

**WELCOMING WORD** *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.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: LORD, you have searched me out;

**C: O LORD, you have known me.**

L: **You know my sitting down and my rising up;**

**C: you discern my thoughts from afar.**

L: You trace my journeys and my resting-places

**C: and are acquainted with all my ways.**

**OPENING HYMN #165 Holy, Holy, Holy** (vs. 1, 2, 4)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

P: Holy God,

**C: 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 called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness

**C: Amen.**

## INVOCATION

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: Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,

**C: 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 LESSON: 1 Samuel 3:1-20** <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.

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.

**SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20** <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.

**GOSPEL: John 1:43-51** <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."

**MESSAGE** Pastor John Twiton

**HYMN #530 *Jesus Shall Reign*** (vs. 1, 2, 5)

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run;  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head;  
His name like sweet perfume shall rise with ev'ry morning sacrifice.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring honors peculiar to our King.  
Angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen.

### **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER** **O God, receive these gifts 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, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

P: 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.*

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, Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: 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, Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: 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, Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: 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, Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: In thanksgiving for the saints who have gone before us that their lives give us a vision of the gospel in action. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

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.**

**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. 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.**

**BENEDICTION** *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again*

**CLOSING HYMN: #776 Be Thou My Vision** (vs. 1, 2, 4)

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
Thou my best thought by day and by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord,  
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower,  
Raise thou me heav'n-ward, O pow'r of my pow'r.

Light of my soul, after victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.



**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

Devon Schlegel (father of Dawn Haag)  
Norbert Haag (brother of Virgil Haag)  
Allen Olson (father of Ingrid Frank)  
Delores Bryant  
Brock Howe  
Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher)  
Jeannie U'Ren  
Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother)  
Irene Brufat  
Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower)  
Harlan Oimoen  
Grace Aavang  
Vivian Stone

Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin)  
Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg)  
Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson)  
Makenzee Smith  
Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith)  
Mary Krantz  
Ruth Ann Nemet  
Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl)  
Laurie Duden (Brenda Martin's aunt)  
Bill Steinhauer  
Peter Toniazzo  
Shirley Thompson  
Bonnie Bender

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL on ZOOM-** Youth, ages 3 yrs - 8th grade, may join us for a time to connect on Zoom each week at 9 am for the story and games. Lessons are also emailed to families, to work together as a family. Contact Brenda for the Zoom link.

**ELC 'COFFEE TIME' on ZOOM** - Join us on Wednesdays at 10 AM each week to catch up with our church family. Time to connect and see each other! Zoom link is emailed each week. If you need the link, contact Pastor John, Tamara or Brenda.

**CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE** - 7th & 8th graders meet on Zoom each Wednesday, at 7 pm for class time. They are currently studying the Ten Commandments.



**FUSE NIGHT on ZOOM** - Youth, who are 9th - 12th graders are welcome to join our high school group on ZOOM, **Tuesday, January 26th at 7 pm**. FUSE nights build relationships, challenge each other in exciting games (Jackbox, Among Us), time to hang out, and learn about what it means to share our faith with everyone. Invite your friends to join us. Link is emailed each week to our youth.

**SUGAR CREEK "BACK IN THE SADDLE"** – Online Registrations are now available for Sugar Creek Bible Camp Summer programs. They have a variety of programs (new & favorites) listed on their website, <http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org>, for youth and families. Come and see in 2021!



## DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 17, 2021

**SHARE:** What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

**READ:** Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Matthew 16:13-19, Peter's declaration about Jesus

Tuesday, Acts 5:1-11, Ananias and Sapphira

Wednesday, Luke 18:15-17, Jesus Blesses the children

Thursday, Psalm 62:5-12, Song of trust

Friday, 2 Peter 3:1-7, The Promise of the Lord's Coming

Saturday, Luke 10:13-16, Woe to Unrepentant Cities

**TALK: Consider some of these ideas:** *"Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." John 1:46 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."*

- Who has invited you to experience the presence of God and the teaching of Jesus?
- How have you shared the invitation with others?
- What do people 'see' in our lives as individuals and as a community of faith? Do we bear witness effectively to the love of Jesus?

**PRAY:** 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.**

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