

## WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

**THE BIBLE** – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

**GOD** – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

**MAN** – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

**SIN** – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

**REDEMPTION** – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

**FAITH** – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

**THE CHURCH** – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

**SACRAMENTS** – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper communicants receive in, with and under the bread and wine also Christ’s body and blood. Communicants believing this word of promise receive this for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

**SECOND COMING OF CHRIST** – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

**RESURRECTION** – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).

## Second Sunday after Epiphany      January 14, 2024

### INTROIT

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

*I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart;*

*I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;*

*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 after a lie!*

*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.*

**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.**

*I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart;*

*I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation.*

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** *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.*

**G** **Amen**

### GRADUAL

*Psalm 117:1-2a; Psalm 96:8*

*Praise the LORD, all nations!*

*Extol him, all peoples!*

*For great is his steadfast love toward us,  
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.*

*Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts!*

### RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS

After each petition:

**P** *Lord, in Your mercy,*      **G**      **hear our prayer.**

## **1 Samuel 3:1-10 (ESV)**

Now the 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.

<sup>2</sup> At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. <sup>3</sup> The 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. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup> and 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. <sup>6</sup> And 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."

<sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup> And 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. <sup>9</sup> Therefore 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.

<sup>10</sup> And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."

## **1 Corinthians 6:12-20 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. <sup>13</sup> "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. <sup>14</sup> And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. <sup>15</sup> Do 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! <sup>16</sup> Or 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." <sup>17</sup> But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup> Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup> Or 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, <sup>20</sup> for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

## **John 1:43-51 (ESV)**

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip 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." <sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup> Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup> Nathanael 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." <sup>49</sup> Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup> Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater

things than these." <sup>51</sup> And 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."

## THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

1 Samuel 3:1–10 (11–20)

1 Corinthians 6:12–20

John 1:43–51

### ***The Lord God Is with You and Reveals Himself to You by the Preaching of His Word***

The Lord Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael to “*come and see*” that He is “*the Son of God*” and “*the King of Israel*” (John 1:43–49). And they shall see even “*greater things than these*” (John 1:50). For His Body is the Temple of God on earth, and by His priestly sacrifice the heavens will be opened to all who believe and are baptized into Him. Therefore, He calls Philip and Nathanael, first to hear His Word and then to speak as Apostles, even as He once called Samuel and established him “*as a prophet of the Lord*” (1 Sam. 3:20). As the Lord was with the Samuel “*and let none of his words fall to the ground*” (1 Sam. 3:19), He also accompanies and upholds the preachers of His Word in our day. Thus, by the Gospel that is preached to you, “*your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you*” (1 Cor. 6:19). Since your body thus belongs to the Body of Christ, is meant “*for the Lord*,” and shall be raised up like Him, now “*glorify God in your body*” (1 Cor. 6:13–20).

### ***Next Week's Readings from God's Word:***

January 21: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62 (v.8);

1 Corinthians 7:29-31(32-35); Mark 1:14-20