

*Chorus: You are the One that we praise, You are the One we adore.  
You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for,  
oh, our hearts always hunger for.*

*3. Almighty, infinite Father, faithfully loving Your own;  
here in our weakness You find us falling before Your throne,  
oh, we're falling before Your throne. (to chorus)*

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\*The Thanksgiving: Psalm 103:1-4 p.939  
Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.  
Praise the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits—  
who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the pit  
and crowns you with love and compassion.

## God Sends; We Go Rejoicing

\*Benediction

\*Closing Song: "Lead Me, Guide Me" LUYH 329

*Refrain: Lead me, guide me, along the way,  
for if You lead me, I cannot stray.*

*Lord, let me walk each day with you; lead me my whole life through.*

*1. I am weak, and I need your strength and power  
to endure with grace my weakest hour.*

*Help me through the darkness your face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

*2. Help me walk in the paths of righteousness;  
be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.*

*I am trusting you whate'er may be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. [Refrain]*

*3. I am lost if you take your hand from me,  
I am blind, without your light to see.*

*Lord, forever may I your servant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. [Refrain]*

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### Worship Participants

Pastor: Dr. Joel Kok ♦ Piano: Donna Brue ♦ Cello: Benjamin Ploegstra ♦ Vocalist: Phil Postma

Worship Leader: Pam DeJong

Sound: Andy Landman ♦ Video: Jason Wyenberg ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171

### Hearing Assistance

An FM hearing assistance system is available for those who need it. Consult the sound operator for assistance.

# Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 21, 2024



## Mark 1:16-18

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.

† The word *epiphany* comes from a Greek word meaning "manifestation or appearance," and in church history this word has become closely associated with the revelation of Christ in connection with the visit of the Magi. This season after the Epiphany focuses on the teaching and healing ministry of Christ.

- from *The Worship Sourcebook*

## We Gather; God Welcomes

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Call to Worship: Psalm 62:5-8

\*Song: "My Soul Finds Rest"

LUYH 370

**1. My soul finds rest in God alone, my Rock and my salvation;  
a fortress strong against my foes, and I will not be shaken.**

**Though lips may bless and hearts may curse,  
and lies like arrows pierce me,**

**I'll fix my heart on righteousness; I'll look to him who hears me.**

**2. Find rest, my soul, in God alone amid the world's temptations;  
when evil seeks to take a hold, I'll cling to my salvation.**

**Though riches come and riches go, don't set your heart upon them;  
the fields of hope in which I sow are harvested in heaven.**

**Chorus: O praise him, hallelujah, my delight and my reward;  
everlasting, never failing, my Redeemer, my God.**

**3. I'll set my gaze on God alone and trust in him completely;  
with every day pour out my soul, and he will prove his mercy.**

**Though life is but a fleeting breath, a sigh too brief to measure,  
my King has crushed the curse of death, and I am his forever. (to chorus)**

Words & Music: Stuart Townend, Aaron Keyes © 2008 Thankyou Music (Admin by CapitalCMGPublishing.com)

\*God Greets Us, We Greet One Another

\*Song: "In Christ Alone"

LUYH 770

**1. In Christ alone my hope is found;  
he is my light, my strength, my song—  
this cornerstone, this solid ground,**

**firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.**

**My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh—fullness of God in helpless babe—  
this gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save.**

**'Til on the cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.**

**For every sin on him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live, I live.**

## God Provides; We Feast

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

The Institution: 1 Corinthians 11

Memorial Acclamation

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Prayer of Consecration, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the  
kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

The Invitation

*We invite you to come down the center aisle to the communion table. You may partake at  
the table or take it back to your seats. Gluten-free bread is available on the table.*

Communion Song: "Let Us Break Bread Together"

LUYH 837

**1. Let us break bread together on our knees. (repeat)**

**Chorus: When I fall on my knees, with my face to the Lord of life,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

**2. Let us drink wine together on our knees. (repeat) (to chorus)**

**3. Let us praise God together on our knees. (repeat) (to chorus)**

Words & Music: African American Spiritual

Communion Song: "Wonderful, Merciful Savior"

**1. Wonderful, merciful Savior, precious Redeemer and Friend;  
Who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men?  
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.**

**2. Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace;  
You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost the way,  
oh, we hopelessly lost the way.**

*Women/Children lead, men echo*  
**Hear our cry, (hear our cry,) O Lord, (O Lord,) be merciful (be merciful) once more. (once more.)**  
**Let your love (Let your love) your anger stem; (your anger stem); remember mercy, O Lord, again.**

Words & Music: Wes Sutton © 1988 Sovereign Lifestyle Music, Ltd.

#### Invitation to Giving

*Offering our gifts is an important part of our response to God—connecting our worship with a life of discipleship—and is a way to participate in the ministry of Covenant CRC here in this building and around the world. Offering boxes are available, or check your bulletin announcements for more ways to give.*

#### Prayers for the Church and World

## God Speaks; We Listen

Children's Blessing: "Christ, Be Our Light" LUYH 908 (*refrain*)  
**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.**  
**Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

Words & Music: Bernadette Farrell ©1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications

*Children ages 3 years old through kindergarten are invited to a time of worship designed especially for young children. Our young guests are welcome to participate in this service.*

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:14-20 p.1552

Message: "Royal Repenting; Faithful Following" Pastor Joel Kok

\*Song of Response: "Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult" LUYH 121

- 1. Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea, day by day his voice is sounding, saying, "Christian, follow me."**
- 2. Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store, from each idol that would keep us, saying "Christian, love me more."**
- 3. Long ago apostles heard it by the Galilean lake, turned from home and work and family, leaving all for his dear sake.**
- 4. In our joys and in our sorrows, days of work and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."**
- 5. Jesus calls us! By your mercy, Savior, may we hear your call, give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.**

Words: Cecil F. Alexander; Music: William H. Jude

- 3. There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain; Then, bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again! And as he stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me; for I am his and he is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.**
- 4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me; from life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. No power of hell, no human plan, can ever pluck me from his hand; 'til he returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

Words & Music: Keith Getty, Stuart Townend © 2002 Thankyou Music

## We Seek Jesus; God Forgives

#### Prayer of Confession

God, you know us better than we know ourselves.  
 You know our thoughts, our weaknesses, our motivations, our sins.

**And you love us still.**

Forgive us when we don't believe such love is true or possible;  
 when we wonder how You could love us just as we are,  
 when we forget our intricate construction.

**We are fearfully and wonderfully made in Your image!**

Remove from our minds every thought which keeps us from you.  
 Break down the walls, push aside our pride, and help us to trust anew.  
 You know our hearts. And you love us still. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness: Romans 8:1-2, 14-16 p.1756

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,  
 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life  
 has set you free from the law of sin and death.

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

**When we cry "Abba! Father!"**

**it is the very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God.**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

Song of Thanksgiving: "Your Mercy Flows" LUYH 700

**Your mercy flows upon us like a river.**  
**Your mercy stands unshakable and true.**  
**Most holy God, of all good things the giver,**  
**we turn and lift our fervent prayer to you.**