

St. John & Bethesda Lutheran Churches

Sunday, January 17, 2021

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.

GATHERING

WELCOME

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

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;**

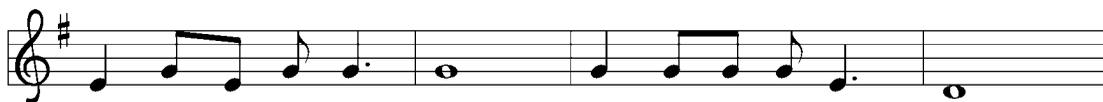
receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

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.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG *This Little Light of Mine* (ELW 677)



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
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let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

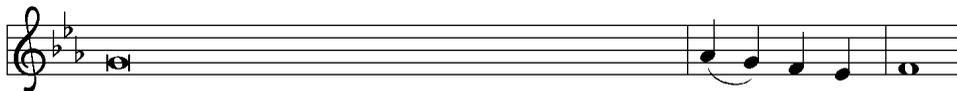
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



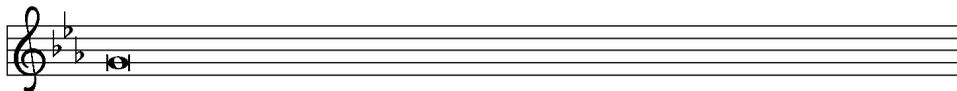
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



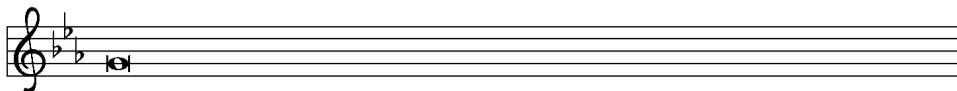
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless-ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us 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.**

WORD

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

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.

¹Now 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. 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.**”

The promise of God for all.

Thanks be to God.

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

LORD, you have searched me out;

O LORD, you have known me.

**You know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.

**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

You encompass me, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

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

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

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

My body was not hidden from you,

while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

**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.

How deep I find your thoughts, O God!

How great is the sum of them!

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

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.

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. 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 fornicator 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.**

The promise of God for all.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 1:43-51

The holy gospel according to John.

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."

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, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.**”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Lord, Be Glorified* (ELW 744)



1 In my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
 2 In our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
 3 In your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
 4 In your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;



in my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
 in our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
 in your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
 in your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.

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

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

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 those lacking food or shelter, for those who are sick or grieving, and for those who are imprisoned or homebound *especially at Bethesda*: **Lenyce** Lawrence, **Kristi** Lee Little, and *at St. John*: **Charlie** Arvik, **Jodi** Klein, **Karen** Cadwell, **Jean** Dommer, **Audrey** Androy, **Davie** Vander Kolk, **Grant** Gorham, **Jim** Berka, **Pat** DeLong, and **Pam** Odland and those we name in our hearts or on our lips,, that God console all who suffer, 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.**

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.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

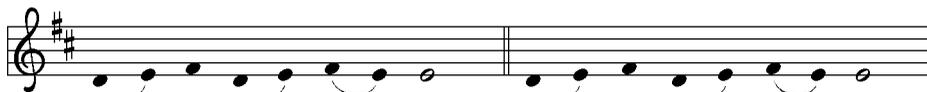
OFFERING PRAYER

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.**

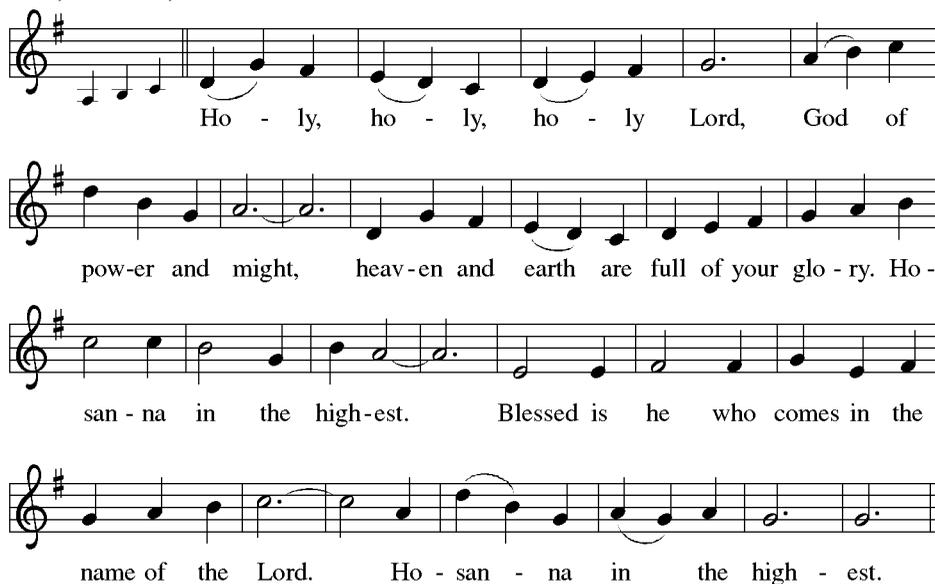
Amen.

