

# A Service of the Word for the Third Sunday After the Epiphany/St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor

January 24, 2021

## Invocation

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

## Psalm (St. Timothy)

*Psalm 71:15–24*

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,  
    of your deeds of salvation all the day,  
    for their number is past my knowledge.  
With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come;  
    I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.  
O God, from my youth you have taught me,  
    and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.  
So even to old age and gray hairs,  
    O God, do not forsake me,  
until I proclaim your might to another generation,  
    your power to all those to come.  
Your righteousness, O God,  
    reaches the high heavens.  
You who have done great things,  
    O God, who is like you?  
You who have made me see many troubles and calamities  
    will revive me again;  
from the depths of the earth  
    you will bring me up again.  
You will increase my greatness  
    and comfort me again.  
I will also praise you with the harp  
    for your faithfulness, O my God;  
I will sing praises to you with the lyre,  
    O Holy One of Israel.  
My lips will shout for joy,  
    when I sing praises to you;  
    my soul also, which you have redeemed.  
And my tongue will talk of your righteous help all the day long,  
for they have been put to shame and disappointed  
    who sought to do me hurt.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## Readings from Holy Scripture

## Old Testament

Jonah 3:1–5, 10

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” <sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them...<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

## Epistle (St. Timothy)

1 Timothy 6:11–16

<sup>11</sup>But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. <sup>12</sup>Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup>I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, <sup>14</sup>to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup>which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup>who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

## Gospel

Mark 1:14–20

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

<sup>16</sup>Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

## Sermon

### The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

## Prayers

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God, heavenly Father, You desire not the death of a sinner but that all would repent and believe the Gospel. In the epiphany of Your Son, Your time of salvation and Your kingdom have come near. As this world passes away, give faithfulness and urgency to Your Church to proclaim the Gospel of our God to all people. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord of the harvest, as You called Simon Peter and Andrew, James and John to follow You and made them fishers of men, so send faithful preachers of Your Gospel in our time. Increase the spirit of generosity to all who support the missionaries, seminaries, colleges and other institutions of our Church for the spread of the Gospel and the service of the Church. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Eternal Lord, in view of every current distress as the present form of this world passes away, give constancy and contentment to Your people in their God-given stations. Give comfort and faithfulness to the married, and strengthen them to pass on the faith to the next generation. Show kindness also to the unmarried and assure them of the holiness of their place in life, that they would be freed from anxiety and attend to holiness in body and spirit, undividedly devoted to You. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, preserve our nation with its rulers. Call to repentance those who have forgotten You. Spare all who serve for the good of this people. Do not let disaster befall us, but preserve us in peace and quietness. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Merciful Father, turn us from every distracting anxiety and the dealings of this world that would draw our hearts away from Your blessed Gospel and its end, eternal life. Give us confidence in the resurrection and the peace of a clean conscience by the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name. Graciously behold and help those for whom we pray [especially Les, Eileen, Michael, Roger, Alois, Erika, Inga. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. Amen.

## The Lord's Prayer

### Blessing

The grace of our ✠ Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen.