way side. Not something that anyone really enjoys or looks forward to. But the promise that we have as Christians, as followers of God, is that of a new life.

Jesus died and rose for all of us so that we too can be raised up from death into new life. The disciples, these four and the rest that are yet to join them, walked away from what they knew as fisherman, in order to fish for people. Fish for others to follow and learn and know what Jesus has come to do. Can you imagine how intense, how gratifying, how frightening that idea must've been like? Wow!

What would take? What would motivate you to accept the invitation – the call from Jesus to follow him? The invitation to know and trust in God's love? The invitation to live a life with God's grace and promise of hope and new life? Whatever that invitation may be for you, it is the call that Jesus gives to us. A call to "come and follow". Will you accept that invitation? Amen.

**Hymn of the Day:** You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

You have come down to the lakeshore seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,  
but only asking for me to follow.

Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes;  
kindly smiling, you've called out my name  
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;  
Now with you, I will seek other seas.

You who have fished other waters; you, the longing of souls that are yearning;  
O loving Friend, you have come to call me.  
Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes;  
kindly smiling, you've called out my name  
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;  
Now with you, I will seek other seas.

Apostles 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 Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen***

**Prayers of the people:** (Let us pray, **Have mercy, O God.**)

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

For the church throughout the world, for pastors and lay leaders that proclaim the good news of God's reconciling love. For those who provide leadership in our cities, our country and the world, that God inspire all people in the just use of power and wealth and resources. Let us pray, **Have mercy, O God.**

For our congregation and communities, for families big and small, and for the organizations that meet here during the week, that God's steadfast love serve as a model for all relationships. Let us pray, **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. For those who are sick, distressed, or grieving; for those awaiting test and news and plans for what comes next; for those awaiting relief in the midst of suffering; according to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness. We lift up those within our congregation and

those that have reached out to us for prayers, Jeff and Kirk, Chad and all of those that we now name silently in our own hearts. Let us pray, **Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who swells among us and be with us now as we say that prayer that Jesus taught us

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. 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

Blessing

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace. **Amen**

Sending Hymn: What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine  
What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.  
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Dismissal – Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

**Mark Your Calendars:**

Sunday, January 31st– Sunday Services 9am live streamed from Nora

Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Services 9am **in-person and live streamed from Nora.**

Pastor Michele Jenson: Phone: 701-261-0998    Email: <a href="mailto:mjenson001@luthersem.edu">mjenson001@luthersem.edu</a> Web Page: <a href="http://www.perleyparish.org">www.perleyparish.org</a> Email: <a href="mailto:perleyparish@gmail.com">perleyparish@gmail.com</a>
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Fishing for People



# Fishing for People

Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" Matthew 4:19 (NLT)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 4:18-22 (NLT).

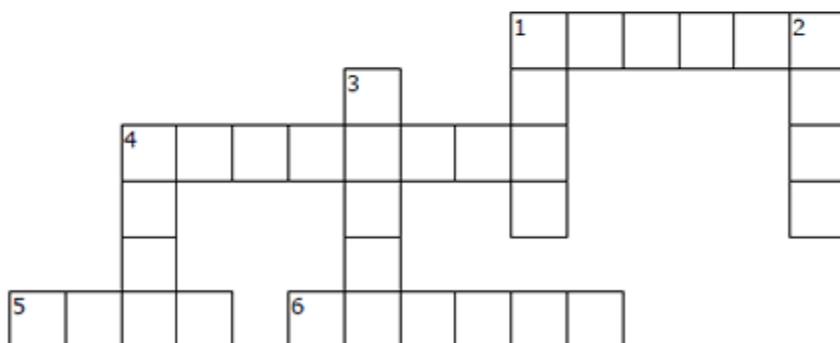


M D A E W B C W P E T E R G F  
 J L M S L A R P A G N E T S F  
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 N C F S S C B W B U W E F Y G

BROTHERS	JAMES	NETS	COME	GALILEE
BOAT	PETER	WATER	FOLLOW	BEHIND
ANDREW	LIVING	JESUS	SITTING	FISH
WALKING	PEOPLE	JOHN	SHORE	LEAVING

# Fishing for People

Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" Matthew 4:19 (NLT)



## ACROSS

1. To move along behind someone
4. Two or more males who have the same parents
5. Open fabric made of threads or cords used to catch fish. (Plural)
6. Men, women, and children; human beings

## DOWN

1. An animal without legs that lives in water
2. To move along by putting one foot in front of the other
3. The land along the edge of the sea, lake, or wide river
4. A small vehicle for traveling on water

BOAT	PEOPLE	FISH	NETS
SHORE	WALK	FOLLOW	BROTHERS

# Fishing for People

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Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" Matthew 4:19 (NLT)

Choose the word that best matches the definition.



- \_\_\_ 1. An animal without legs that lives in water  
A. turtle B. dog C. fish D. hippo
  
- \_\_\_ 2. A small vehicle for traveling on water  
A. bicycle B. boat C. car D. fish
  
- \_\_\_ 3. To move along by putting one foot in front of the other  
A. swim B. fish C. walk D. sitting
  
- \_\_\_ 4. The land along the edge of the sea, lake, or wide river  
A. water B. boat C. nets D. shore
  
- \_\_\_ 5. Two or more males who have the same parents  
A. sisters B. aunts C. cousins D. brothers
  
- \_\_\_ 6. To move along behind someone  
A. follow B. fish C. shore D. nets
  
- \_\_\_ 7. Open fabric made of threads or cords used to catch fish. (Plural)  
A. boat B. fish C. nets D. people
  
- \_\_\_ 8. Men, women, and children; human beings  
A. fish B. people C. follow D. walk