



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Aurora, MN

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 17, 2021

Pastor Greg Anderson

PRELUDE

HEARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

HYMN

“This Little Light of Mine”

LBW pg. 77

ELW # 547

This little light of mine I'm going to let it shine oh, this little light of mine I'm going to let it shine

This little light of mine I'm going to let it shine Let it shine, all the time, let it shine

All around the neighborhood I'm going to let it shine all around the neighborhood I'm going to let it shine

All around the neighborhood

I'm going to let it shine Let it shine, all the time, let it shine. Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm going to let it shine

Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm going to let it shine Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm going to let it shine

Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

GREETING

LBW pg. 78

KYRIE

LBW pg. 78

HYMN OF PRAISE

“This is the Feast...”

LBW pg. 81

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings 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]

³Now 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.”[

¹¹Then 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. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For 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. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.” ¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” ¹⁷Eli 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.” ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.”

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

R: The word of the Lord. **C: *Thanks be to God.***

PSALM 139:1-6, 13-18 (read responsively)

¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

²**You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.**

³You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴**Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.**

⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

¹³For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

¹⁴**I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.**

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶**Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.**

¹⁷How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸**I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

¹²“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. ¹³“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.

¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do 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! ¹⁶Do 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." 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.

R: The word of the Lord. ***C: Thanks be to God.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

LBW pg. 83

C: Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL INTRODUCTION

LBW pg. 83

C: Glory to you O lord.

GOSPEL

John 1:43-51

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."

GOSPEL RESPONSE

LBW pg. 83

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

2nd Sun after Epiphany John 1.43-51

Grace to you and peace through Jesus Christ our Lord!

We are now in my favorite season of the church year, the season of Epiphany! Why is it my favorite season? Because it is about the beginning of Jesus' ministry. It is about new excitement and the crazy idea that the Messiah has come in the flesh! The miracle has taken place! He is with us and He is calling His disciples and setting the world on fire! My hope is that you can find the same excitement! I have included a sermon outline and another excellent commentary from James Howell from the Luther Seminary *Working Preacher* web site.

Peace,

Pastor Greg

218-334-7217

gsanderso@msn.com

"Come and See"

I. The Calling of the Disciples

- A reading from John during the season of Mark
- The energy and excitement of the beginning
- The first words of Jesus in John: 1:38 "What are you looking for?"

II. "What are you looking for?" One of the most important question of all time!

- How does this question guide our lives?
- Dose the question lead us to life? or death?
- A deep question for the human heart

III. The call to be a disciple is a radical call

- The symbol of Jesus' baptism...the leaving of family...honor
- The Father's proclamation: "You are my beloved...with you I am well pleased"
- It was a call to be questioned? Dose anything good come out of Nazareth?

IV. The call to be a disciple had meaning through the proclamation of who Jesus was!

- John in 1:35 "The Lamb of God"...come and see!
- Philip 1:45 "He who was written about by Moses and the Prophets"...come and see!
- Nathanael 1:49 "You are the Son of God...The King of Israel"...come and see!
 - the man sitting under the fig tree
- Jesus then promises us that you will see the heavens opened!

V. When we are disciples we ask the question...What are you looking for?

- World what are you looking for?
- People of God...what are you looking for?

James Howell

Senior Pastor

Myers Park United Methodist Church

Charlotte, N.C.

Having just invited Andrew and Peter to go to Galilee with him, Jesus "found" Philip.

"I once was lost, but now am found." Interesting to ponder the way the mobile God finds people who are not particularly on the hunt for God. And then Philip "found" Nathanael. One of the ways God finds people is through God's people—although notice Philip claims to have done the finding himself: "We have found him" (verse 45).

Jesus finds not one, not even two, but four, and eventually more. He does not seem interested in solo spirituality, or the lone believer. We believe to find ourselves in Jesus' community, together. We need one another, we need good company. We need friends. These men probably were friends prior to Jesus materializing. They certainly knew Zebedee and his sons, James and John. All from the same small hometown,

Bethsaida. Archaeologists cannot quite agree on where it was, but it is fascinating to visit Et-Tell, where some of the houses excavated have fishing hooks lying on the floor. A real place, with real people.

And their friendship changes. They had no doubt done business together. They had probably enjoyed meals, an evening stroll, and they knew one another's families. Friends. But once they follow, their friendship shifts into one of serving together. Aristotle thought of friends as those who help you to be wise and virtuous. Augustine saw friendship as the way to help one another to love God. I wonder if they were mutually surprised by themselves, dropping everything and traipsing off after somebody they never heard of five minutes before. Jesus must have been immensely, hauntingly attractive, beautiful, compelling.

