DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
EPIPHANY 2 —YEAR B

INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father
and of the Son +
and of the Holy Spirit.

G: Amen

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 67

A: Let the people praise you, O God.
Let all the people praise you.

L: May God be gracious to us and bless us

G: and make his face shine upon us;

L: may your ways be known on earth,

G: your salvation among all nations.

L: May the nations be glad and sing for joy,

G: for you rule the peoples justly
and guide the nations of the earth.

L: Then the land will yield its harvest,

G: and God, our God, will bless us.

L: God will bless us,

G: and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

A: Let the people praise you, O God.
Let all the people praise you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

READING & MEDITATION *see next page*

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

A: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

VERSE OF THE DAY

A: He said to me, "You are my servant in whom I will display my splendor." (Isaiah 49:3 cf. NIV)

BENEDICTION

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

A: Amen

Devotional material taken from Jonathan E. Schroeder, *Year A*. Jonathan E. Schroeder, ed., *Planning Christian Worship* (WELS Commission on Worship, 2010). *Visit www.BreadForBeggars.com for more resources.*

READING AND MEDITATION:

Second Sunday after the Epiphany: It is in the Word that we hear the call of God that has in it the secret power of God to give what he commands. He commands: *Believe!* and the Word creates faith. He says, *Follow me!* and the Word creates the desire and the ability to follow him. That he should consider it glorious to call sinners, is that not an amazing thing? That he should attach such power to his Word that we answer the call, is that not a wonder that lasts an eternity for each of us?

As you study this week, seek to find the *connecting theme* in all the lessons by using Luther's Four Big Barber Questions to ponder and discuss each individual reading:

1. *What is God saying to me in this lesson?*
2. *For what does this lesson lead me to give thanks?*
3. *What sins does this lesson lead me to confess?*
4. *For what does this lesson lead me to pray?*

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 1:43-51

There is always a miraculous element in the call of Jesus. For anyone looking at him on the basis of appearance or reason will say what Nathanael said and turn away. In Nathanael's case Jesus read from a distance the thoughts of Nathanael and then promised even more wondrous things; he promised that Nathanael with the eyes of faith would see heaven opened and Jesus as the ladder to heaven in fulfillment of Jacob's dream in Genesis 28. But it is all invisible to reason and to the naked eye. Nathanael was astonished by what he saw in Jesus' demonstration of omniscience, but he believed on the basis of a promise whose fulfillment was shrouded in the future and would never be visible to the human eye. Anyone who thinks that God is far and distant should consider that if he believes the gospel, it is because God is near at hand. He worked and still sustains that faith each moment by his glorious Word.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: 1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

The call of God to Samuel initially required no work on Samuel's part. But like the call in the gospel lesson it implies a following that is not going to be easy. If Nathanael and the other disciples will follow Jesus who seems like nothing to reason and to the eyes, they will all need to listen carefully to that Word. Otherwise the difficulties to come will overcome them. Thus as Mary gave us a model of submission in Advent, so Samuel does in Epiphany: *Speak, for your servant is listening!* That remains the first and most important part of following. How many when confronted by difficulty in the Word or in life would rather say, *Listen Lord, for your servant is speaking?* But this is one of the amazing things in Jesus' call to us: It creates a willingness to say: *I don't know what is coming and what you will require of me; but whatever it is, I want to listen to you and to follow you!* If someone else asked that of you, you would call him a fool for seeking a promise to follow when you don't know the road or the cost of the journey.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

The call is to be God's temple and dwelling place on earth. Jesus was God's temple and dwelling place on earth during his earthly ministry. And now, because he dwells in us by faith, through his presence in the Word and sacraments, that's what we have become. Such an intimacy is intimidating and a horror to the flesh. But it is an intimacy that is real. An evidence of its reality is our struggle to be the temples that we are by maintaining sexual purity. How difficult that call is in our day! How desperately we need his presence and the reminder of his presence in us, in his temples, to heed that call! Only the recalling of the price can make it so.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:
2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-17

The call to faith was glorious in grace and in the power to accomplish its intended purpose. It is the sanctifying work of the Spirit in the Word that calls and creates faith. The call remains glorious when it is translated into the life that follows faith. For that life always has its source, its inspiration, its direction, its strength to persevere in the Word. Just think of it: the Word gives us a share in the glory of Christ and the strength to remain steadfast to the end. But, again, it is all hidden except to the eyes of faith in those whom he has called *(cum affectu et effectu)*.

My takeaways:

What major theme(s) connect(s) all the lessons?