

JANUARY 22, 2023
THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



The power of God changes and heals lives.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 4:12-23	Jesus calls his first disciples
Monday	Isaiah 9:1-4	A new day is coming
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Divisions in the church
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Bringing people to God
Thursday	Lamentations 3:19-32	God's love endures
Friday	James 1:12-18	Trial and temptation
Saturday	Psalms 27:1, 4-9	Trust in God
Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	Sermon on the Mount

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 4:17 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear Lord, may the light of your goodness and mercy be brought to all corners of the earth, heal lives, and restore hope through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may we see in this meal your light that shines brightly in the world; strengthen our lives and give all people hope through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the power and mercy of God protect you in times of trouble. (Psalm 27:5)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Jesus Call Us; o'er the
Tumult*



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When is a time you have seen or been involved in a protest? Describe the protest.
- What kind of protest do you think Jesus would be part of in our world today?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 4:12-23.

In February, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. Thousands of Russian protestors were arrested. Kings and rulers past and present do not take kindly to dissenters. John the Baptist was a dissenter and disrupter of the status quo. He challenged Herod Antipas and eventually paid the ultimate price. Jesus, too, was a disrupter. His call to follow led Peter, Andrew, James, and John to leave their jobs, their families, and their families' economic stability to follow him. Jesus disrupted the daily lives of his followers. Jesus' call to repent is more than a moral change of heart. Repentance is a changed way of seeing and thinking about life. Jesus calls us to the kingdom standards of the rule and power of God, not to our own accepted standards. Jesus leads his followers into a world in need of good news preached and where lives need to be healed. In today's world, it may sound like foolishness, but it is the very power of God at work in the world (1 Corinthians 1:18).

Discuss: How have you been called to tell good news and bring healing to others in the name of Christ?

Pray: **Almighty God, help us to see you at work in the world and to follow you above all else so that mercy and healing may touch lives through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help others in need of healing and hope?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Epiphany is a season during the church year that emphasizes the light of Christ in the world. The psalmist in Psalm 27 reminds us that God is present in times of danger and when we feel afraid. Write a list of fears you may have for yourself or for others. Think or talk about those fears. Each day this week, read the list you have made. Add to the list if needed. Then light a candle and pray: **Lord, you are my light and my salvation. When I cry aloud, be gracious and answer me. I ask this in the name of Jesus, the light of the world. Amen.**



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