

Sunday, January 17, 2021

Second Sunday after Epiphany, Year B

Introduction

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.

Order of Worship

Our order for worship today is a lay-led non-communion service.

Worship Leader is _____.

Our preacher for this Sunday is the Rev. Karen M. Sease, Assistant to the Bishop of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA, for Vocations and Leadership/Mission Advancement (digital format).

Following our usual Covid-time 3rd Sunday format, there will be a Children's Message this week.

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.

[Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18](#)

You have searched me out and known me. (*Ps. 139:1*)

[John 1:43-51](#)

The calling of the first disciples

Psalm: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

You have searched me out and known me. (Ps. 139:1)

¹LORD, you have searched me out;

O LORD, you have known me.

²**You 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.

⁴**Indeed, 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 wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it....**

¹³For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**¹⁴I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

¹⁵My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

**¹⁶Your 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.

¹⁷How deep I find your thoughts, O God!
How great is the sum of them!

**¹⁸If 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.**

A The Word of the Lord.

C THANKS BE TO GOD.

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."

Peace

As usual

Prayers of Intercession

When you hear, "let us pray" you respond, "**Have mercy, O God.**"

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and for all people in need.

A brief silence is held as we gather our prayers.

For the body of Christ gathered throughout the world and for all servants of the gospel, that following Jesus, the church lives out its calling every day, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the well-being of creation, for plants and animals, and for all that God has marvelously made, that we serve as wise stewards of Earth, our home, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For police officers and firefighters, for attorneys and paralegals, for peacekeepers and military personnel, and for the leaders of governments, that they provide protection to all people, especially the most vulnerable, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For our government, and for we the people, fractured by division *pause*
Give us confidence in each other, in those we know nearby, and cast out the cynicism and despair that knocks us into inaction, that amidst our differences with each other, we might seek to treat each other with honor and respect, as God in Christ treats us, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For wisdom and courage on both sides of the aisles in Congress,
for strength and leadership at all levels of government,
for safety and security for all who need protection,
that out of many
from vastly different life experiences
one nation might again be forged in our time, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those lacking food or shelter; for those who mourn, especially the family of Diane and Don Ball as they grieve their son Scott; and for those who are imprisoned or homebound; that God console all who suffer, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the sick and those who seek healing. For those who struggle with the corona virus, and for healthcare workers, weary from care. We remember before you, Almighty God, Joyce Salter and Kent Peterman who will have surgery this next week, as we seek your healing for them, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For our neighborhood, for visitors joining us for the first time or returning, and for those absent from our assembly, that all who seek to know God are nourished by word and sacrament, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the gifts we bring to lay before you, O God,
our offerings, our time, and all the other ways we give of ourselves.

Receive them as you receive us:
like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide.
Nourish us anew in your tender care,
and empower us in faithful service
to tend to others with this same love,
that your mission may grow, and your Word may be fulfilled, let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for the saints who have gone before us, that their lives give us a vision of the gospel in action, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Blessing

God the creator strengthen us;
Jesus the beloved fill us;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✝ keep us in peace.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS025662.

Prayers adapted by Interim Pastor Janet S. Peterman

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.