

Readings + 3rd Sunday after Epiphany, Lect. 3 B + January 21, 2024

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

First Reading Jonah 3:1-5, 10

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.” ³So 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. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God had second thoughts about the calamity that God had said would be done to them; and God did not do it.

Psalmody Psalm 62:5-12

For God alone I wait in silence; truly, my hope is in God.

God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.

In God is my deliverance and my honor; God is my strong rock and my refuge.

Put your trust in God always, O people, pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.

Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted. Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God.

Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord, for you repay all according to their deeds.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

*Paul writes:*²⁹ “Dear family, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who are married be as though they were not, ³⁰and 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, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Holy Gospel Mark 1:14-20

Matthew and Mark have nearly identical versions of the call of the four brothers; Luke tells more about the setting of the story, including a miracle of nets full of fish after a fruitless night.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the reign of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately Jesus called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.