Time after Epiphany Our SAVIOR

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 17, 2021



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027 425-392-4169

SERVICE OF THE WORD: TIME AFTER EPIPHANY

GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

CALL TO WORSHIP Voluntary for the Opening of the Service — John Marsh Jiyoung Lee WELCOME Pastor Jim Kruse

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

PM: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C: Amen.

PM: We are joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, where we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of water that sustains life, and praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be honor and praise, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

GREETING

PM: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; a light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the community of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

GATHERING HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light Text & Music: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 Cantor

I want to walk as a child of the light, I want to follow Jesus. God sent the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus

In Him, there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.

Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father

I'm looking for the coming of Christ, I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Let us pray. Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,

C: 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.

FIRST LESSON 1 Samuel 3:1-20

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

AM: Word of God, word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON 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.

AM: Word of God, word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

Cantor

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947; Music: William H. Walter, 1825-1893

Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey; Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

THE GOSPEL John 1:43-51

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."

PM: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Check It Out

Pastor Jim Kruse

Ten months ago, in the middle of March, in the year 2020, the State of Washington issued an advisory under the slogan, "Stay Home, Stay Safe." I know that there were some people who wondered about the validity of the threat and therefore how seriously they should take the advice. Also, almost immediately, we heard about people for whom the advice to shut down businesses and hunker down at home was an undo infringement on their freedom. And so they said, in words and actions, "No! I will not stay home. Not thanks, I will take care of my own safety." But most of the people I know embraced the governments advice, quickly reorganized their lives to comply, and entered into a period of social hibernation with various expectations as to when they would be able to poke their heads back up out of their burrows.

Six months earlier, in the middle of September, in the year 2019, the membership of Our Savior Lutheran Church received word that their Transition Pastor had been identified—Me! The message seemed to be "Be patient! Stick it out! Hang in there! Eventually things will get back to normal." When I arrived at the beginning of October, I found that most people here had embraced that message. I heard about a few did not buy into the ad-

vice and were looking for a new community of faith. And I talked to a few who were skeptical about the future of Our Savior and openly wondered if there was about the benefit of being patient. But most people have accepted the situation, waiting for signs when they can poke their heads back up out of their burrows.

But there is a problem with both of these messages: "Stay Home, Stay Safe!" and, "Hang in there and be patient!" The messages do not tell the faithful, "How long." They do not tell us when it will all be over. God has given into the human spirit such an exaggerated capacity for adaptation that "Stay Home for now" easily becomes "We live life from our home now." The old normal is recognized, grieved, and released for what it was. Without some sense of when the rescue from our troubles will come a new normal settles in over our lives.

This is the life situation for two of the most wonderful characters of the bible, who are brought forward for us in the readings for today, Eli and Nathaniel. The First Lesson, from the Old Testament book of First Samuel, introduces to us the elderly priest, Eli. Eli has lived out his entire life and ministry in faithful service to God. He is devoted to prayer and ministry, but he is also comfortable with the idea that he will do so in the silence of God. So, when his young mentor, Samuel, runs to Eli in the middle of the night with evidence that God is now speaking, Eli struggles to recognize the voice of God for what it is. A new normal has settle in over his life.

In today's Gospel lesson, we are introduced to Nathaniel, a devout student of scripture. We know that because that is what it means when Jesus says, "I saw you under the fig tree." But, like Eli, Nathaniel has become comfortable living under and into the silence of God. When Philip enthusiastically runs up to Nathaniel and says that Jesus, the son of Joseph, is the long-awaited Messiah, Nathaniel is not buying it. It does not fit what he is reading. "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" he wonders.

Both of these faithful followers of God have been living their lives in hopeful expectation for open communication with God. But the years of silence from God have gotten the best of them. They fail to recognize God's voice, God's action—the very thing they have been waiting for—when they finally hear and see it.

This is where we stand today. Most of us, even the best of us, are living our lives the way Eli and Nathanael were living, prayerfully attending to the realities of life while being open to God's action on our behalf. Yet it so hard! So hard! Life under the silence of God has taken its toll. Counseling services and emergency hot lines are being inundated with calls for help. Loss of income has forced so many people into food lines and relief services. The sick and suffering are pushing our health systems to their limits. The meters used for counting the lives that are being lost are spinning faster than we can comprehend.

The slow, moment-by-moment silence of God has crept into our lives. What used to be a hopefulness of spirit is giving way to the business of living. And that's OK. And in the business of living, dreams are set aside. The days come and go, our future loses its promise. And that's OK. Without even realizing it, we are no longer looking for God to be seen, or make any kind of difference. We have deferred to what is, rather than being attuned to what could be. A new normal sets in. And that's OK.

It is interesting to notice how Philip deals with his skeptical friend in the Gospel. With

all of his excitement, and all of his passion for the moment, Philip does not stand there and argue with Nathanael. Philip does not say, "Nathanael, you've got it all wrong." He does not try to change Nathanel's perception of who God is or how God is acting. Philip simple says to Nathanael, "Come and see! See for yourself! Meet the man from Nazareth, and then make your own judgment."

