

January 17, 2021 – 2nd Sunday After Epiphany

Setting 4

Prelude:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introduction of soloists/music director, reader

Give our thanks to those that serve and bring the worship service to your homes.

We pray for your health and safety during this Covid shut down period and always.

We light a candle in remembrance of Leona Hein, Member of Zion Lutheran Church Pembroke

Let us pray (Assistant to light candle in remembrance of Leona)

O God of endless comfort, our beloved, Leona Hein, has left this world – receive her soul and may she rest in peace. Clothe her mortality with immortality, according to your solemn promise. We are comforted by the knowledge that she died in Christ. We will meet again, in our glorified bodies, to reign with you in glory. Our sorrow is eclipsed by joy at the bright future that awaits us as your children and your inheritance. As we cherish this confident hope, we are steadfast and immovable, knowing our work is not in vain. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God, your steadfast, never-giving-up love is so huge that it fills the heavens.
Your faithfulness is so vast that it rises to the clouds.

Under your loving wings we find comfort and refuge

In your house of love, we sit around the table feasting

Your life and love are like a fountain in our lives

You are the love- filled light that allows us to see and understand

O God your faithful love is precious to us!

COME LET US WORSHIP / COME LET US WORSHIP

Gathering Hymn: ELW #575 - *“In Christ Called To Baptize”* (tune of st. Denio...immortal invisible)

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:

Prayer of the Day: You invite us, O God, to live in your ways, and you give us to each other to know and to love as we journey in this life. Show us your will for all creation. Help us to listen to your urgings with prayerful hearts so that we may honor what you have made, in the name of the holy Trinity, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

The calling of Samuel

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 Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.]

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

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

¹LORD, you have searched me out;

O LORD, you have known me.

²**You know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

³You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

⁵You encompass me, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

¹³For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴**I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

¹⁵My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶**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.

¹⁷How 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.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Glorify God in your body

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.**

Gospel: John 1:43-51

The calling of the first disciples

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 our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message: *Epiphany Sermon Series*, Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, Synod of Alberta and the Territories –

Welcome to this sermon series that our Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada is providing for congregations throughout the Sundays after Epiphany. I am Larry Kochendorfer and I serve as the Bishop of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories. It is great to be with you this Sunday.

Let us pray:

*Come, Holy Spirit, that we may see and taste the grace of God afresh.
Come, Holy Spirit, that we might share the grace of God with others.
Come, Holy Spirit, that we might bear witness with our whole lives to
the grace of God made manifest and available to us in Jesus. Amen.*

It was a Thursday. It was a moment so alive that it was almost unbearable. It was so simple really. I had brought our niece, Amanda, who was fifteen at the time, and our youngest son, Jordan, who was then four, over to the church on a Thursday afternoon and while I was in my office returning a couple of telephone calls they were in the sanctuary.

With the phone calls completed I threw on my coat and walked into the sanctuary where I stopped in a moment of epiphany, a moment of revealing, a moment filled with the glory of God - God's presence - wonderful and mysterious.

Amanda was sitting at the piano playing while Jordan was distributing communion to his invisible congregants who were kneeling at the altar rail.

After a moment he saw me standing at the door to the sanctuary and he yelled out to me, "We're playing communion, Dad!"

And I looked at this four-year-old dressed in grey sweats, with a face still partially covered with lunch, and his face glowing with an utterly new discovery. He was sharing communion.

And I saw a glimpse of God's presence, a revelation of God's work – the father, the pastor in me saw, in a fleeting moment, the emerging worshipper, communion sharer, worship leader in our son - something so touching, so incandescent, so alive that it was almost beyond bearing - and I was changed - transformed.

Is it simply too ordinary? Too unsuspecting? Too unexpected? Or is it too wonderful, this moment of clarity, of unveiling, of revealing, of God's presence?

We have entered the season of Epiphany. A season of revealing. Of appearance. Of manifestation. Epiphany: an immediate and meaningful understanding of something. Surprising. Sudden. Profound. Epiphany: an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure. A revelation.

What is revealed in this season is what it means that God became human. That God entered our world, no longer satisfied just to be with us but now is one of us. When that happens, when the incarnation happens, we change too. Our humanity changes. Suddenly, who we see ourselves to be can no longer remain the same because we have seen God in who we are.

