

Epiphany 2

January 14, 2024

Epiphany 2 (Year B)

The author of Samuel pointed out a sad reality: “The Word of the Lord was rare in those days.” Perhaps we feel the same today, that God is quiet and uncommunicative. But are we really listening? Are we seeking his voice in our lives? Sometimes it is necessary for us to settle down and just listen, and sometimes we need the help of a trusted friend or mentor to help us hear. Either way, God calls us to follow Jesus.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)

Speak Lord, For Your Servant Hears

Though the Word was rare and visions were few, the Lord sought Samuel by speaking repeatedly to him in the night. Samuel did not yet know the voice of the Lord. Even though at first Samuel had trouble recognizing who was speaking to him, Eli eventually discerned that God was calling out for his young servant.

Psalms 139:1-10

You Discern My Thoughts From Afar

In a beautiful hymn, the psalmist proclaimed the omniscience of the Lord who knew him before he was in his mother's womb. Everywhere the psalmist went, the Lord knew and went before him. Every thought he thought, the Lord knew before it popped into the psalmist's mind. Such knowledge is too wonderful to comprehend!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

One Spirit with Christ

Paul maintained that all things were lawful for him because he was freed from the law by faith in Christ. But the fact that something is lawful does not make it helpful. His point was that we are to protect and care for our bodies, minds, and lives because we were bought with a price — one that cannot be squandered in vain.

Gospel Reading: John 1:43-51

Follow Me

The day after Jesus told Andrew and his brother Simon to “come and see,” he called Philip to follow him. Philip then reported to Nathanael that they had found the one the prophets wrote about. Philip told him to “come and see.” Jesus told them all that they would see heaven open and the angels coming to the Son of Man.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Green
- Use the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise
- Use the Apostles' Creed.
- Children often say to adults, “Come and see” when they have something they are excited about. It might be a drawing, a book, or a new skill they have developed. How might we be so excited about the love of Jesus that we want to tell everyone, “Come and see!”?
- Our bodies are temples of the Lord, says the Apostle Paul. How incredibly important is this message in our day when it seems like there are so many messages about sexuality swirling around? How do we as followers of Christ remind the Body of Christ of the sanctity of the body?

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Come Follow Me, the Savior Spake	455	---	688	799	---	---
Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult	494	---	---	696	184	184
Listen, God is Calling	---	712	833	513	---	---
Will You Come and Follow Me	---	---	---	798	---	---
Lord, Speak to Us That We May Speak	403	---	---	676	267	267
All Depends on Our Possessing	447	---	732	589	194	194
O Jesus, I Have Promised	503	---	---	810	79	79
Rise, Shine, You People!	393	---	825	665	---	---
He Leadeth Me	501	---	---	---	232	232
I Come, O Savior, to Your Table	213	---	618	---	---	---

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV = With One Voice, ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB = The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC = The Reclaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and “web” means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:

They'll Know We Are Christians...
(CCLI# 26997)
Spirit Move
(CCLI# 7054191)
Better Is One Day In Your House
(CCLI# 1097451)
Listen
(CCLI# 2807832)
Speak O Lord
(CCLI# 4615235)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.