

January 15th, 2010 Second Sunday of Epiphany

Introduction to the Day

All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just the clergy but as we hear in the first reading, he also the youngest child, like Samuel. John's 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 the story of the vision of Jacob, who called the place of his vision "the house of God, and ... the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

After a moment of silent meditation to prepare ourselves for worship, we will begin the liturgy.

Prayers of the People

As God's beloved people made radiant by the light of Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human family, and God's good creation.

A brief silence.

Speak, for your servant church is listening and ready to serve. Make us attentive to your call, that with alertness and joy we will follow wherever you lead. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All your works are wonderful and marvelously made, and you desire abundant life for all your creatures. Knit together all that is broken, and restore the balance of life on earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Raise up courageous prophets and leaders who speak truth to power. Open the heavens and let your justice roll down for all who are oppressed because of color, class, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

As you have promised, do great things for those who are homeless, hungry, uninsured, unemployed, or lacking adequate child care, and lift up those who are sick. Sustain the caring and outreach ministries of this congregation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You search our hearts and understand us completely. In your compassion, care for those who are experiencing life transitions or making difficult decisions about health, work, church, and family relations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Remembering the mighty witness of all the saints, we look to that day when we will dwell with them at peace in your beloved community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy God, we lift our prayers to you in hope, entrusting all for whom we pray to your great goodness and mercy, made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Lector: Please read the introduction, then the citation (i.e. "The First Reading is from the.... chapter of ..." - then read the text.)

First Reading – *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.*

1 Samuel 3:1–10

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

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the 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. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and 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. The 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." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The 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. Therefore 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.

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

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18

LORD, you have searched me out;

O LORD, you have known me.

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

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

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

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

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

My body was not hid-^{den} from you,
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.

**Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book;**

my days were fashioned before they came to be.

How deep I find your thoughts, O God!

How great is the sum of them!

**If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.**

Second Reading - *Paul is helping 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.*

1 Corinthians 6:12–20

All things are lawful for me, but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?

Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or 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? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* **Gospel Reading** - *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."*

John 1:43–51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip 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." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.