We tend to expect that Epiphany is only about the revelation of Jesus. About seeing Jesus, of witnessing Jesus in various revealing moments. It is not supposed to be about being found ourselves.

But John's Gospel invites us to imagine that these can be one and the same. That is, seeing Jesus in those revelatory moments, those unexpected moments is also when you find yourself - who you are, who you are called to be. In those moments of seeing Jesus you realize your identity as a follower, a disciple; and you see a glimpse, perhaps a new glimpse of something you have not seen before when it comes to your own faith story, your own understanding of what it means to be a disciple, your answering of your baptismal call: "follow me."

Maybe this epiphany season might take on a mirror effect. That is, when you hear these texts, when you look for Jesus, when you experience these revelatory moments of Jesus, you simultaneously see something about yourself, and ask what does this mean?

John's Gospel is full of these moments of epiphany, and of what following Jesus will look like.

For this Gospel writer it will mean taking John 3:16 seriously. It will mean taking the witness of the woman at the well seriously. It will mean finding those who have been cast out of communities for their courage to confess their faith in Jesus...like the man born blind (John 9:34). It will mean believing that the Spirit is indeed your very breath as Jesus sends you out into the world (John 20:21-22). It will mean being thrown out yourself (16:2), rejected for insisting that God's love for the world and everyone in it - everyone - is actually true.

The incarnation of Jesus changes everything. The revealing of Jesus changes us. These epiphanies transform people.

Listen to Martin Luther King, Jr., who we will remember tomorrow, and his description of an epiphany and his response in his book, *Stride Toward Freedom*:

I was ready to give up. With my cup of coffee sitting untouched before me, I tried to think of a way to move out of the picture without appearing a coward. In this state of exhaustion, when my courage had all but gone, I decided to take my problem to God. With my head in my hands, I bowed over the kitchen table and prayed aloud.

The words I spoke to God that midnight are still vivid in my memory. "I am here taking a stand for what I believe is right. But now I am afraid. The people are looking to me for leadership, and if I stand before them without strength and courage, they too will falter. I am at the end of my powers. I have nothing left. I've come to the point where I can't face it alone."

At that moment, I experienced the presence of the Divine as I had never experienced God before. It seemed as though I could hear the quiet assurance of an inner voice saying: "Stand up for justice, stand up for truth; and God will be at your side forever." Almost at once my fears began to go. My uncertainty disappeared. I was ready to face anything.

(Martin Luther King Jr, *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*, 1st edition [©1958 Harper & Brothers], 124-125.)

Martin Luther King, Jr. was transformed by this epiphany often referred to as his "vision in the kitchen."

Nathaniel's epiphany, in which he saw who Jesus was, changed Nathaniel, who, then, proclaimed Jesus as: Rabbi, Son of God, King of Israel.

It was a Thursday - it was a moment so alive that it was almost unbearable.... "We're playing communion Dad!"

I suspect that most of us glimpse these moments of epiphany, of aliveness, of revelation, of unveiling - of God's presence – the Spirit's work – in the regular, ordinary patterns of life: in a blinding moment of conversion; in a moment of deepened awareness of the presence of God; in a moment of realizing the truth and call of Christ; in the play ritual of a child; through parents, ever so lovingly, showing a child how to swing a bat; through our children singing "You Are Holy, You are Whole," "Beautiful Savior," "O Come All Ye Faithful"; in the hike up a mountain to pray; in a word of absolution; in an act of justice and peace; in a moment of sacramental meeting - when we hear the drops of water drowning and bringing with the Word new life - when the bread in our hands and the wine on our lips suddenly acquires a flavor and a vintage which takes us out of time and out of our human limitations and intoxicates us with God.

As we glimpse God at work, this unveiling, this revelation, this epiphany - we hold it in our heart and we return to life, different, transformed ourselves because for one shining, mysterious moment we have seen.

These glimpses do not evaporate our doubts or tell us what to do next, nothing will be visibly different but beloved people of God, siblings in Christ - it does make a difference to have seen, even for a moment, a taste, a glimpse, something so alive that it is almost beyond bearing, for we return to daily life, back to work, back to ministry, to family, to this time of COVID pandemic. Different, changed, transformed, back to

where mission and ministry is engaged, where the love of God is shared, and where grace is gifted.

