VOCATION: THE SPIRITUALITY OF ORDINARY LIFE



"God is graciously at work, caring for the human race through the work of other human beings." — Gene Veith

> Second Sunday after the Epiphany January 13-14, 2024

AS WE GATHER

SERMON SUMMARY: This week's sermon "Your Calling" is based on the Gospel reading where Jesus calls Nathaniel. Many people in life feel like they have a "calling" of some sort, whether it be their hobbies, their employment, or something else. In all of these cases, individuals feel as if they are born for a specific purpose unique to them, guided or influenced by something much bigger than themselves (e.g. a "higher power"). For us as Christians, we can be much more specific than that. We believe that God has called us in many aspects of life: in society, with our family, at work, and in church. Hear today how God calls people to specific vocations in our Bible passages and how God calls you to live out your vocation today as well.

HOLY COMMUNION AT HOLY CROSS is celebrated in accordance with the Lutheran confession that Christ's body and blood are truly given to us with the bread and wine to give forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation to repentant, reconciled believers in Christ. Missouri-Synod Lutherans united with us in that confession are invited to receive the Sacrament with us. Others who desire to commune should first speak with a Pastor or an Elder.

- For those whose health or circumstance may require it, Holy Cross offers an alcohol-removed red wine (containing less than 0.5% alcohol) located in the center of each Communion tray.
- Gluten-free wafers are available upon request to a Pastor or Elder before the service.
- If you want communion in the pew, please let an usher or Elder know before the service.
- Please do not stack the plastic communion cups in the baskets. Stacked cups stick together and hinder the rinsing process.

ATTENDANCE PADS: We invite members and guests alike to take a moment to sign the red fellowship pad located at the end of the pew by the center aisle. Please provide contact information if you are interested in membership or if you would like to be contacted by the church. After signing, please pass it to your neighbor and then return it to its spot by the aisle.

LIVE-STREAMING of 8 AM SERVICE WEEKLY: Holy Cross live streams the 8 AM service each Sunday on a link at our website (<u>hcross.com</u>). We provide this service for our members who cannot attend worship. The video perspective from the choir loft looks toward the altar and shows all aspects of the service from the sixth row of pews forward. This includes baptisms, children's talks, and communion.

Second Sunday after the Epiphany Divine Service, Setting Two January 13-14, 2024

OPENING HYMN: Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens LSB 589 1 Speak, O Lord, Your ser - vant lis - tens, Let Your Word 2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near You And lis - ten to 3 Lord, Your words are wa - ters liv - ing When my thirst - ing 4 As Ι pray, dear Je - sus. hear me; Let Your words in come near: New - born life and spir it give me, me -

Let

me

PRELUDE: Meditation from "24 Pièces en Stile Libre"

Your voice:

to

spir - it pleads. Lord, Your words are bread life giv - ing; take root. May Your Spir - it e'er be near me me Death's dread pow'r, its in - ward Let each prom-ise still my fear. my choice! Man - y Let Your Word be now hard-ened sin-ners, On Your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, Your words will be my

ev - er

love

and

hear You.

That I bear a-bun - dant fruit. May Ι dai - ly sing Your strife, Wars Your Word of life: Fill me, Lord, with a - gainst Lord, Flee in ter - ror at Your Word; But to all who Through death's cold and drea - ry night; Yes, they are my light praise, From my heart glad an - thems raise, Till my high - est

love's strong fer - vor That I cling to You for - ev - er! bur - den You give words of peace feel sin's and par-don. sword pre vail - ing And my cup of joy un - fail-ing! giv - en In the end - less joy of heav - en. praise is

Louis Vierne

PLEASE STAND

to

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross ∞ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- 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.
- 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.
- C Amen.

Service of the Word

INTROIT

PSALM 40:1-5; ANTIPHON: v.10a,b

- A I have not hidden Your deliverance within my heart;
- I have spoken of Your faithfulness and Your salvation;
- A I waited patiently for the LORD;
- **G** He inclined to me and heard my cry.
- A He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,
- **G** and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.
- A He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
- **G** Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.
- A Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust,
- G who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!

