

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Readings

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19

Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the Lord where the ark of God was. The Lord called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am." Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." "I did not call you," Eli said. "Go back to sleep." So he went back to sleep. Again the Lord called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "You called me." But Eli answered, "I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep." At that time Samuel was not familiar with the Lord, because the Lord had not revealed anything to him as yet. The Lord called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Here I am. You called me." Then Eli understood that the Lord was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the Lord came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Samuel grew up, and the Lord was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20

Brothers and sisters: The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body; God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.

Gospel: John 1:35-42

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi"—which translated means Teacher, "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah"—which is translated Christ. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas"—which is translated Peter.

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Psalm 40

All: Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I have waited, waited for the Lord, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry.
And he put a new song into my mouth, a hymn to our God.

Sacrifice or offering you wished not, but ears open to obedience you gave me.
Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not; then said I, "Behold, I come."

"In the written scroll it is prescribed for me, to do your will, O my God, is my
delight, and your law is within my heart!"

I announced your justice in the vast assembly; I did not restrain my lips, as you, O
Lord, know.

All: Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

**Opening Prayer for Mass: Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things,
both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and
bestow your peace on our times. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for
ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking Open the Word

We believe that the Word of God is living and effective. That means when we read or
listen to Scripture, it is Jesus who speaks to us now, in the present moment of our lives.
His Living Word gives us hope, purpose and direction in our lives. As we break open these
readings for this Sunday, reflect on these questions:

**What is Jesus saying to me personally that will give purpose and encouragement to me
now?**

**Am I open to the way Jesus' words are living and effective in the people and world
around me?**

How will I respond to his message contained in these living words today?

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What Does It All Mean?

*The following words of reflection are taken from **The Word of the Lord: Reflections on the Sunday Readings** by Philip J. McBrien, Twenty-Third Publications, 1996*

First Reading: Samuel 3: 3-10, 19

At the dawn of Israel's national history, when the ark is housed in a tent at Shiloh, Eli is priest and caretaker. The boy Samuel, fulfillment of a divine promise to his once-barren mother, has been dedicated to the Lord and lives with Eli. The boy awakens three times, and Eli understands the ritual significance: The Lord is calling Samuel. At Eli's instruction the boy listens to God. In verses excluded from this reading, he learns of God's outrage towards, and curse upon, the wicked sons of Eli. In an abrupt conclusion to the reading, Samuel grows up powerful, embraced in the Lord's presence.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20

In the seaport town of Corinth, some of the newly baptized Christians have failed to understand their freedoms. Seaports have always been wide-open places, it seems, and some Christians have assumed that their baptisms permit business as usual. Forcefully, Paul corrects them. The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord. Your bodies are members of Christ's mystical body. Sexual license is a sin against your own body, which is nothing less than a temple of the Holy Spirit. You do not belong to yourself, but to Christ; therefore, conduct yourself to glorify God.

Gospel: John 1:35-42

During this year we read from John occasionally to augment Mark's very short account of the gospel. Here, two of the Baptizer's disciples walk behind Jesus, who turns and asks, "What are you looking for?" Curious about his lodging, these disciples accept Jesus' invitation to "Come and see." One of them, Andrew, brings his brother Simon to Jesus, who names him Cephas, which means, "head" in Greek. And as the evangelist explains, this man is also known as Peter, after the Latin word for "rock." There is literary genius at work here. John has set the first words of Jesus after the prologue that resembles a Greek chorus and an opening scene in which the charismatic Baptizer proclaims the approach of the one who is truly great. These devices invite us into the drama. When we tag along behind Jesus, he asks us, "What are you looking for?" And he invites us, "Come and see." In all the rest of the gospel, throughout the year, and at every moment in our lives, Jesus asks us this same question: What are you looking for? Most people answer only partially, or inadequately, like the Baptizer's disciples who can only think of asking about where Jesus is staying. We devote even long lifetimes to answering again and again Jesus' question.

What are you looking for? To every one of our honest-if-partial answers Jesus invites us: Come and see.

Closing Reflection and Prayer are taken from Ascend: Companion to the Sunday Readings, Life Teen Publications, 2018

Here I Am

Do you look at your prayer life, your Mass attendance, your Scripture study, and other "holy" activities as your pursuit of God? Certainly, we are all pursuing the Lord in our own ways, hopefully daily. That being said, it's one of the greatest mistakes modern Christians make to believe that the Christian life is all about us pursuing God. In reality, Christianity is not about man's pursuit of God but God's pursuit of (and love for) mankind. In the first reading, we are reminded of this fact. Here's Samuel—being discipled by Eli—and quite literally *sleeping* in the temple, the dwelling place of the Lord. From this perspective, one could say that both Eli and Samuel were *seeking the Lord*. In truth, both were responding to the inestimable call of the Lord. The Gospel mirrors and accentuates this point even further as we, again, see God calling out to those whom he desires; this time those individuals are his future apostles. Why does God choose to empower and use imperfect sinners in his mission of salvation? In part, it's because he sees far more in us than we do in ourselves. As St. Paul affirms to the sinful masses in Corinth, we are not merely bodies...we are also souls. God looks at us as living and holy temples, set apart from the world! The Lord is always seeking us, desiring to use us to spread his message of mercy and love. He needs only our humble and joy-filled response that is echoed in the Psalm, "Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will!"

Lord, thank you for meeting me exactly where I am. Thank you for seeking me, even when I am sleeping. Thank you for loving me, even when I am unlovable. You are more than I deserve, yet you give me the great gift of receiving your love each and every day. May I never take for granted the fact that you are always seeking me. In my darkest moments, teach me how to open my arms wide and receive the great wealth of grace you wish to dispose upon me each day. I love you Lord. Amen.