

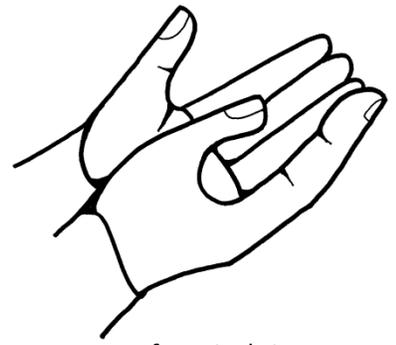
Worship in the Home

A resource provided by First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rush City, MN

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 17, 2021

All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called "the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.



Confession and Forgiveness

Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You may wish to light a candle and place a bowl of water in remembrance of your baptism.

Holy God, you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin — our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

Gathering Song

"Dearest Jesus, at Your Word"

Dearest Jesus, at your word
we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
and in glowing faith be near you
as the promises here given
draw us wholly up to heaven.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded
till your Spirit breaks the night,
filling us with light unclouded.

All good thoughts and all good living
come but by your gracious giving.

Radiance of God's glory bright,
Light of light from God proceeding,
Jesus, send your blessed light;
help our hearing, speaking, heeding,
that our prayers and songs may please you,
as with grateful hearts we praise you.

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
praise to you and adoration!

Grant us what we need the most:

all your gospel's consolation
while we here on earth await you,
till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Prayer of the Day

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the LORD comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if

he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

¹LORD, you have | searched me out;
O LORD, you | have known me.

²You know my sitting down and my | rising up;
you discern my thoughts | from afar.

³You trace my journeys and my | resting-places
and are acquainted with | all my ways.

⁴Indeed, there is not a word | on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it | altogether.

⁵You encompass me, behind | and before,
and lay your | hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonder- | ful for me;
it is so high that I cannot at- | tain to it.
my days were fashioned before they | came to be.
(Psalm 139:1-6)

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Paul helps the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ. Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.

¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?

²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 1:17-20)

Gospel: John 1:43-51

In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is

truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!"

⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Sermon

Sometimes we feel as if we have no word from God, no vision, no place to come and see what God is doing, no center in a time of alienation. But, as the Psalm says, God has seen us and known us. More: in our baptism, God has called us, like Samuel, Philip, and Nathanael were called. Listen to these texts more deeply. In Jesus Christ heaven has opened. For us, the angels of God ascend and descend upon him more surely than they did upon Jacob's ancient Bethel (*Genesis 28:12*). In his death and resurrection, Jesus has become for us the lamp of God, the ark of God, and the house of God where we may come and see. The crucified and risen Christ, present in his word and sacraments — and present to us in the scriptures read in our homes — is today the place where we may meet God. Then, gathered into Christ's body by the Holy Spirit, we become together the temple of God, our own bodies now dedicated to bearing witness to God's love for our needy neighbors and for all the world.

Song of the Day

"Will You Come and Follow Me: The Summons"

"Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?"

"Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?"

"Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free

and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?
"Will you love the you you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?"
Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Prayers

As this week we observe the Week of Prayer for Christian unity, commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr., and inaugurate the new President of the United States, let us offer our laments and petitions to God, responding to each with the words "In mercy, receive our prayers."

O God, we lament the times when our churches have rejected collaboration with your worldwide family of grace, and we pray for your blessing on the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Protestants, evangelicals, and independents, that all your people will follow your call to discipleship and grow deeper into our unity in Christ.

O God, Shepherd of your people, hear our cries;

In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament the ways that we and our society have misused your earth with selfish or short-sighted actions, and we pray for an increased commitment to the care of your marvelous creation.

O God, Gardener of the globe, hear our cries;

In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament the occasions when our government has neglected the needs of the people of America and the calls for international cooperation, and we pray for President-elect Biden, for Vice President-elect Harris, and for all our elected members of Congress, that they fulfill their obligations to uphold and extend the common good.

O God, Shield of the commonwealth, hear our cries;

In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament the uncontrolled rage and the senseless violence that recently defaced our nation, and we pray that peace reign in our streets, that our capital cities be safe, that all citizens come to accept the new administration, and that a spirit of reconciliation and cooperation mark the next stage of our national life.

O God, Peacemaker in our land, hear our cries;

In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament the decades of ethnic injustices and racial prejudice that brought such suffering to many residents of our country, and we pray that you bless the Indigenous peoples, descendants of Africans, and all immigrants to this land, and that you form us into a nation in which all are honored in equal measure.