- A You have multiplied, O LORD my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!
- I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.
- All Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- A I have not hidden Your deliverance within my heart;
- I have spoken of Your faithfulness and Your salvation;







SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- **P** 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.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

A The Old Testament Reading for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany is from First Samuel, chapter 3.

T he young man Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. 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, 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.

⁶And the LORD called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose 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.

⁸And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the young man. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if He calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears." ¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³And I declare to 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 atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." And he said, "Here I am." ¹⁷And Eli 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. And he said, "It is the LORD. Let him do what seems good to Him."

¹⁹And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the LORD.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

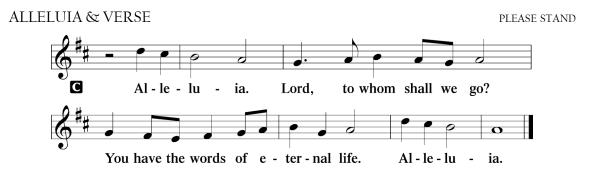
C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

A The Epistle is from First Corinthians, chapter 6.

4 I things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things Π are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved 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 not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." ¹⁷But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. ¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.



HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:43-51

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



The 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 of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." ⁴⁹Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

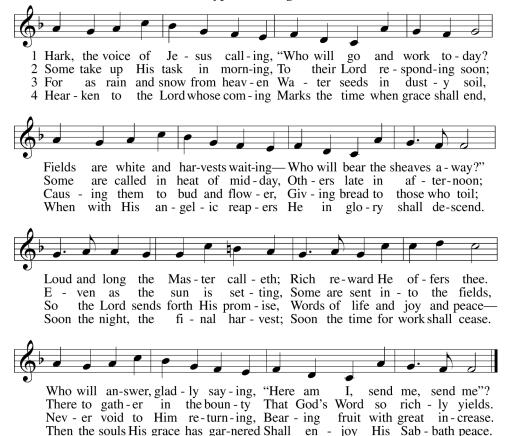


CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SUNDAY: PLEASE SIT

HYMN OF THE DAY: Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling

LSB 827



SERMON

RETIREMENT RECOGNITION

RITE FOUND ON P. 17

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. Liaht of Liaht. 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 kinadom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and aiver 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 \pm of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Additional petitions conclude:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

- Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- Amen.

OFFERING

We ask that all worshipers take a moment to sign the red fellowship pad located at the end of the pew by the center aisle. If you are interested in membership, please provide a phone number or email address so that we may contact you.

VOLUNTARY—Terra Beata

Service of the Sacrament

PREFACE

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **G** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

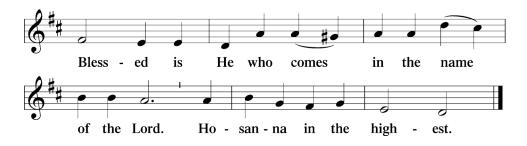
SANCTUS "Holy, Holy, Holy"



Charles Callahan

LSB 177

I SB 178



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LSB 178

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

- Event of the second second
- Our Father who art in heaven,

hallowed be Thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;

give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

- but deliver us from evil.
- For Thine is the kingdom

and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

LSB 179

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

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 I blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH | 15

DISTRIBUTION

Please see notice on page 2.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

LSB 856	O Christ, Who Called the Twelve
LSB 402	The Only Son from Heaven
LSB 395	O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

DISMISSAL

PLEASE STAND

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.
- C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

BENEDICTION	LSB 183
 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. Amen. 	
CLOSING HYMN: "Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake	LSB 688
SILENT PRAYER & CHIMES	

POSTLUDE: Wie Schön Leuchtet der Morgenstern	Paul Manz
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RETIREMENT RECOGNITION

