

Second Sunday after the Epiphany
January 18, 2026
8:00 am

AS WE GATHER

People often speak about a person's calling in life. They are describing a unique purpose or vocation according to interests and talents. Often, trying to determine a person's "calling" or "destiny" is defined by some innate ability or giftedness found within ourselves, something we were born with or somehow born to do.

Today we hear of God calling otherwise ordinary fishermen Andrew and his brother Simon Peter. They were called by God through John the Baptist to follow the Messiah, the Christ, Jesus of Nazareth. They were called to be disciples and eventually to be sent on Christ's mission as apostles. The prophet Isaiah says even the Savior, the servant of the Lord, was called from the womb by God, "that Israel might be gathered to Him," and called "as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth" (Isaiah 49:5-6). Saul of Tarsus was "called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus," and Saul, now named Paul, reminds the church at Corinth and us that we are "called to be saints" (1 Corinthians 1:1-2). This calling differs from merely surveying interests or abilities within us; it comes to us from outside of ourselves, from the living God, our creator and Redeemer. This calling comes from God to everyone. It is the call of salvation, the divine call that transforms us from sinners into saints. Therefore, this calling depends not on anything within us but solely and totally on the grace and mercy and love of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

832 Jesus Shall Reign

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|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore
Till moons shall wax and wane no more. | | And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name. |
| 2 | To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And endless praises crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With ev'ry morning sacrifice. | 4 | Blessings abound where'er He reigns:
The pris'ners leap, unloose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blest. |
| 3 | People and realms of ev'ry tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song; | 5 | Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen. |

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INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Leader: God's Word tells us that if we say we have not sinned, we make God out to be a liar, and his Word is not in us. Knowing that one who keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it, let's take a few moments to call to mind those times during this past week where we have fallen short of God's standard in our thoughts, our words, and our deeds.

TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Leader: Let us confess our sins to God our Father

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Leader: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE

790 v. 1&2 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the
King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
health and salvation!
Let all who hear
Now to His temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!

2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is
wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting,
sustaining.
Have you not seen
All that is needful has been
Sent by His gracious ordaining?

SALUTATION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

READINGS

FIRST READING

Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands,
and give attention, you peoples from afar.
The LORD called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he named my
name.

He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.

And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

But I said, "I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and
vanity;

yet surely my right is with the LORD,
and my recompense with my God."

And now the LORD says,
he who formed me from the womb to be
his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him;
and that Israel might be gathered to him—

for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—
he says:
"It is too light a thing that you should be my
servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
I will make you as a light for the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of
the earth."

Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the
nation,
the servant of rulers:
"Kings shall see and arise;
princes, and they shall prostrate
themselves;
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen
you."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:1–9

Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,
To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints
together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both
their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in
Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even
as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any
spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the
end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into
the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:29–42a

The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who
takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks
before me, because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came
baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness: "I saw the
Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but
he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and
remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness
that this is the Son of God."

The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as he
walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they
followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you
seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He
said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they
stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak
and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon
and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible
and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his
Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for
our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was
buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the

living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN

537 Beautiful Savior

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|---|---|
| <p>1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.</p> <p>2 Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.</p> | <p>3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.</p> <p>4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!</p> |
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SERMON

Pastor Eric Clausen

John 1:29-42a

OFFERING

LORDS PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

HOLY COMMUNION

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Leader: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

AGNUS DEI

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

- 1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you
outpoured;
Offered was He for greatest and for
least,
Himself the victim and Himself the
priest.
- 2 He who His saints in this world rules and
shields,
To all believers life eternal yields;
With heav'nly bread He makes the
hungry whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.
- 3 Come forward then with faithful hearts
sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks
endow
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text: Public domain

686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

- 1 Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee;
May I still Thy goodness prove.
- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.
- 4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning,
I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;
Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry
Me to realms of endless day.

Text: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Leader: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, we give thanks that we have again received the Body and blood of Christ, the bread from heaven. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage, that we speak the truth in love and build up the Body of Christ until that day we see You face-to-face; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Leader: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen

CLOSING HYMN

650 Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

1 Holy Spirit, ever dwelling
In the holiest realms of light;
Holy Spirit, ever brooding
O'er a world of gloom and night;
Holy Spirit, ever raising
Those of earth to thrones on high;
Living, life-imparting Spirit,
You we praise and magnify.

2 Holy Spirit, ever living
As the Church's very life;
Holy Spirit, ever striving
Through us in a ceaseless strife;

Text: Public domain

Holy Spirit, ever forming
In the Church the mind of Christ:
You we praise with endless worship
For Your gifts and fruits unpriced.

3 Holy Spirit, ever working
Through the Church's ministry;
Quick'ning, strength'ning, and absolving,
Setting captive sinners free;
Holy Spirit, ever binding
Age to age and soul to soul
In communion never ending,
You we worship and extol.

DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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He will
keep
you
strong
to the
end.

1 Corinthians 1:8, NLT