O God, Liberator of the oppressed, hear our cries;

In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament the unspeakable sadness that has been unleashed by the coronavirus here and around the world, and we pray that you bring health to the sick, comfort to the dying, resilience to health workers, prompt vaccinations to everyone, and a lasting end to this scourge.

O God, Physician and Nurse, hear our cries;

In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament also our private sorrows and our hidden fears, and we pray that as with the boy Samuel, you speak to us in the night of our need.

O God, Lover of our souls, hear our cries;

In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament the lives of those who have died, in storms, in riots, and in sickbeds. We praise you especially for the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., and those we name here before you. . . .; and we pray that at the end, we join with all the members of your family in your presence.

O God, eternal Arms of Mercy, hear our cries;

In mercy, receive our prayers.

Into your hands, O loving God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace.
Amen.

Sending Song

"O Day Full of Grace"

O day full of grace that now we see
appearing on earth's horizon,
bring light from our God that we may be
abundant in joy this season.

God, shine for us now in this dark place;
your name on our hearts emblazon.

O day full of grace, O blessed time,
our Lord on the earth arriving;
then came to the world that light sublime,
great joy for us all retrieving;
for Jesus all mortals did embrace,
all shame and despair removing.

For Christ bore our sins, and not his own,
when he on the cross was hanging;
and then he arose and moved the stone,
that we, unto him belonging,
might join with angelic hosts to raise
our voices in endless singing.

God came to us then at Pentecost,
the Spirit new life revealing,
that we might no more in death be lost,
its pow'r over us dispelling.

This flame will the mark of sin efface
and bring to us all true healing.

When we on that final journey go
that Christ is for us preparing,
we'll gather in song, our hearts aglow,
all joy of the heavens sharing,
and there we will join God's endless praise,
with angels and saints adoring.

Devotional Music Links

For your individual or group devotion, you may choose to listen
to the following choral recordings made available through

Augsburg Fortress:

[Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ](https://youtu.be/HVj3jBR4RYI)

<https://youtu.be/HVj3jBR4RYI>

[The Everlasting Light](https://youtu.be/Wh25gj_sFyU)

https://youtu.be/Wh25gj_sFyU

[Song of Thanksgiving](https://youtu.be/RbxGQ_l3b5U)

https://youtu.be/RbxGQ_l3b5U

Readings for the Week

Monday (Confession of Peter; Week of Prayer for Christian
Unity begins) Matthew 16:13-19

Tuesday (commemoration of Henry,
Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, 1156) Acts 5:1-11

Wednesday Luke 18:15-17

Thursday (commemoration of Agnes, martyr, c. 304)
Psalm 62:5-12

Friday 2 Peter 3:1-7

Saturday Luke 10:13-16

Third Sunday after Epiphany: Jonah 3:1-5, 10;
Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20.

Upcoming Commemorations

Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, died around 356
Sunday, January 17, 2021

One of the earliest of the Egyptian desert fathers, Antony gave
away his sizeable inheritance and became a hermit. Later he
became leader of a group of monks who devoted themselves to
prayer, worship, and labor.

Pachomius, renewer of the church, died 346
Sunday, January 17, 2021

Born in Egypt, Pachomius became a Christian while a soldier.
He became a hermit (a solitary monk) and organized others into
a religious community. His rule for monasteries influenced later
ones in both the Eastern and Western churches.

Confession of Peter

Monday, January 18, 2021

Today the church remembers the apostle Peter's great
acknowledgement of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living
God." This festival serves as a fitting beginning to the week in
which we particularly pray that all Christians might be united in
faith and witness.

Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, died 1156
Tuesday, January 19, 2021

When Erik, King of Sweden, determined to invade Finland for
the purpose of converting the people there to Christianity,
Henry went with him. Henry is recognized as the patron saint
of Finland.

Agnes, martyr, died around 304
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Agnes was a girl of about thirteen living in Rome. The details of
her martyrdom are not clear, but she gave witness to her faith
and was put to death as a result, most likely by the sword. The
church has honored her as one of the chief martyrs of her time.

"Will You Come and Follow Me: The Summons"
Text: John L. Bell b. 1949 Music: Scottish traditional
Text © 1987 Iona Community, admin GIA Publications, Inc.
All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-713607

"O Day Full of Grace"
Text: Scandinavian folk hymn; tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921-2001, alt.
Music: Christopher E.F. Weyse, 1774-1842
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress
All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-713607

From sundaysandseasons.com.
Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.