DIALOGUE



and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

**Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.**

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus.

Come and be fed.

COMMUNION

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION AFTER COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Christ Jesus,

**at this table we have feasted on your very life
and are strengthened for our journey.**

**Send us forth from this banquet
nourished in body and in spirit
to proclaim your good news
and serve others in your name. Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God the creator strengthen you;

Jesus the beloved fill you;

and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✝ keep you in peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *Here I Am, Lord* (ELW 574)



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Where Nothing Is Expected

At one of his life's worst intersections, when legs trembled and steps were mired in bogs of doubt, his companion looked into the man's hollowing eyes and said, "I believe in you. I know you." Have you ever needed such a word?

The list is painfully long that names all of the circumstances and places from which it is assumed nothing good can come. Perhaps you have compiled your own catalog of those who fall short, the irredeemable neighborhoods, or the situations beyond hope in the life of others. Perhaps you find yourself on someone else's list, among those whose life and plight has been dismissed as "nothing good." So it was thought of Jesus, whose life was rooted in the hillside soil of a sidetracked town—Nazareth—where nothing remarkable, not much at all, was expected to grow up. That town and its people were on the "unfavorable" list.

It is a riddle of scripture that the likes of Philip (or Peter, John, James, and Andrew—those gospel familiars) would, seemingly without discernment or a second thought, leave everything when Jesus interrupted his settled life and bid him, "Follow me." For Nathanael, it was different. He took an honest and reasonable step back. He knew all the talk about nothing good coming from Nazareth.

So many of our stories wither and so much of who we are dies when we are confronted with the "I know about you" list of painful failures instead of a loving, hopeful invitation to "come and see" (John 1:46).

There is a mighty mercy, an opening of heaven itself before our very eyes, a retelling of each "Nazareth" in our lives if we dare to "come and see" Jesus. Then that painful, long, imposed or self-inflicted list is no longer our truth because we, in seeing Jesus, begin to see ourselves and others as Jesus does. An epiphany happens: "I believe in you."

WELCOME

Welcome to Bethesda Lutheran Church.
We are glad you joined us for worship this morning!
Please join us again for worship soon!

This Week at Bethesda

Today	8:45 AM – Worship	Thurs.	Pastor's at Bethesda
Wed.	Pastor's at St. John	Sun.	8:45 AM – Worship

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HELPED WITH THE SERVICE THIS MORNING

Reader: Angie Bothwell

Organist: Cathy Stephens

Next Sunday, January 24, 2020

Reader: Darlene Bowman

Organist: Deb Lauritsen

Birthdays This Week

 Mon (1/18)	Christina Hutzell
 Friday (1/22).....	Robert Rains
 Saturday (1/23).....	Susan Mann

WELCOME

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church.
We are glad you joined us for worship this morning!
Please join us again for worship soon!

This Week at St. John

Today 10:30 AM – Worship
Wed. Pastor's at St. John
Thurs. Pastor's at Bethesda
Sun. 10:30 AM – Worship

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HELPED WITH THE SERVICE THIS MORNING

Reader: Morgan Wadsworth
Organist: Damon Hopkins

Next Sunday, January 24, 2020

Reader: Marsha Wingrove
Organist: Damon Hopkins

Attendance & Offering

Jan 3 rd Attendance	18
Envelope offering	\$435.00
Loose offering	\$10.00

In order to meet the proposed budget for the church year, we need a weekly offering of approximately \$1600. Thanks.

Birthdays This Week

 **Wed** (1/20) Joanna Heiman

Our Long-Term Prayers

Each week we lift up each other in prayer. Sometimes the need for prayer continues for extended periods of time. As a church family, we care about those long-term needs. Please continue to keep these individuals and families in your prayers as they deal with long term illnesses and life changes. Also, please keep Pastor Chip and the office updated so the congregation knows when extra prayers are needed.

At Bethesda

- † Lenyce Lawrence
- † Wes Moffatt

At St. John

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| † Audrey Gorham | † Dennis Schrauth |
| † Sam and Diane Jacobs | † Arlene Eisermann |
| † Russ Miller | † Cheryl Rath |
| † Joel Berka | † Grant Gorham |



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.