Where we are invited to live out our baptismal calling, to follow Jesus, in the midst of our daily lives:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Affirmation of Baptism. ©2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Augsburg Fortress, p. 236.)

Epiphany is a short season. Expect to discover many things about Jesus. And in the process, anticipate learning something about yourself. Sometimes the change is monumental. Sometimes incremental. Either way, something will happen. Something epiphanous!

Let us pray:

Into your hands, almighty God, we place ourselves: our minds to know you, our hearts to love you, our wills to serve you, for we are yours.

Into your hands, incarnate Savior, we place ourselves: receive us and draw us after you, that we may follow your steps; abide in us and enliven us by the power of your indwelling.

Into your hands, O hovering Spirit, we place ourselves: take us and fashion us after your image; let your comfort strengthen, your grace renew, and your fire cleanse us, soul and body, in life and in death, in this world of shadows and in your changeless world of light eternal, now and forever. Amen.

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Additional Prayers - Commitment. ©2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Augsburg Fortress, p. 86.)

Hymn: ELW #798 - *“Will You Come and Follow Me?”*

Prayers of the Faithful:

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need saying, LET US PRAY. **Have mercy, O God.**

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 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 Florence Felske, Jason Godin, Harold Hampel, Laretta Handke, Richard Hubert, Murray Lubitz, Dorian Verch, Leona Woito, Sharon Watt, that God console all who suffer, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For our neighborhoods, for visitors joining us for the first time or returning keep them safe. Help us stay healthy and safe, with no further spread of the Covid 19 virus,, and for those absent from our gathering,, 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 (*especially Leona Hein, member of the Zion congregation*), 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.

The Great Thanksgiving

Offering Prayer

Because of your generosity to us, God of love, we have courage to be generous. Bless our gifts. May they bring acts of generous love to make it clear that your love extends beyond the doors of this house. The entire cosmos is your house of love. Amen

Communion

Lord's Prayer

Post Communion Music

Prayer after Communion:

The assisting minister leads one of the following or a similar prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Blessing:

Sending Song: ELW #310 – *“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”*

We leave this house, bearing God's love to others

That everyone might experience

The joy, hope, courage and gifts of God

Go in love to serve the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Question for Reflection

Where, in what place, and through what person or persons do you hear the call of the Lord? Consider it each day this week. Who has awakened in you a new prayer, a hope, an insight? Give thanks for those persons and moments as signs of God's love for you.

News and Announcements:

Please Pray for Those Who are Ill, in Hospital, or Requested Special Prayers: Florence Felske, Jason Godin, Harold Hampel, Laretta Handke, Richard Hubert, Murray Lubitz, Dorian Verch, Leona Woito, Sharon Watt.

SERVICE BROADCAST ON COGECO

Cogeco Community Channel is now broadcasting Zion's services at 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon on Sunday mornings, a week later.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual Reports are due into the office by Wednesday, January 20, 2021. Please keep checking our website for future details about our annual meeting.

This Week at Zion – January 18 – 24

Tuesday	7p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous
Wednesday	1pm	Staff Meeting
		Annual Report Submission Deadline
Thursday	10am	Recording of Epiphany 3 Service

Resources in the shaping of Bishop Kochendorfer's Sermon:

1. "An Epiphany Way of Life." January 7, 2018 Karoline Lewis
<https://paul17.luthersem.edu/craft.aspx?post=5040>
2. "Come and See." January 12, 2015 David Lose
<https://www.davidlose.net/2015/01/epiphany-2-b/>
3. Commentary on John 1:43-51. January 14, 2018 Jan Schnell Rippentrop
<https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/second-sunday-after-epiphany-2/commentary-on-john-143-51-4>
4. "Epiphany Expectations." January 11, 2015 Karoline Lewis
<https://www.workingpreacher.org/dear-working-preacher/epiphany-expectations>
5. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. ©2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Augsburg Fortress.
6. *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year B, Volume 1 Advent through Transfiguration*. David L. Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor, editors. ©2008 Westminster John Knox Press.
7. *John: Fortress Biblical Preaching Commentaries*. Karoline Lewis ©2014 Fortress Press.
8. *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*. Martin Luther King Jr. 1st edition ©1958 Harper & Brothers.