

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 3, 2018



THE LESSON 1 Samuel 3:1-20

Now the boy Samuel was serving the Lord under Eli. The LORD's word was rare at that time, and visions weren't widely known. ²One day Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak he was unable to see, was lying down in his room. ³God's lamp hadn't gone out yet, and Samuel was lying down in the LORD's temple, where God's chest was.

⁴The LORD called to Samuel. "I'm here," he said.

⁵Samuel hurried to Eli and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go lie down." So he did.

⁶Again the LORD called Samuel, so Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call, my son," Eli replied. "Go and lie down."

(⁷Now Samuel didn't yet know the LORD, and the LORD's word hadn't yet been revealed to him.)

⁸A third time the LORD called Samuel. He got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

Then Eli realized that it was the LORD who was calling the boy. ⁹So Eli said to Samuel, "Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD. Your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down where he'd been.

¹⁰Then the LORD came and stood there, calling just as before, "Samuel, Samuel!"

Samuel said, "Speak. Your servant is listening."

¹¹The LORD said to Samuel, "I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of all who hear it tingle! ¹²On that day, I will bring to pass against Eli everything I said about his household—every last bit of it! ¹³I told him that I would punish his family forever because of the wrongdoing he knew about—how his sons were cursing God, but he wouldn't stop them. ¹⁴Because of that I swore about Eli's household that his family's wrongdoing will never be reconciled by sacrifice or by offering."

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning, then opened the doors of the LORD's house. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel, saying: "Samuel, my son!"

"I'm here," Samuel said.

¹⁷"What did he say to you?" Eli asked. "Don't hide anything from me. May God deal harshly with you and worse still if you hide from me a single word from everything he said to you." ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him.

"He is the LORD," Eli said. "He will do as he pleases."

¹⁹So Samuel grew up, and the LORD was with him, not allowing any of his words to fail. ²⁰All Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was trustworthy as the LORD's prophet.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

LORD, you have examined me.

You know me.

²You know when I sit down and when I stand up.
Even from far away, you comprehend my plans.

³You study my traveling and resting,
You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways.

⁴There isn't a word on my tongue, LORD,
that you don't already know completely.

⁵You surround me—front and back.
You put your hand on me.

⁶That kind of knowledge is too much for me;
it's so high above me that I can't fathom it.

⁷You are the one who created my innermost parts;
you knit me together while I was still in my mother's womb.

⁸I give thanks to you that I was marvelously set apart.
Your works are wonderful—I know that very well.

⁹My bones weren't hidden from you
when I was being put together in a secret place,
when I was being woven together in the deep parts of the earth.

¹⁰Your eyes saw my embryo,
and on your scroll every day was written that was being formed for me,
before any one of them had yet happened.

¹¹God, your plans are incomprehensible to me!
Their total number is countless!

¹²If I tried to count them—they outnumber grains of sand!
If I came to the very end—I'd still be with you.

THE EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 4:5-12

We don't preach about ourselves. Instead, we preach about Jesus Christ as Lord, and we describe ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶God said that light should shine out of the darkness. He is the same one who shone in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in clay pots so that the awesome power belongs to God and doesn't come

from us. ⁸We are experiencing all kinds of trouble, but we aren't crushed. We are confused, but we aren't depressed. ⁹We are harassed, but we aren't abandoned. We are knocked down, but we aren't knocked out.

¹⁰We always carry Jesus' death around in our bodies so that Jesus' life can also be seen in our bodies.

¹¹We who are alive are always being handed over to death for Jesus' sake so that Jesus' life can also be seen in our bodies that are dying.

¹²So death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

THE GOSPEL Mark 2:23-3:6

Jesus went through the wheat fields on the Sabbath. As the disciples made their way, they were picking the heads of wheat. ²⁴The Pharisees said to Jesus, "Look! Why are they breaking the Sabbath law?"

²⁵He said to them, "Haven't you ever read what David did when he was in need, when he and those with him were hungry? ²⁶During the time when Abiathar was high priest, David went into God's house and ate the bread of the presence, which only the priests were allowed to eat. He also gave bread to those who were with him."

²⁷Then he said, "The Sabbath was created for humans; humans weren't created for the Sabbath. ²⁸This is why

the Human One is Lord even over the Sabbath."

³Jesus returned to the synagogue. A man with a withered hand was there. ⁴Wanting to bring charges against Jesus, they were watching Jesus closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. ⁵He said to the man with the withered hand, "Step up where people can see you." ⁶Then he said to them, "Is it legal on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they said nothing. ⁷Looking around at them with anger, deeply grieved at their unyielding hearts, he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he did, and his hand was made healthy. ⁸At that, the Pharisees got together with the supporters of Herod to plan how to destroy Jesus.