

St John's Lutheran Church, Beach Corner

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Second Sunday after Epiphany

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER: Heavenly Father, You have called us to a new life in Jesus Christ. . Move us this morning to receive Your Word with an open and willing heart and then guide us to share with others the gifts You have so graciously given to us. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

INVOCATION:

P: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned.

C: You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy!

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

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN: 560

(G Irons, J Barnby, public domain)

Drawn to the Cross, which Thou hast blessed,
With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in Thee my life, my rest. Christ crucified, I come.

Thou knowest all my griefs, my fears,
Thy grace abused, my misspent years.
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears, Christ crucified, I come

Wash me and take away each stain, Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain, Christ crucified, I come

And then for work to do for Thee, Which shall so sweet a service be.
That angels well might envy me. Christ crucified, I come

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Saviour, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all our sins. By the perfect life of our Lord and Saviour, and by His innocent suffering and death, Christ has reconciled us to God. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I therefore forgive you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE COLLECT:

P: Let us pray;

C: Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things on earth and in heaven, mercifully hear our prayers. Grant us peace this day and all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your only Son, our Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TALK AND PRAYER

THE LESSONS:

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (*There were times in the Old Testament where God called individuals by literally calling out to them. Today, we receive God's call and respond to that call through the Word of God.*)

The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions. One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down. Again the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. A third time the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if He calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

R: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 (*You belong to God in such a way that the Holy Spirit resides in you as you are led by God's Word. That makes your body a temple. Thank God that the Holy Spirit moves us into God's Word so that we know how to please God!*)

"Everything is permissible for me," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me," but I will not be mastered by anything. "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food" but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. By His power God raised the Lord from the dead, and He will raise us also. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ Himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with Him in spirit. Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually, sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.

R: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

John 1:43-51 (*Our Lord recognized that God had given Nathanael great faith. What did he do with that faith? He answered the call to follow Jesus!*)

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, He said to him, "Follow me." Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the One Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, He said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel." Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." He then added, "I tell you the truth, you will see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ!**

THE SERMON HYMN: 684

(W Dix, F Anthes, public domain)

“Come unto Me, ye weary, and I will give you rest.”

O blessed voice of Jesus, Which comes to hearts oppressed.

It tells of benediction, Of pardon, grace and peace.

Of joy that hath no ending, Of love that cannot cease.

“Come unto Me, ye wand’ers, And I will give you light.”

O loving voice of Jesus, Which comes to cheer the night.

Our hearts were filled with sadness, And we had lost our way.

But Thou hast brought us gladness, And songs at break of day.

“Come unto Me, ye fainting, And I will give you life.”

O cheering voice of Jesus, Which comes to aid our strife!

The foe is stern and eager, The fight is fierce and long.

But Thou hast made us mighty, And stronger than the strong.

“And whosoever cometh, I will not cast him out.”

O patient love of Jesus, Which drives away our doubt.

Which, though we be unworthy, Of love so great and free,

Invites us very sinners, To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES CREED:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

(THE COMMUNION)

BENEDICTION

HYMN: Melody 644

(689, N Selnecker, 644, S Wesley; public domain)

Let me be Thine forever, My faithful God and Lord.

Let me forsake Thee never, Nor wander from Thy Word.

Lord, do not let me waver, But give me steadfastness.

And for such grace and favour, Thy holy name I’ll bless.

Lord Jesus, my salvation, My light, my life divine,

My only consolation, O make me wholly Thine!

For Thou hast clearly bought me, With blood and bitter pain.

Let me, since Thou hast sought me, Eternal life obtain.

And Thou, O Holy Spirit, My comforter and guide,

Grant that, in Jesus’ merit, I always may confide.

Him to the end confessing, Whom I have known by faith,

Give me Thy constant blessing, And grant a Christian death.