And God does not even try to get through to Eli. Maybe God has too much respect for Eli's life of devotion to try to shake him out of it. Instead, God speaks to the boy who has set up his sleeping bag under the Ark of the Covenant inside the temple, the most sacred place on the planet. God knows that Eli will listen to Samuel. He has to. It's his job. And God knows Eli will do his job.

Responding to the invitation to come and see what God is doing through life of the Babe of Bethlehem is one of the main themes of this time between Christmas and Lent. The Gospel readings during this season gradually reveal the divine nature of Jesus, showing that God was present in the words and actions of Jesus, fulfilling his promises in unexpected ways. Not everyone who encountered Jesus was captivated by him the way Philip and Nathanael were. Most struggled with the problem that Jesus did not meet their expectations of who the Messiah would be. They had to let go of those old images in order accept the idea that God could transform the world through an unassuming country preacher. They had to let go of the idea that God would act with power through a new king, and instead would act with power through the self-giving death on the cross and death conquering resurrection of Easter. It was hard! So hard—for most of the people Jesus met.

The Transition Team has spent many long months talking to each other, meeting with the congregation, listening for the gentle voice of God, offering what they heard, and asking the congregation to "Come and see! What do you think?" The Call Committee has spent one long month engaged in the same process. Like Eli and Nathanael the Church Council has been devoted to the regular work of daily life in church work. But to what end?

Whether we are greeted by God from a simple message of curiosity, "This is what I hear. Is that anything? What does it mean?"—or we are greeted by God with an enthusiastic invitation, "Just Come and See. Give it a chance."—it feels different. We are not ready for it. But that does not mean that God is not real, or that God is not present, or that God is not powerful enough to change our life for the better. It just means we are being invited to see God in a new way.

"Come and see," Philip says to Nathanael. And Nathanael does come, and he does see. But Jesus says to Nathanael, "You will see greater things than these." And so he does. And so will we. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Here I Am, Lord

Text & Music: Daniel I. Schutte, b. 1946

Cantor

"I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.

"I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"

"I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

OFFERING

A new year has begun, and with it, God again refreshes the daily blessings of life and all that is needed to be sustained. Please open your hearts in gratitude to God as you help to financially support our ministry at Our Savior Lutheran Church.

OFFERING PRAYER

PM: O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

C: Amen.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

From the Ministry Site Profile being used to call the next pastor:

"As members of the body of Christ in this place and time, we are a welcoming congregation of people who gather to worship God, to share life together, to grow in love for each other and to be shaped by God's Word, with the purpose of living out God's love and being a sign of God's loving and forgiving presence in our community and world."

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

For the church throughout the world, and especially for the pastors and deacons who lead. We also pray for the Call Committee of Our Savior Lutheran Church as they do their work to identify future pastoral leadership for our congregation. May the Holy Spirit keep and guide them in their calling to proclaim the good news of God's reconciling love. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For skies and seas, for birds and fish, for favorable weather and clean water, and for the well-being of creation, that God raise up advocates and scientists to guide our care for all the earth. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who provide leadership in our cities and around the world, especially for the people and leaders of the United States. In the wake of the violence of this past week, we pray for the safety of those who work maintain the peace and protect us from violence and harm, that God will inspire leaders to use their strength wisely and calm the unsettled hearts of those whom they lead. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are sick, distressed, or grieving; for the outcast and all who await relief, especially Betty, Brandi, Katia & Rahul, Willie & Mary, Donna, Bruni, the Kowal Family, the Zazueta Family, Sue, Roger, Carol, Weatherly Inn residents and staff, Les, Mayah, Judy, Jerry, Mary, Ron, Carol, JD, communities across the country, Dave, Guests of the Community Meals Program, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeannie, that in the midst of suffering, God's peace and mercy surround them. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to surge in our community and around the world, comfort the families of those who have died, heal the bodies of those who are suffering, sustain those who provide care, encourage those whose livelihood has been affected, and hasten the distribution of medical vaccines. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for Alexandra, Miriam and Kati, recipients of OSLC Global Missions Peru Scholarships. Grant them success in their studies, and fill them with the joy of service. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For what and for whom else do the people of God pray this morning?

[Here other intercessions may be offered.]

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving for our ancestors in the faith whose lives serve as an example of gospel living, that they point us to salvation through Christ. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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 LORD'S PRAYER

PM: Lord, remember us in your love as you teach us to pray:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING SONG

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

Cantor

Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886-1981; Music: Finnish folk song

O Lord, now let your servant depart in heav'nly peace, For I have seen the glory of your redeeming grace: A light to lead the nations unto your holy hill, The glory of your people, your chosen Israel;

Until the saints shall gather upon that shining shore, Where Christ, the blessed daystar, shall light them evermore.

BLESSING

PM: God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace.

C: Amen.

