

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 14 JANUARY 2024 THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY  
READINGS: 1 SAMUEL 3:1-10; PSALM 139; 1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20; JOHN 1:43-51

WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU ARE WITH US THIS MORNING! THIS BULLETIN WILL GUIDE YOU THROUGH OUR WORSHIP. YOU CAN FIND THE NUMBERED HYMNS IN THE BLUE HYMNAL. AT COMMUNION TIME ALL ARE INVITED TO COME FORWARD AND SHARE IN THE EUCHARIST. THE BREAD IS TAKEN IN THE PALM OF THE RIGHT HAND; IF RECEIVING THE WINE, EITHER DIP (INTINCT) THE BREAD OR SIP FROM THE CUP. YOUR FOLDED HANDS WILL SIGNAL THE PRIEST THAT YOU WOULD PREFER A BLESSING.

**Hymn 7, Christ, Whose Glory Fills The Skies, Christ The True, The Only Light**

THE WORD OF GOD

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** *The people are seated.*

## A Reading from the First Book of Samuel

In our opening lesson we hear how Samuel learns that it is the Lord who is calling to him. Three times the boy Samuel misunderstands and thinks that it is his mentor Eli summoning him during the night. Finally Eli realizes it must be the Lord, and tells Samuel to be ready for the prophetic word that will be spoken to him.

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. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; 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. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" 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. 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." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. 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. 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. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

**The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

*In Psalm 139, with marvelous wisdom, God alone perceives the heights and depths of life.*

Lord, you have searched me out and 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. **R.** Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether. You press upon 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. **R.** 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. **R.**

## A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

In this lesson, Paul is criticizing a misguided understanding of Christian freedom that has been adopted by some in the church at Corinth. Paul reminds them that their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit through which they may glorify God.

You say, "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. You say, "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. Yes, "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. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. 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! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. 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? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

**The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**O higher than the cherubim, more glorious than the seraphim, lead their praises, Alleluia!  
Thou bearer of the eternal Word, most gracious, magnify the Lord. Alleluia! (5x)**

**The Lord be with you. And also with you.**

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to John. Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 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." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." 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, Lord Christ.**

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael L. Bradley, rector

## Our Affirmation of Faith – What Do We Believe?

**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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.**

## Prayers of the People

Sisters and brothers, let us lift our hearts in faith to the one who hears all prayers and holds close all those in need.

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ;

Hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

*Prayers are offered for those on the parish prayer list:*

For: Donald Burton, Lynn Kerber, Jim Veit, Ed Haug, Lori Pranior,

Nina, Cheri, Susan Rich, Karen Schulze, Georgiana Solomon.

We pray also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence is kept, then all pray together:*

Have mercy upon us; **Most merciful God, in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown things done and left undone, and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Grant that all people may hear together the song of joy, and find their homes in the garden of justice and hope. Hear all our prayers and forgive all our sins, that we may experience the fullness of life which is your will for all in the coming of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Holy Communion

### Offertory Hymn 516, Come Down, O Love Divine

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Summoning God, we thank and praise you . . .we join with them in the song of your eternal glory:

*The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.*

*After all have received, please stand and pray together:*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Hymn 371, Thou, Whose Almighty Word Chaos and Darkness Heard

Our Mission: We share the light of Christ by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.

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