

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday, January 17, 2021**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Introduction to the day**

*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.*

**PRELUDE**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters,  
whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Holy God,

**C: 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.**

P: How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away  
and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven.

In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community  
living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

**C: Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG: O Zion, Haste (ELW 668)**

1 O Zion, haste, your mission high fulfilling,  
to tell to all the world that God is light;  
that he who made all nations is not willing  
one soul should perish, lost in shades of night.

*Refrain*

Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace,  
tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release.

2 Publish to ev'ry people, tongue, and nation  
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;  
tell how he stooped to save his lost creation  
and died on earth that we might live above. *Refrain*

**GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

**C: 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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]**

L: A reading from 1 Samuel.

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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.”

<sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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.

<sup>10</sup>Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” [<sup>11</sup>Then the LORD said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. <sup>12</sup>On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup>For I

have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. <sup>14</sup>Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.”

<sup>15</sup>Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. <sup>16</sup>But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” <sup>17</sup>Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” <sup>18</sup>So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.”

<sup>19</sup>As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup>And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.]

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: 139:1-6, 13-18 read responsively**

<sup>1</sup>LORD, you have searched me out;

O LORD, you have known me.

<sup>2</sup>**You know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

<sup>3</sup>You trace my journeys and my resting-places  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup>**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,  
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

<sup>5</sup>You encompass me, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

<sup>13</sup>For you yourself created my inmost parts;  
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

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

<sup>15</sup>My body was not hidden from you,  
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.  
<sup>16</sup>**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.**  
<sup>17</sup>How deep I find your thoughts, O God!  
How great is the sum of them!  
<sup>18</sup>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: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

L: A reading from 1 Corinthians.

*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.*

<sup>12</sup>“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. <sup>13</sup>“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. <sup>14</sup>And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. <sup>15</sup>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! <sup>16</sup>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.” <sup>17</sup>But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup>Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. <sup>19</sup>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? <sup>20</sup>For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?*

*You have the words of eternal life.*

*Alleluia. Alleluia.*

## **GOSPEL: John 1:43-51**

P: The holy gospel according to John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.”*

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."  
<sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>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." <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup>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."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

*Silence for meditation*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Here I Am, Lord* (ELW 574)**

1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

*Refrain*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

## CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

*A brief silence.*

A: 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.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

A: 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.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

A: 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.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

A: For those lacking food or shelter, for those who are sick or grieving, and for those who are imprisoned or homebound (*especially*), that God console all who suffer, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

A: 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.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

A: 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.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## **BLESSING**

P: God the creator strengthen you;  
Jesus the beloved fill you;  
and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace.

**C: Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

### *Announcements*

Remember in prayer: Rowen Aldridge, Betty and Jim Allen, Luke Antolick, Bob Braucht, Dawn Hauser, Dave Kuehl, Ralph Lehman, Sara Leighow, David Mitchell, Bob and Phyllis Moriarity, Kathy Neal, Rev. Donald and Ruth Nice, Jack Rishel, Joann Rishel, Ben Saar, Jane Shaffer, John Truax, Jillian Waldman, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jade Cordrey, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Maddison Myers, Tyler O'Neal, Adam Shaffer, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Everyone affected by the fires on the West Coast; Family Promise and the homeless in our counties. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; our sister church, St. Wunibald in Heidenheim, Germany and for the New Love Center as it seeks to build a new food hub.

The Lutheran Church **Women's Prayer Chain** is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran. Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons:

Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597

Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659

Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

**Giving Plus+** Download the “Giving Plus+” app from your app store for your cell phone. Also available on our web site. Enter your email, make up a password, and walk through the choices to give the church an electronic donation by check or debit/credit card. People were asking if they could give electronically by debit/credit card.

**Give+ Text:** Simply send a text message to 570-865-1101 with the amount you would like to contribute. Within a few minutes, you’ll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email.

**Church Envelopes** - Please call the church office Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday at 570.398.1676 to arrange pick up or drop off of your 2021 offering envelopes. Thank you.

**Upper Room** - If you would like the January edition, they are located on the table by the Thompson St. entrance. Please call the church office at 570.398.1676 to arrange distribution. Thank you.

**Annual Reports** - Committee Chairs and Treasurers if you have not yet submitted your report for the Annual Report please send it to the church at [stjohn@stjl.org](mailto:stjohn@stjl.org) ASAP Thank you.

## ***THIS WEEK’S EVENTS***

Sunday, January 17, 2021

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany*

9:00 a.m. Worship Service on Facebook

2:00 p.m. Catechism 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Commandments

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

10:00 a.m. Prayer Trinity Episcopal

Sunday, January 17, 2021

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany*

9:00 a.m. Worship Service on Facebook

