**THE LESSONS, HYMNS, AND PRAYERS,**

**2nd Sunday after Epiphany, Proper 1, Cycle B (January 14, 2018)**

*1 Samuel 3:1-20 (the call of Samuel to be a prophet)*

*Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (I am fearfully and wonderfully made;*

*you knew me in the womb)*

*1 Corinthians 6:12-20 (the body made for the Lord; you are a temple*

*for the Holy Spirit)*

*John 1:43-51 (Jesus calls Philip and Nathaniel)*

Opening hymn: LBW #250, Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty (LSB #901, ELW #533)

*OR LBW #311, Wondrous Are Your Ways, O God – paraphrase of the psalm, but tune wanders a bit.)*

Hymn of the Day: WOV #649, I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

(LSB #411, ELW #815)

OR LBW #455, “Come, Follow Me” the Savior Spake (LSB #688 ELW #799)

OR LSB #589, Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens (*Excellent for tying Old*

*Testament and Gospel together!)*

Communion Hymn #1: LBW #406, Take My Life, That I May Be

(LSB 783/4, Take My Life, and Let It Be, ELW #583, 685. Go figure.)

Communion Hymn #2: WOV #699, Blessed Assurance (ELW #638)

Closing Hymn: WOV #723, The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

OR LBW #239, God’s Word is Our Great Heritage (LSB #582, ELW #509)

**THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Let us lift our hearts, hands, and voices to the Father of light, beseeching him through his Son Jesus to have mercy upon his Church, his world, and his people.

***A brief silence***

Heavenly Father, you called Samuel to be your prophet; and your Son called Philip and Nathaniel to be his disciples. Fill the Church with your Holy Spirit, so that it may always hear and heed Jesus’ call to follow him. Give it bishops, pastors, theologians and leaders who are faithful to your Word; and by the lives of all its people, draw many to trust in Him who is the salvation of the whole world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Search the hearts and minds of your persecuted servants. Purify and perfect them; lead them in your everlasting way. And by their faithful witness, turn the hearts of their tormentor to repentant faith in you. We also ask your blessing upon our sister congregations and companion synods, and upon all missionaries of your Gospel.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Bless, we pray, this congregation as we seek to do your will. Keep us steadfast in faith; conform us ever more closely to Christ our Lord; and through our words and deeds, bring the Gospel to those who need to hear it most.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember with gratitude the life, words, and work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Thank you for raising him up as your servant. Help us to honor him, and to glorify you, by finding good and gracious ways to extend the blessings of liberty, justice, and equality to all people.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You know the inmost thoughts of all; none can flee your presence. Shine the light of your wisdom into the hearts of earthly leaders; teach them your ways; take all wickedness from their hearts; and use them to establish your goodly will among your people. Help each of us to live in peace with our neighbors, striving always to outdo one another in showing honor, kindness and deeds of justice and mercy.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give strength, wisdom and integrity to all whose work is difficult and dangerous, especially first responders and those in the military. Use them to accomplish your will in places of danger and chaos. Gather to yourself those who have given their life in the line of duty. Grant healing to the wounded; patience and hope to their families; and a swift and joyous homecoming to all whose work is not yet done.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Send the power of your Holy Spirit into the hearts of all who suffer, especially {List}. Fill them with health and hope; bless all who minister to them; and let the radiance of your Son’s love gladden their hearts.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Most merciful Father, we thank you for the lives of your faithful servants who have heeded your voice in this life and who now rest in your arms. Grant that we, too, may heed your gracious invitation, given through your dear Son. Make us into living temples of your Spirit. In your good time, gather us into your presence with Samuel and all the faithful people of Israel; with Nathaniel and Philip and all the apostles, martyrs, theologians and saints of your Church. Grant that, with them, we may rejoice forever in the salvation you have accomplished for us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Graciously hear, and generously answer our prayers and petitions, dear Father, as may be best for us and to your greater glory, thorough your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**