

PrairieLand Parish

As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present. Whether you are joining us virtually or physically. May we together experience the presence of God

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements



Opening Meditation

How do we convince people that following Jesus is not simply about a state of being, but a call to doing?

Certainly, there is a need for training, for preparation, for growing as disciples; but the end is always an outward focus, always looking for ways to connect, to widen the net.

Our prayers are not just for ourselves, but for the needs of the community around us. Our prayers are not just for our aches and pains, but for the brokenness of the "least of these" around us, the hungry and the hurting.

Our songs are not just about the state of our souls or the home we have in heaven, but about the influence we can have on building the kin-dom of God in the world where we live.

Fishing for people. What images come to mind with this phrase? The fishing idea needs to expand beyond the numbers, wide enough to include acceptance and hospitality. Jesus is inviting his followers to a life of engagement. Here again, we can celebrate the moments of fellowship within the life of the community, particularly the ones that open arms wide to include those who are not yet a part of the church.

Friends, it is time to become focused, not on our wants or complaints but on God: Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the good news of God, saying the time has come, the realm of God is at hand. The realm of God is not very far from any one of us, for in God we live and, move and have our being. Jesus said: repent and believe the good news. The time has come. Let us turn to God today for God alone is our rock and salvation.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(inspired by Jonah 3, Matthew 4: 18-22, Mark 1: 14-20)

For just this hour, Follow me

Listen to my word Follow me

Think about your life as my disciple every day Follow me

Pray **Follow me**
Sing **Follow me**
Come, let us worship God!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, as the church, we are part of your redeeming work in history. Yet we know that often we seek our own success and salvation, and fear to follow Christ in commitment to a vision of wholeness for the world and its peoples. Help us to speak and act our parts of the great drama of your love, and in the freeing gospel of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear the good news! God has forgiven each one of us and calls us to take our parts in the drama of redeeming love.

People: Praise God, who accepts and uses our very human lives in the unfolding story of salvation and new life!

***Praise Hymn UMH #577. "God of Grace and God of Glory"**

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**1 God of grace and God of glory,
on the people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story,
bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound
us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**3 Cure thy children's warring madness,
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.**

**4 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.**

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading..... Mark 1:14-20 NRSV

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news[a] of[b]
God 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;[c]
repent, and believe in the good news."[d]

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

16 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting
a net into the sea, for they were fishers. 17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will
make you fishers of 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.

The word of God for the People of God, **Thanks Be to God**

Children's Message

***Faith Hymn UMH #338. "Where He Leads Me"**

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**1. I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
"Take thy cross and follow, follow me."**

Refrain:

**Where he leads me I will follow,
where he leads me I will follow,
where he leads me I will follow;
I'll go with him, with him all the way.**

**2. I'll go with him through the garden,
I'll go with him through the garden,
I'll go with him through the garden,
I'll go with him, with him all the way.**

(Refrain)

**3. I'll go with him through the
judgment,
I'll go with him through the judgment,
I'll go with him through the judgment,
I'll go with him, with him all the way.
(Refrain)**

**4. He will give me grace and glory,
he will give me grace and glory,
he will give me grace and glory,
and go with me, with me all the way.
(Refrain)**

Message

Joys/Concerns

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

(based on Matthew 4:18-22, Mark 1: 14-20, Micah 6: 1-8)

"And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.'" Mark 1:17

Lord Jesus, The one and only Christ, You called many people From many walks of life - To leave their own ways and follow you; To be your disciples; And to prize people as something to seek, find and restore.

Lord Jesus, The one true leader of every church, We choose to stand as one church – your church – And to lift our focus from our differences and divides. We will leave our own ways and follow you together; Support each other as we seek to be your disciples; And work together to focus on fishing once more.

We raise to you this day....*(names of those shared during joys and concerns)*

For we must act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly together Before you – and each other. For the sake of our worship of you, Our love for each other, And the future and freedom of all those still living in poverty.

Lord Jesus, We ask for your Spirit's help with this For we are quick to focus on ourselves, our labels and our differences Rather than the same nets in our hands, and the same leader before us. Christ have mercy - in your precious name which unites us all hear us now, as we pray your prayer...

Offertory/Doxology/Prayer

Generous God, we ask you to bless the gifts we give this morning. We ask that you help grow the trust in us so that we might follow without looking back and we might leave behind more of our old lives to experience more deeply new life in you. Help us to leave our nets on the shore and leave those things that seemed essential before we heard the call, so that we might travel the road you have put before us. In the name of Christ who goes before us and beside us, we pray. Amen. (Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Mark 1:14-20)

***Departing Hymn #438. "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord I Go"**

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**1. Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labor to pursue;
thee, only thee, resolved to know
in all I think or speak or do.**

**2. The task thy wisdom hath assigned,
O let me cheerfully fulfill;
in all my works thy presence find,
and prove thy good and perfect will.**

**3. Thee may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes mine inmost substance see,
and labor on at thy command,
and offer all my works to thee.**

**4. For thee delightfully employ
what e'er thy bounteous grace hath given;
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with thee to heaven.**

BENEDICTION

Jesus said "follow me" and "come and see" how we can change the world. As you live your week may your focus be on following Jesus and see what happens next. Amen.