## Second Sunday after Epiphany

## ~ January 14, 2024 ~

## St. John’s & St. Peter’s

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Confession and Forgiveness**  Page 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

***C: Amen.***

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***C:*** ***Amen.***

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

***C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.***

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

***C:*** ***Amen.***

**Gathering Hymn *“Dearest Jesus, at Your Word”*** Hymn #520

Vs. 1 Dearest Jesus, at your word we have come

again to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
 and in glowing faith be near you as the promises

here given draw us wholly up to heaven.

Vs. 2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest

darkness shrouded till your Spirit breaks the night,  
 filling us with light unclouded. All good thoughts and

all good living come but by your gracious giving.

Vs. 3 Radiance of God's glory bright, Light of Light from

God proceeding, Jesus, send your blessed light;  
 help our hearing, speaking, heeding, that our prayers and

songs may please you, as with grateful hearts we praise you.

Vs. 4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, praise to you and

adoration! Grant us what we need the most;  
 all your gospel's consolation while we here on

earth await you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

**Greeting** Page 138

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.***

**Kyrie** Page 138

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

***C: Amen.***

**Hymn of Praise** Page 139

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

Spirit You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**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.

**First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-20**

*At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the Lord come 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.*

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.

**2**At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; **3**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. **4**Then the Lord called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” **5**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. **6**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.” **7**Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. **8**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. **9**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.

**10**Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” **11**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. **12**On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. **13**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,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+3%3A1-20&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-7290b)] and he did not restrain them. **14**Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.”

**15**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. **16**But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” **17**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.” **18**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.”

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

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

**1**O Lord, you have searched me out; O Lord you have known me.  
**2You know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.  
3**You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.  
**4Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether. You have searched me out and known me.**

**5**You 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 it.**

**13**For 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;  
that I know very well. You have searched me out and known me.  
15**My 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.**

**17**How 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. You have searched me out and known to me.**

**Second Reading**: **1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

*Paul helps the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their live 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.*

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

**Gospel Acclamation**  Page 142

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the

words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Gospel**: **John 1:43-51**

*In John’s gospel, Jesus’ ministry begins with the call of the 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”.*

**43**The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” **44**Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. **45**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.” **46**Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” **47**When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” **48**Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” **49**Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” **50**Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” **51**And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1%3A43-51&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-26086a)] you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day *“O Jesus I Have Promised”***  ELW #810

Vs. 1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
 remain forever near me, my master and my friend.  
 I shall not fear the battle if you art by my side,  
 nor wander from the pathway if you wilt be my guide.

Vs. 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.  
 I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.  
 My foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
 but, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.

Vs. 3 Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still  
 above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.  
 Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
 now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.

Vs.4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you  
 that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.  
 And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
 oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.

**Apostles’ Creed**  ELW pg. 105

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 the People**

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

As we celebrate Christ embodied to human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

Encourage the ministry and mission of the church, God of truth. Let the leaders of your church be trustworthy and accountable stewards, that all its resources and outreach bring hope and healing to communities. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Delight in the goodness of your creation, God of fig trees and fertile soil. Heal areas of the world harmed by human greed. Restore those recovering from natural disaster. Protect our forests and waterways and all the creatures that live in them. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Call the leaders of every neighborhood and nation to serve faithfully, God of wisdom. Give them visions of justice and unity. Lead them to action that promotes equitable partnership and uplifts those on the margins of society. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Hold in your care any who suffer and struggle, God of compassion. You who know our inner hearts, be present with any who are oppressed, victims of racism or cultural bias, and all who long or respite or restoration especially

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Give this congregation the anticipation and excitement of Samuel, so inspired and empowered to do your work in the world, God of unity. Make us faithful as we build communities of inclusion and mutual care. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting God who raised Jesus and will also raise us in spirit and truth, we remember all who have died and are at peace among the saints. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

**Peace** Page 138

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

***C: And also with you.***

**Offering *“We Give Thee but Thine Own” vs. 1*** *Hymn #686*

We give thee but thine own, what e’er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone a trust, O Lord from thee.

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray, Blessed are you, O God maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, or Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Great Thanksgiving**  ELW pg. 145

P: The Lord be with you.

***C:*** ***And also with you.***

P: Lift up your hearts.

***C:*** ***We lift them to the Lord.***

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***C:*** ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

**Words of Institution**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

***C:*** ***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

**Lord’s Prayer** ELW pg. 145

P: Let us pray as Jesus has taught us.

***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.***

**Communion**

**Post Communion Blessing**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. ***Amen.***

**Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**Sending Hymn *“Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak”*** *Hymn #676*

Vs. 1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in

living echoes of your tone; as you have sought, so

let us seek your straying children, lost and lone.

Vs. 2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the

wand'ring and the wav'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that

we may feed your hung'ring ones with manna sweet.

Vs.3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the

precious truths which you impart; and wing our words, that

thy may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.

Vs. 4 Oh, fill us with your fullness, Lord, un-

til my very hearts o'erflow in kindling thought and

glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

***C: We will! Thanks be to God!***

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