



Morning Worship

February 2021

Follow Me

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER

As we gather, we feel the presence of God in us. We ask for the grace of the Holy Spirit to open the word of God.

OPENING PRAYER:

**Jesus meets us where we are, and in everyday life, he comes into what we do.
He invites us to change direction and focus on a view that seeks beyond and beyond.
And brings a new taste to everyday life.
Lord, let us follow you.**

FIRST READING: Mark 1:14-22 (The Message)

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee preaching the Message of God: “Time’s up! God’s kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the Message.”

¹⁶⁻¹⁸ Passing along the beach of Lake Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew net-fishing. Fishing was their regular work. Jesus said to them, “Come with me. I’ll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I’ll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass.” They didn’t ask questions. They dropped their nets and followed.

¹⁹⁻²⁰ A dozen yards or so down the beach, he saw the brothers James and John, Zebedee’s sons. They were in the boat, mending their fishnets. Right off, he made the same offer. Immediately, they left their father Zebedee, the boat, and the hired hands, and followed.

²¹⁻²² Then they entered Capernaum. When the Sabbath arrived, Jesus lost no time in getting to the meeting place. He spent the day there teaching. They were surprised at his teaching—so forthright, so confident—not quibbling and quoting like the religion scholars.

SECOND READING: Mark 1:29-39 (The Message)

²⁹⁻³¹ Directly on leaving the meeting place, they came to Simon and Andrew’s house, accompanied by James and John. Simon’s mother-in-law was sick in bed, burning up with fever. They told Jesus. He went to her, took her hand, and raised her up. No sooner had the fever left than she was up fixing dinner for them.

³²⁻³⁴ That evening, after the sun was down, they brought sick and evil-afflicted people to him, the whole city lined up at his door! He cured their sick bodies and tormented spirits. Because the demons knew his true identity, he didn't let them say a word.

³⁵⁻³⁷ While it was still night, way before dawn, he got up and went out to a secluded spot and prayed. Simon and those with him went looking for him. They found him and said, "Everybody's looking for you."

³⁸⁻³⁹ Jesus said, "Let's go to the rest of the villages so I can preach there also. This is why I've come." He went to their meeting places all through Galilee, preaching and throwing out the demons.

REFLECTION

Jesus chooses his team – the disciples – who followed him without question. Why did Jesus choose them – ordinary people – what were the qualities that made Jesus recruit them for his mission team? Would we be chosen? Would we follow?

Jesus sets off on his mission – this is the start. We see Jesus's priorities and objectives in the actions he takes. He starts his work by stating his aim and objective - "*Time's up! God's kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the Message.*" What do our actions say about our aims and priorities?

Jesus actions are focussed. He does not stay too long in one place and wants to go to other places to preach. You sense that he does not want to get "bogged down" in one place – there is a sense of urgency. The disciples expected him to return and repeat what he did the previous day, but Jesus wanted to go elsewhere – Jesus does not do what the disciples expect and what they feel comfortable with. Are we learning that Jesus is always one step ahead of us - not allowing us to get comfortable?

Jesus takes time out to pray alone. This is his 'work-life balance' – his time to reflect and make space for God despite the urgency he shows for his mission. What do we learn from Jesus' action?

A CREED: Based on Colossians 1:15-20 (The Message)

The disciples followed Jesus and walked with Him on His mission. "*They (the disciples) were surprised at his teaching—so forthright, so confident—not quibbling and quoting like the religion scholars.*" Clearly the disciples looked at Jesus and saw God's purpose – that was the motivation for them to follow Jesus. The verses from Colossians below represent what motivates us to follow Him.

We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen.

We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created.

For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—*everything* got started in him and finds its purpose in him.

He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment.

And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body.

He was supreme in the beginning and—leading the resurrection parade—he is supreme in the end. From beginning to end he's there, towering far above everything, everyone.

So spacious is he, so roomy, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding.

Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies.

All because of his death, his blood that poured down from the cross.

PRAYERS

We pray that all those in authority and the leaders within our world use their wisdom and power to help those who are in need.

We give thanks for all those people whose generosity of wealth, service and spirit gives help and support to others in difficulty.

We pray that Your healing touch may refresh and restore those who are sick.

In our busy lives may we remember to take 'time out' to be in your presence.

LORDS PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.

Now and for ever. Amen

CLOSING PRAYER:

Jesus says "Follow me".

Let us go, as brothers and sisters together on an adventure, sharing experiences, giving to others, loving each other.

Jesus says "Follow me".

God approaches the shores of our lives and we rejoice.

In our hearts is the warmth of a voice and a presence that invites us.

Jesus says "Walk with me."

May we always walk in his presence and share in his mission.

THE GRACE:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

And the love of God,

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.

We invite you to listen to the hymn "My Jesus, my Saviour", which is available on YouTube via this link - <https://youtu.be/hGmZcTCXjmM>.

Listen to the words and reflect on Jesus' invitation to "Follow Him"

