

GOSPEL LESSON—John 1:29-42a

"We have found the Messiah" (I didn't know He was lost!) The excitement on the part of Andrew is evident. In Acts 1 (verses 21-22,) Peter described the conditions for a replacement Apostle. The implication is that a large number of people had been with John the Baptist from the time of Jesus' Baptism through the crucifixion. Two of them (the other was likely John the Apostle) went off with Jesus to stay with Him for the evening. It must have been rather overwhelming listening to Jesus. It caused Andrew to find his brother and tell him about his discovery. Jesus wasn't lost, we were lost. Yet, we are allowed to claim the discovery in our faith.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ Almighty and ever-living God, in Jesus Christ Your Son You have given the light of truth for all who are in the darkness of error and falsehood. You have granted that all might have true life in His name. We thank You that You have called us into this true and living faith and bestowed on us manifold gifts of grace.

Hear now our prayer, heavenly Father, that Your people may be shining lights in this world's darkness. To this end grant that we may be united in love and zeal to do the Holy work You have set before us. Keep us grounded in the purpose of our calling, loyal in every test of faithfulness, joyful in our anticipation of Heaven, steadfast in every trial, benevolent toward all people, generous in hospitality, and holding fast to all that is good. Grant that we who are called out of darkness into the marvelous light of Christ may show forth His praise.

Help us as we strive to be with Jesus. Set our hearts and minds on attendance at worship in His presence. Give us the ability to see Him, to be with Him in our time of devotions and in our hour of worship. Help us find the courage to speak, for those times when we most earnestly desire to declare the Messiah to our family and friends. Be with us and improve our witness to the truth of the wonder of the Gospel. Send Your Missionaries and Pastors to the far corners of the Earth that everyone everywhere is invited to spend their days with Jesus.

We implore Your mercy, O God, for all who may be in any special want or need of body or soul. Manifest Yourself to them as their deliverance. Keep us all from evil. Give us joy in our mourning, anticipation in our despair and victory in our defeat. We pray that You would heal all for Whom it is Your will and allow everyone to know Your presence.

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

All these things, our Eternal Father, in fellowship with Your Son, we bring to You in His name and for the purpose of the Church.

© Amen.

EPIPHANY TWO

Chant Tone



Introit

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable | in Your sight,*

O Lord, my rock and my re—deemer.

The heavens declare the glo | ry of God,*
and the sky above proclaims His
| handiwork.

Day to day | pours out speech,*
and night to night reveals
—knowledge.

There is no speech, nor | are there words,*
whose voice | is not heard.

Their measuring line goes out through
all the Earth, and their words to the
end | of the world.*

In them He has set a tent | for the Sun.

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.

Let the words of my mouth and the
meditation of my heart be acceptable
| in Your sight,*

O Lord, my rock and my re—deemer.

(Antiphon, Psalm 19:14;
Psalm 19:1-4a, b)

Collect of the Day

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.

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: Lord God, heavenly Father, You have been gracious to us and blessed us. The Earth has yielded its increase, and Your way is being made known to many nations. For bringing the knowledge of salvation to our nation and increasingly to other nations, we adore Your most Holy name. Give us the courage and the strength to be more faithful in inviting others to follow You. Empower Your Holy Spirit to motivate us actively to share Christ with others by our words and in all our actions. Allow all people to know Your Love in Christ. Give strength to the weak and companionship to the lonely. This we ask in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY CELEBRATES THE APPEARANCE OF CHRIST TO THE WORLD. First as a baby the Magi came to visit, and then at the age of thirty He appeared at the Jordan River to begin His three year ministry. We come as did the Magi, following the light, the star that leads to our Savior. Jesus devoted all of His time on Earth in service to others. His role as servant was never more evident than in the quiet, uneventful time in conversation with His two future Apostles. Their excitement is evident in their willingness to find and tell others. It is a wonderful and glorious thing that Jesus made His Epiphany in our hearts as our Lord and Savior. We have been given the gift of being allowed to find Jesus in His Word and the gift of faith that allows us to claim Him as our Savior.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Pointing To Christ

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 19:14;) Psalm 19:1-4a, b

The last four verses of Psalm 19 are petitions of a prayer, verse 14, asks that our thoughts would be made acceptable to God by God. Verse 1 says that God made the cosmos, and then David went on to explain the perfection. Verse 2 says that each day flows perfectly into the next. Verse 3, says that each day communicates its knowledge to the next without speech. Verse 4 tells us that the days do this with an architect's ruler where everything is laid out and follows an ordered pattern completely predictable and without compromise. In summary we are asking God to order our thoughts so there isn't so much chaos in our brain.

COLLECT

"Governor" comes from a Latin word that means, "to steer." As the architect Who laid out all things, we ask (with David from our Introit,) that God would steer our thoughts and mind just-so-that we are given peace. This would be a true peace based on repentance and forgiveness. This is the kind of peace that grants salvation.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 49:1-7

This is the second of the four times when the One to be born into the world is shown as the One who will suffer for His people. Forced to do things that are an insult to the Servant, necessary to show that He is able to defeat sin and Satan in the flesh. The statement: "I have labored for no purpose," is a statement of subjective justification (the fact that even though Christ died for everyone, not everyone will believe.) This servant, this Messiah was sent for everyone, for Israel, Judah and for the Gentiles. When we recognize the work of the Servant, it should cause us to regret our sin and repent. That repentance is then used by God to make us into worthy members of His kingdom.

GRADUAL—Psalm 117:1-2a, 96:8

Psalm 117 is a general song of praise. Psalm 96:8 speaks of the time when the Gentiles will join in the celebration of the kingdom.

EPISTLE LESSON—1 Corinthians 1:1-9

In Christ we have been enriched in every way. When good things happen among Christians, it is God who does them through Christ. It is God who willed Paul's apostleship and it is God who called Paul. Grace and peace are from God. This lesson agrees with our Introit that everything depends on God's faithfulness. We don't achieve salvation and sanctification, they are achieved in us by God through Jesus Christ. We are simply and only allowed to abide with Him in all things. God drew up and executed the perfect plan to, bring us to and keep us with Him.