- Pastor: We invite all those who have retired in the last 2 years to come to the front of the church. This weekend, we celebrate a momentous occasion in each of your lives. One season of your life has ended, and another is about to begin. Hear the word of the Lord from Genesis chapter 2:15: The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.
- DCE: Work is a good thing. Work is a vocation that God had given to His people before the fall. As Lutherans, we understand that we don't choose our vocations; God chooses them for us, as we see with Adam and Eve. This, brothers and sisters in Christ, is a good thing. With the doctrine of vocation, we understand that ordinary relationships and ordinary labors, no matter how humble, are filled with the presence of God.
- Pastor: In Luther's "Exposition of Psalm 147," he calls our different vocations "masks of God". Hear what Luther had to say: "God could easily give you grain and fruit without your plowing and planting. But He does not want to do so..." We have the saying: 'God gives every good thing, but not just by waving a hand.' [so let us] "Labor, and let Him give the fruits...Take a husband or a wife, and let Him produce the children. Eat and drink, and let Him nourish and strengthen you. And so on. In all our doings, He is to work through us, and He alone shall have the glory from it." This can best be summarized from Colossians 3: 23-24: Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men...You are serving the Lord Christ.
- DCE: All too often, we can emphasize the vocational mask of wage earner as if it were an anchor and forget that our vocations aren't our identity but a mask. Brothers and sisters in Christ, please gather around the baptismal font. When you were baptized, our God Creator declared your worth, your value, your purpose, and your identity when the waters of baptism were poured over you. Hear this truth now from Galatians 3: 26-27 from this congregation:
- Congregation: "So in Christ Jesus, you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

 \sim continued on page 18

RETIREMENT RECOGNITION

Barb Knehans

I retired in January 2023 from the headquarters of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. I worked for almost 44 years there. I started as a temporary employee for the Lutheran Church Extension Fund at 500 North Broadway. I moved to the current building in Kirkwood as the receptionist for the LCMS Foundation. I worked for LCMS as a purchasing agent for ten years, and then as a facility manager for 24 years. I ended my career as the receptionist for the LCMS. During the years, the LCMS convention became part of my job. My responsibility was to move Synod from headquarters to convention headquarters, set up offices, and then move everything back to headquarters. I always enjoyed meeting the people and seeing them at future conventions. Conventions involved long hours, great experiences, and were enjoyable for me. Now Bob and I are enjoying more time for fishing and grandchildren.



- DCE: I encourage you now to dip your fingers into the water, making the cross sign on your foreheads, and repeat this phrase: "I am a baptized Child of God". [Pause] As you go about your days wearing the different masks of God in your vocational service to your neighbor, never forget that your anchor truly lies in these waters. Your value comes from being a child of God, not from your vocation. Now, please retrieve an anchor from the water and let it serve as a reminder of this truth.
- Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you for the many vocations you have given to us. We lift up to you these brothers and sisters in Christ who no longer wear the vocational mask of a wage earner. Send your Holy Spirit to them so that they would joyfully take up the new vocational masks you have given to them, which are anchored in their baptisms, to be your hands and feet of service to their neighbor. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church & Preschool 8945 Veterans Memorial Parkway O'Fallon, MO 63366 (636) 272-4505 www.hcross.com Email: secretary@hcross.com

Serving in God's House Today

	. 0	. 5	
Preacher		Pastor Andrew J. Gimbel	
Liturgist		Seminarian Vince Otto Seminarian Owen Duncan	
Director of Christian Education		Charity Smith	
Director of Music		David Gilson	
Elders	Saturday, 3PM	Jerry Lancour	
	Sunday, 8AM	Don Wischmeyer, Chris Price	
	Sunday, 10:45AM	Rob Paoletti, Kent Haffer	
Ushers	Saturday, 3PM	Donald Duncan	
	Sunday, 8AM	Steve Liescheidt	
	Sunday, 10:45AM	TBD	
Greeters	Saturday, 3PM	Linda Kettler	
	Sunday, 8AM	Emily Kahler, Vickie Glasstetter	
	Sunday, 10:45AM	Mark & Darlene Drilling	
Cover: Andy Gimbel, Charity Smith, Joyce Niewald			

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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Holy Cross Lutheran Church & Preschool

8945 Veterans Memorial Parkway O'Fallon, MO 63366 (636) 272-4505 www.hcross.com

> Rev. Andrew J. Gimbel Pastor

Charity Smith Director of Christian Education

> David Gilson Director of Music

Morgan Calcaterra Preschool Director



With the help of God, Holy Cross Lutheran Church grows disciples and transforms hearts for Christ.