



Salem Lutheran Church
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Second Sunday After Epiphany
January 14, 2024 – 9:00am



OUR MISSION: We are God forgiven and mission driven.

OUR VISION: To be that Lake Mills Place where belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing are open to all, regardless of background, experience or aptitude. Central to this is that we are a -forgiving, mission-driven community, which means we all want to have an impact, shaped by the love of Christ to serve all others.

Sunday—9:00am Worship Service

Preaching: Pastor Steve Smith

Organist: Ruth Sheldon

Reader: Bruce Adams

Sound: Al Skellenger

Live Stream: Brad Evenson

Acolytes: Tori Holtan, Betsy Byars

Liturgical Choir:

Communion Servers:

Worship Coordinator: Bruce Adams

Ushers: Lyle & Orloue Thomson, Al Sterrenberg

Altar Guild for January: Joan Kloster, Janet Swenson

**The Live Stream Broadcast Is Given in Loving Memory of
Christopher Nyguard from Judy & Wayne Nyguard**

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INTRODUCTION

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

PRELUDE

BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*(***Please stand as you are able.)*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge, we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all.

Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

Amen.



1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
 3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
 God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
 help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
 all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
 earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

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.**

*(***Please be seated.)*

CHILDREN'S TIME

WORD

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

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. 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 Beersheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.]

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

We will speak today's psalm responsively beginning with the lector.

¹LORD, 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.

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 to 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, and I know it well. 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!** ¹⁸**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

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.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*(**Please stand as you are able.)*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p.151

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

John 1:43-51

The Holy Gospel according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

(****Please be seated.*)

SERMON

(****Please stand as you are able.*)

HYMN OF THE DAY

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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

(****Please be seated.*)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence

Encourage the ministry and mission of the church, God of truth. Let the leaders of your church (*especially*) 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 for 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 (*especially the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. whose faithful advocacy for peace and justice continues to embolden the church*). God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We pray for the families of: Harris & LeAnn Honsey, Mark & Patti Honsey,

Doug Hugo, Hayden Iverson, Stephen & Kathy Iverson. 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.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERING & MUSICAL OFFERING

*(***Please stand as you are able.)*

OFFERING SONG

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW #186

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup
you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and
follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **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.

BLESSING

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak ELW #676



1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in
2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the
3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the
4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that
pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that
til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and



let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.
they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y•a heart.
glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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