

↑ OPENING HYMN

“Brightest and Best of the Stars”

ELW #303

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C Amen

↓ FIRST READING: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

A A READING FROM JONAH THE 3rd CHAPTER

¹The 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 changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

A THE WORD OF THE LORD.

C Thanks be to God

↓ SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

A A READING FROM 1 CORINTHIANS THE 7th CHAPTER

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, 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.

A THE WORD OF THE LORD.

C Thanks be to God

↑ GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20

P THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MARK THE 1st CHAPTER

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom 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 fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for 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 he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

P THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

↑ HYMN OF THE DAY

“God, Bless the Hands”

ACS #1022

THE PRAYERS

A As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries. God of grace,

C Receive our prayer.

A God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them.
God of grace,
C Receive our prayer.

A God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. God of grace,
C Receive our prayer.

A God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain (*especially*) **Mary Anderson, Norm Bauer, Barbara Birger, Linda Hartney, Carol Huff, Rev. Carol Lindsay, Rocky Metroka, Lynne Neibert, Bernice Ronnow, Brenda Richardson, Kristin Runfolo, Bonnie Sveum, Heather Viscito** and those we name aloud, and in our hearts (*pause*). We also pray today, Lord for our homebound members and our military personnel, persons facing abuse and those struggling with mental health issues. God of grace,
C Receive our prayer.

A God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us. God of grace,
C Receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you welcome them into your care. Comfort those who grieve, even as we place our hope in your salvation. God of grace,
C Receive our prayer.

P Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
C Amen.