

have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 1: 41, 17

Alleluia, alleluia! / We have found the Messiah: / Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 1: 35-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

They saw where Jesus lived and they stayed with him.

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi' — which means Teacher — 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' — which means the Christ — and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' — meaning Rock.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

17 JANUARY 2021

OUR NEED FOR OTHERS

The readings for today reflect the dynamic nature of the life of faith. It is only gradually that we learn who we are called to be. In this process of growth in understanding, others can help us to appreciate how God is working in our lives and how we are to respond.

While Samuel hears the call and responds to it three times, he needs the help of Eli to recognise the meaning of the voice that comes to him in the night. It is John the Baptist who helps Andrew to come to faith by pointing him in the right direction. For his part Peter receives the new name Cephas and the call to follow, but it is his brother Andrew who has brought him to Jesus and shared his understanding that Jesus is the Messiah.

The gradual process of learning who we are as Christians is reflected in Paul's letter to the Corinthians. Some people in Corinth had come to believe that because they had been baptised, and now shared in the life of the resurrection, whatever they did was acceptable. They even saw casual sex with prostitutes as no impediment to life in the Spirit. While such an attitude may surprise us we need to appreciate that these early Christians, like Paul himself, were learning as they went. As a trustworthy guide Paul sets out to counteract this view by reminding them that their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and that their manner of life should reflect this.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

1 Sam 3: 3-10, 19

A reading from the first book of Samuel

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am.' Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening".' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

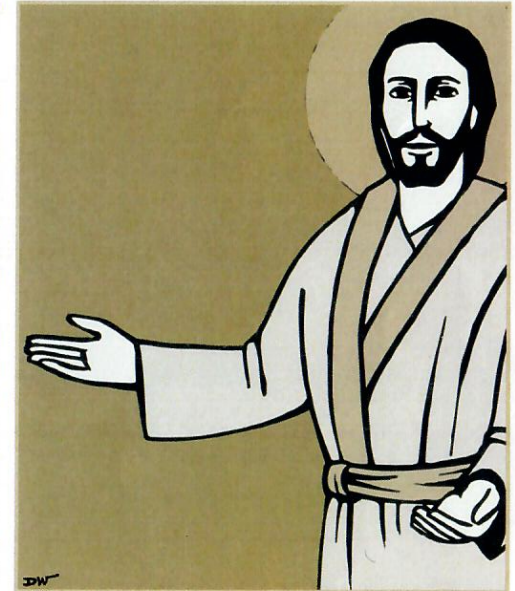
RESPONSORIAL PS Ps 39: 2, 4, 7-10. R. vv. 8, 9

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

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord / and he stooped down to me; / he heard my cry. / He put a new song into my mouth, / praise of our God. **R.**

2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, / but an open ear. / You do not ask for holocaust and victim. / Instead, here am I. **R.**

3. In the scroll of the book it stands written / that I should do your will. / My God, I delight in your law / in the depth of my heart. **R.**



4. Your justice I have proclaimed / in the great assembly. / My lips I have not sealed; / you know it, O Lord. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 6: 13-15, 17-20

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Your bodies are members of the body of Christ.

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God. You are not your own property; you