

Jesus. Andrew was one of the two who stayed with Jesus (John 1:35-42.) (We suggest that John was the other.) They were not surprised by Jesus when He called them to follow. It is a little unclear if they understood exactly what Jesus was calling them out to become. In a similar manner, Jesus called us out of the world to follow Him. He called us to be His disciples. He has given us a vocation by which we fulfil our role as one of those who follow Jesus. In, "Hark the Voice of Jesus Calling," we sing of our vocation. We can't all be the ones who preach like Paul, so God gave some of us the Word to teach to our children. We are all given the ability to ask God for His grace in the power of prayer.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

⑤ O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You have chosen those from among all nations and peoples to worship You in spirit and truth. We are gathered in this place at this time to worship You and praise Your Holy name. We appeal to You that we may be so inwardly moved in spirit and so filled with Your Word and truth that You would find acceptable our imperfect sacrifices of thanksgiving, praise, and prayer.

Bestow on us a sure faith in Your power and a perfect trust in Your Love. As we are living out our short span of years in this world, may we, by applying our hearts to Your wisdom, and by the exercise of brotherly love, peacefulness, and charity, show forth Your grace, goodness and glory. Defend us so that we are not overcome by evil. Inspire us to overcome all evil with good. Preserve us from all hazards to body or soul. Keep us from all temptations and trial, O Father. Hold us so that we may live to serve You in all godliness and humility.

Graciously help us to redeem the time You give us, using our days wisely toward the building of faith in our hearts and the hearts of others. Stir up in us the gifts You have given us, that we may use them to the spiritual enrichment of our lives. Renew us in the spirit of our minds. Turn our footsteps to the pathways of eternal life. Cleanse us of all sin. Heal us of every disease. Comfort all who are afflicted. Guard our loved ones. Shield us from the powers of wickedness; and give us each day our daily bread.

As we have been given Christ Jesus as Lord of all, so let us walk in Him, rooted and built up in faith and abounding in all good works. Watch over Your Church throughout the world. Give us Pastors who are true shepherds willing to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to Your people and the people of the world.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)

All these things we pray in the name of Him Who loved the Church and gave Himself for her, Christ, our Redeemer.

© Amen.

EPIPHANY THREE

Chant Tone



Introit

I will tell of Your name to my — brothers;*
in the midst of the congregation I
will — praise You.

All the ends of the Earth shall
remember and turn | to the Lord,*
and all the families of the nations
shall worship be — fore You.

For kingship belongs | to the Lord,*
and He rules over the — nations.

All the prosperous of the Earth eat and
— worship;*
before Him shall bow all who go
down to the dust, even the one who
could not keep him | self alive.

Posterity shall — serve Him;*
it shall be told of the Lord to the
coming gener — ation;
they shall come and proclaim His
righteousness to a people | yet unborn,*
that He has — done it.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy — Spirit;
as it was in the be — ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. — Amen.

I will tell of Your name to my — brothers;*
in the midst of the congregation I
will — praise You.

(Antiphon, Psalm 22:22;
Psalm 22:27-31)

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Praise the Lord, all — nations!*

Extol Him, all — peoples!

For great is His | Love toward us,*

and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for — ever.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory | due His name;*

bring an offering and come in | to His courts!

(Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: O Lord, steadfast Love is Yours, forever. You have shown us Your Love every day of our lives. We have seen it in the daily rising of the Sun and in the Moon and the stars, which You keep in their appointed courses. Your Love drops down on us in the snow and in the rain. In Love Your Mighty Power has brought us the salvation of our souls in Your Son Jesus Christ. For all these mercies, accept our heartfelt thanks. Give us strength to overcome the weakness of our flesh, courage to stand up for what is right in Your sight and repentance that we will believe in the Gospel. All of these things we bring to You in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

JESUS TOOK CENTER STAGE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

All of the prophets, priests and kings who had been born among the people were only place holders for He Who came as the Savior of all. Our epiphany "first" this week is the call of the Apostles. From what we can understand, all of them had been eye-witnesses of the Baptism of Christ and many of them had been with John when Jesus came back from the wilderness. Jesus called Peter and the fisherman away from their chosen field of endeavor to follow Him in their new task as workers in the kingdom. It is by the grace of God that we have been able to answer the call of Jesus on this Day. Setting aside our earthly endeavors, we follow Christ to His house of worship.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Called to Believe

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 22:22;) Psalm 22:27-31

Psalm 22 was written by David, but it speaks in the first person voice of the Messiah. The first verses will be used during Lent (when we hear from One Who is despised by the people, striped of His clothes and pierced in hands and feet.) The verses we are using for our Introit, today, enhance the message of the Gospel reading. "All the ends of the Earth shall remember and turn to the Lord."

COLLECT

This is the historic Collect for this day. We have been called by God to follow Jesus. We therefore ask to be healed that we can do the work and that He would defend us as we are attacked for our faith.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 9:1-4

The message of Isaiah is that God kept His promise of redemption in spite of the apostasy of His people. He raised the Messiah from out of the very people who had sinned greatly against Him. The contrast was made between the gloom of their sin and the honor of the future. The yoke of their burden of sin will be shattered. We who live in the darkness of the world are called out to be the useful and productive people of God. We are called out to be a great nation, disciples of Christ. Even we who are from among the Gentiles will be called out by God to do His work; to believe in the One Who will end the distress of the nations.

GRADUAL—Psalm 117:1-2a, 96:8

Psalm 117 (a two verse Psalm) is a general song of praise for all God has done making us His disciple. Psalm 96 was sung as the Ark was moved into Jerusalem. It celebrates that we are allowed to be called as disciples of Jesus.

EPISTLE LESSON—1 Corinthians 1:10-18

We each and everyone, have the awesome privilege to live out the Gospel in our daily life. In fact, if we stay out of the way, God will present us as a living witness to those He is calling to have saving faith in Jesus. However, even among Christians, there is a tendency to argue about the Gospel, especially when we insert our own life philosophy. In all aspects of our life, we are to let the cross of Jesus Christ be our witness and our assertion. We belong to Jesus we are His disciples, and His servants. He is the One we follow, no one else has brought us into the place of salvation.

GOSPEL LESSON—Matthew 4:12-25

Our Gospel Lesson includes the account of the calling of the first of the Apostles. We are aware that these four men had previous knowledge of