POSTLUDE

Toccata on Veni, Redemptor Genitum — Paul Manz

Jiyoung Lee

Serving in Worship:

Worship Leader:

Pastor Jim Kruse

Lector:

Cantors:

Lori Downey, Scott Hafso

Organist:

Jiyoung Lee Scott Hafso

Pianist: Videographer:

Leslie Waltzer

Video Editor:

Dave Carlson

Banner:

Elaine Stamm

Readings for next Sunday: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

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Our Savior Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. James R. Kruse, *Transition Pastor* Shari Lundberg, *Parish Administrator* Dr. Jiyoung Lee, *Parish Organist*

Scott Hafso, *Director of Worship & Music* Kate Gagnon, *Lay Visitation Minister*



Additional worship resources:

Reading: Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18

Suggested Hymn for Listening: Will You Come and Follow Me

Text: John I. Bell, b. 1949; Music: Scottish traditional

++Share & Prayer --

Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via email at of-

fice@oslcissaquah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.

Betty Anderson-healing of intestinal issues. (mother of Shelley Howe)

Brandi Kowal-peace and strength after a miscarriage. (niece of Shelley Howe)

Katia & Rahul, Willie & Mary, Donna, Bruni, the Kowal Family, the Zazueta Family recovering from COVID (Shelley & Mark Howe)

Sue Schmeichel and her medical team for successful surgery and recovery. (wife of Karen Hansen's cousin)

Roger Stanley strength and healing. (Alice Lewis)
Carol Harbolt peace and healing. (Ray Harbolt)
Weatherly Inn residents and staff (Ray Harbolt)
Les Gagnon peace and healing. (Kate Gagnon)
Mayah healing. (Connie Fletcher)

Judy Shaffer comfort and peace of mind. (Sandy Aldworth)

Jerry Nack healing and strength. (Kate Gagnon) Mary healing, wholeness, comfort and a clear sense that God is in control. (Marilyn Carlson) Ron Gerde healing for recent medical issues. (Brother to Bob Gerde)

Carol Johnson ongoing medical issues and mourning her husband & her brothers. (Mary Fricke)

JD Golick diagnosed with stage 3 stomach cancer, completed one cycle of chemotherapy. (nephew to Patty Gerde)

Safety and peace for communities being torn apart during these difficult times. (Karen Hansen)

Dave Carlson continued healing and following kidney transplant surgery.

Guests of the Community Meals Program safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)
Sonja 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer. (granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson)
Nicole DeCamp healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)

Josee Jordan peace of mind as she faces health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)

Jeannie Lindquist continued healing and strength.

Healing and peace of mind: Henrik & Patty Christopherson (Dianne Tanner); Vern Lindquist; Marian James; Gregory (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); Doug Patur; Katie Moeller; Margot Inman; Ken Acker (son of Lucy Acker); Marilyn Carlson; Taufik Hidayut (Ken Konigsmark); Don Wilkinson (husband of Gwynn Wilkinson); Rebecca Thomas; Tanisha Foote (Marilyn Carlson); Dorothy Soland; Randi Strom; Jeanne Kuipers; John Pass; Florence Kinnune; Carol Harbolt; Sandy Aldworth; Jen Winslow; Larry Pruitt.

Undergoing cancer treatment: Carol Howe (cousin of Mark Howe); Tom Killoran (Shelley Howe); Les Carlson (father of Dave Carlson); Harold Mandt (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); Chris Howe (brother of Mark Howe); Peggy Scalise (cousin of Mark Howe); Eileen Letts (cousin of Mark Howe); Keith DeCamp (brother of Ken DeCamp); Barbara Jones (mother of Ron Sordahl); Doug McVety (Helen Nychay); Al Batt (Connie Fletcher); Larry Harbolt (Ray Harbolt); Gerald Welch (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); Christy Williams (Bill Bergsma); Dana Mancini (Jan Setterlund); Greg Petersen (Wes Collum); Barry Donker (Joan Parish); Germaine Korum (Lyle and Alice Lewis); Kathryn Aitcheson (Gerrie Hendrickson); Yuko Takiguchi (Teiko Soland); **Barb** (Janette Singley)

Living with cancer: Liz Kidd (Bob Beck); Duane Jacobson; Mary Lewis (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); Mark Becker (uncle of Paula Seeger); Barbara Krogh Jarvis (sister of Steve Krogh); Suzanne Lewis (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); Mira Bergsma

Expectant Mothers: Alyssa Saavedra (Cheryl Neeb); Shawna McIntyre (Cheryl Neeb)

Mourning the death of loved ones: For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: Alec Wright (Shelley & Mark Howe); Beverly (sister of Ashley Saunders); Gail (sister of Sandy Aldworth); Mike Golick (brother-in-law to Patty Gerde); Ray Kruckenberg (uncle of Dianne Tanner); Tom Wiese (Sandy Aldworth); Talton Johnson (husband of Carol Johnson)

Members and friends serving in the military; fire & police departments, & emergency rooms: Mike special ops, unexpectedly called up. (nephew of Dave and Marilyn Carlson)

Global Missions and Missionaries: Congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: Pepe at Las Brisas, Merci in San Antonio and Harold at Las Lomas. MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School in Tanzania.