

of words used to present the call of Philip. Jesus went to Galilee. He found Philip and said, "Follow Me!" John referred to Philip several more times in the Gospel (6:7, 12:21, 14:8.) Philip appeared to be out of his league, a rather ordinary sort of guy. He was the one that Jesus went to find and instruct. Philip then found Nathanael and therein is an entire story in itself. There is more going on in the announcement to Nathanael, and then Jesus' subsequent conversation with Nathanael, than meets the eye. The call of Samuel, Philip and Nathanael to serve God shows the power of God to pick whom He will to believe. This further shows the power of God to elect whom He will to the positions of authority and power all to influence and advice His kingdom in the world.

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, as we ask that You would send Your chosen and called Pastors to be shining lights in this world's darkness. When You have called them to follow Jesus, they are often ridiculed and condemned on account of Your Word. Uphold them and prove that they teach the truth. Enable them to shine the light of Christ in the darkness of every corner of Your kingdom so that all people everywhere come to know the wonder of life in the name of Jesus. Make them strong when they are weak, fill them when they are hungry, and keep them from all harm and danger. Allow them the simplicity of Philip so they too can say, "Come and see."

Bestow a special measure of Your grace, O God, on our homes. Give us the power to overcome temptations, and the wisdom to avoid the friction that can destroy a family. Be the head of our families by setting up Your throne in our hearts and lives. Give us Your Holy Spirit to inspire us to live out our faith in all our family relationships. Strengthen our family ties as we gather regularly around Your Word for devotions and prayer. By Your grace and mercy give us willingness to forgive one another even as we are forgiven for Jesus' sake.

As Your redeemed we know that You cause all things to work together for Your good. Help those in the midst of illness of mind or spirit to thrive on this sure Word.

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

Grant all Your faithful believers in all Your kingdom, the security, Love and joy that we are promised in our Lord Jesus Christ, in Whose name we pray.

© Amen.

EPIPHANY TWO

Chant Tone



Introit

I have not hidden Your deliverance with | in my heart;*

I have spoken of Your faithfulness and Your sal — vation;

I waited patiently | for the Lord;*

He inclined to me and | heard my cry.

He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the | miry bog,*
and set my feet upon a rock, making
my | steps secure.

He put a new song in my mouth, a
song of praise | to our God.*

Many will see and fear, and put
their trust | in the Lord.

Blessèd is the man who makes the
| Lord his trust,*

who does not turn to the proud, to
those who go astray af | ter a lie!

You have multiplied, O Lord my God,
Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts
toward us; none can com | pare with You!*

I will proclaim and tell of them, yet
they are more than | can be told.

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 have not hidden Your deliverance with | in my heart;*

I have spoken of Your faithfulness and Your sal — vation;

(Antiphon, Psalm 40:10a, b;
Psalm 40:1-5)

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. We beg for the fulfillment of Your will in the sending of Your missionaries to call the people of the world to follow You. May Your Holy Spirit empower us actively to show Christ to others in our life and actions. May all people know Your Love as it was displayed in the birth, life, death and Resurrection of Christ. This we ask in His exalted name. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT PHILIP AND NATHANAEL. They appeared at the beginning of the ministry of Christ and that was pretty much their 15 minutes of fame. Philip certainly seemed to have been better prepared for receiving Jesus. Nathanael seems a lot more skeptical. Jesus gave Nathanael the proof that he needed to believe. Jesus then said that Nathanael would see greater things than Jesus displaying omniscience. Nathanael would see Jesus as the very center of the universe, when Heaven opened to welcome Jesus in His flesh. We welcome everyone to worship this morning, all of you who have come from the far flung points, drawn in by the light of Jesus Christ. We have come to see the wonder of God, who took on our form to walk and talk with us.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Pointing To Christ

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Isaiah 40:10a, b;) Psalm 40:1-5

Psalm 40 was penned by David at the occasion of some sin he had committed. David was in danger of being overwhelmed by the sin, and was calling out so that God would not show His displeasure toward David. David remembered the coming suffering of the Christ for His sin, and realized that it is only through that suffering that David was: 1. able to realize His sin, 2. able to come before God with repentance. We walk with Christ for our Salvation.

COLLECT

"Governor" comes from a Latin word that means, "to steer." As the architect Who laid out all things, we ask that God would drive our thoughts and mind that we would be given peace, a true peace, based on repentance and forgiveness. The peace that grants salvation.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—1 Samuel 3:1-20

We probably should use the life of Samuel as our theme for today, but we won't. Samuel had been chosen for special service before God. His mother Hannah was barren, and she prayed to be given a child, and in the prayer she promised that the child would belong to God. It is a curious thing, but she kept her part of the deal and brought him to the temple to be raised by Eli. Samuel became a prophet. It would seem that Eli wasn't much of a priest and God was replacing him. The life of Samuel and the life of John the Baptist are very much parallels in terms of their mothers and their birth and their pointing the way to the Christ.

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 6:12-20

Although it is often quoted to us that we don't have to go to church to be a Christian ("Everything is permissible for me...") it isn't an especially good idea to give up on worship and daily Bible Study, ("but not everything is beneficial.") Our actions should benefit ourselves and our witness for Jesus Christ. There is a certain life that will exemplify the higher calling we have in Christ. It is often in contrast with the ways of the world. We are to: honor our body as the temple of God, honor God as the creator of the universe, and honor the Word of God as the way to salvation.

GOSPEL LESSON—John 1:43-51

John very carefully wrote this Gospel account. John showed us that Jesus of Nazareth was the divine, incarnate Logos (Word.) There is an economy