Philip has so little to go on—and yet he has everything: he has seen Jesus' face. So he finds Nathanael, who is skeptical. Philip does not launch into any logic; he alludes to Scripture but does not quote anything. He grabs him by the hand (at least in my imagination he does!) and says "Come and see" (verse 46). That is the witness, right? Not a sledgehammer of truth, but an experience that makes you sure that if somebody else simply saw, it would be enough.

Our calling is always to Come and See. We do not ponder anybody at a distance. I often say if you only hang around with people like yourself, you become arrogant and ignorant. We go to others, to those not really expecting us. And we find both Jesus and ourselves there. A rich donor was visiting Calcutta and met Mother Teresa. She pulled out her checkbook and said "How can I help you in your work?" Mother Teresa pressed the checkbook back into the woman's purse, took her by the hand and said, "Come and see." She led the woman into an impoverished barrio, and found a hungry, frail child. "Care for her." The woman took the child in her lap, wiped her brow, and fed her. Transformative. Mother Teresa was right when she said "When we care for a child, we are caring for Jesus. When we love the unloved, we are loving Jesus."

I am forever intrigued by what Jesus says to Nathaniel. Jesus recognizes him, prompting Nathaniel to ask, "How do you know me?" Jesus answers, "I saw you under the fig tree" (verse 48). I do not really know what to do with that. There is no moral to it. Just worth pondering and playing with: Jesus saw him under the fig tree. He noticed him.

Paul McCartney crooned, "I saw her standing there." Or sticking with the Beatles: "I've just seen a face I can't forget ... Falling, yes I am falling..." Or even their "I'm looking through you, where did you go? I thought I knew you, what did I know? You don't look different, but you have changed..." Play around with these and other ideas of seeing, being seen, being noticed. Why was Nathaniel under the tree? Seeking shelter from a sweltering sun? Looking for figs? Who knows? I love preaching that just opens up a biblical moment, leaving room for people to find themselves, see something you maybe missed.

What do we see when we see a face? Martin Luther King (again, his weekend!) dreamed of a day when we could see facial color but also more deeply—into the "content of character." God sees this clearly; we—and all the others—are seen fully by God.

Jesus' clinching words intrigue: "You will see heaven opened, and angels ascending and descending" (verse 51). Can we sing "We are Climbing Jacob's Ladder" in worship? Clearly alluding to Genesis 28, when Jacob was not praying or seeking God. He was on the run, anxious, exhausted, trying to sleep with a rock for his pillow. He dreams of traffic between heaven and earth, and when he wakes up stunned, he says, "Surely the Lord was in this place but I did not know it" (Genesis 28:16). Maybe Nathanael and Philip thought the same thing. This is the spiritual life: not eyes closed in prayer, Bible open, kneeling at the altar or singing a hymn. It is being out and about—and God was and is there, although you might realize it only in retrospect.

Two ladder nuggets—in closing. Stephen Covey said you can spend your life climbing the ladder of success, “only to discover it’s leaning against the wrong wall.” St. Catherine of Siena thought of Jesus’ cross as a wooden ladder to heaven, and even of his crucified body as that ladder on which we climb toward God. The first rung is the nailed feet: we humbly shed our selfish will. The next rung is his open, pierced side: we press in to glimpse the abyss of divine love. Finally we scale to his face: we are moved by love to obedient holiness.

HYMN

“Here I Am, Lord”

WOV # 752

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?

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.

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, Who will speak my word to them
Whom shall I send?

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.

APOSTLES’ CREED

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

P: let us pray, **C: *Have mercy, O God.***

THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

LBW pg. 91

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.

BENEDICTION

LBW pg. 95

SENDING HYMN

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

WOV # 731

Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.

Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light, Take my hand, precious Lord, Lead me home.

When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near, When my life is almost gone, Hear my cry, hear my call

Hold my hand, lest I fall, Take my hand precious Lord, Lead me home.

DISMISSAL

LBW pg. 95

Prayer Concerns

Lorna Kallio, Charlotte and Ken Carlson, Marie Anderson, Louise Ellingson, Glorene Clark, Herb Moore, Bill Utley, Bob Kallio, Marilyn Koschak, Susan (Paula Skelton's sister), Tom Lehtinen, Ruby Okstad (218-749-2866)