

About the Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Theme: For the Sake of the Gospel
- *highlighting the Scriptures for the week* -

God is quite interested that all people hear the 'good news' of His salvation, repent of their sins, and be saved (Jonah). For this reason He sent His servant Jonah to Nineveh. For this same reason God's Son, Jesus of Nazareth, proclaimed the 'good news' and called apostles to proclaim this same message (Mark 1:14-20). However, we let other things get in the way, not just our personal biases and prejudices against people (Jonah) but also our use of time in engaging in other priorities (1 Corinthians 7:29-31). Like the psalmist (Psalm 62:5-12) we need to learn anew in whom alone are our hope, our rock, and our salvation.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Use the schedule below in your personal devotion. The first three readings are the lessons read today; the last three will be read next Sunday. The Wednesday reading is the psalmody for the week. Each day you may want to pray that psalm or the prayer printed in our service folder today, followed by the suggested reading and your personal requests and thanksgivings to our heavenly Father.

Sunday	Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Why did Jonah initially refuse to go to Nineveh? What message was he supposed to proclaim? What excuses do we use today for not proclaiming God's message? What was the result of Jonah's proclamation in Nineveh? What is the result of our proclamation of God's message today?
Monday	1 Corinthians 7:29-31 What is Paul's overall concern in this section of his letter? For what purpose does Paul offer his advice in this section? What, if any, similarities are there today between the circumstances of Paul's time and our own? Do we use our time wisely? Towards what end?
Tuesday	Mark 1:14-20 Why did Jesus go into Galilee? Why did he call certain men to follow Him? What was to be their job? In what way(s) do we share the same task today as the disciples did at that time? What things stand in the way of us individually (and of our congregation) in carrying out the task?
Wednesday	Psalm 62 In whom (what) only is there salvation, according to the psalmist? What words in this psalm describe God's work for, and in, us? What, therefore, might we conclude concerning God?
Thursday	Deuteronomy 18:15-20 What is the role of a prophet? Whose words does he speak? Who alone is a prophet like Moses, whom the LORD spoke with face to face? Where do we hear this prophet's words? Whose words are they? What, therefore, is the sole authority in the church?
Friday	1 Corinthians 8:1-13 What is the problem with knowledge? What is the benefit of love? Who is the source of such love? Who is our God? Who is our Lord? What are the idols of our day? Why is wounding the weak conscience of a brother such a grievous sin? How is freedom therefore limited by love? In what situations does this law of love apply in your life today?
Saturday	Mark 1:21-28 What was so amazing about the teaching of Jesus? Why did Jesus silence the confession of the evil spirit? What was so amazing about the authority of Jesus? Where do we hear the teaching of Jesus and experience His authority over sin, death, and hell? What sins and demonic temptations plague you? Who delivers you? How is this done? What does this mean?