

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR B

### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Loving God,  
through Jesus  
you call us to love you  
and everybody in this world.  
Make us wide awake  
to your voice  
and always prepared  
to do what pleases you.  
We ask this  
through Jesus, your Son.

### FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

Our readings this Sunday focus on "call and response." The emphasis in the call of Samuel is on listening: "Speak to me, God, I am listening." Samuel is called to be a prophet—one who must constantly listen to God in order to truly speak for God. The emphasis in the Gospel is on *seeing*; "come and see." To "see" means more than to view with the physical eye. Biblically, it means "perceiving with the eye of faith." The disciples must "see" that Jesus is the Messiah and follow him in faith. Samuel hears and responds. The disciples drop everything to "come and see."

Our prayer response draws us personally into the theme:

- You ask me to listen.
- Here I am, I come to do your will.

The prophet/disciple has only one goal—to proclaim and live the will of God. This theme of "call and response" will continue through the fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time and will recur throughout this season which presents the public life and ministry of Jesus.

### FIRST READING: *I Samuel 3:1-11*

*This is a reading from the first book of Samuel*

A long time ago, in Jerusalem, there lived a priest named Eli, who was very old and was going blind. A young boy named Samuel looked after him and was ministering with him in the Temple. Samuel's ministry was to keep the Temple light burning.

One night, when Samuel was about to go to sleep, God called his name,

"Samuel! Samuel!"

Samuel got up and ran to Eli and said,

"Here I am. You called me."

But Eli said,

"I didn't call you. Go back to sleep."

So Samuel went to sleep. But God called to him again

"Samuel! Samuel!"

Samuel went back to Eli and said,

"Here I am. You called me."

Eli said,

"I didn't call you. Go back to sleep."

Now Samuel did not know that it was God calling him. And when God called the third time,

"Samuel! Samuel!"

He again ran to Eli and said,

"Here I am. You called me."

Then Eli understood that it was God who was calling Samuel. So he said,

"Go back to sleep. And if someone calls you again, answer, 'Speak to me, Lord, I am listening.'"

So Samuel went back to the Temple to go to sleep. And again God called his name,

"Samuel! Samuel!"

He answered,

"Speak to me, Lord, I am listening!"

As Samuel grew up, God stayed very close to him and made him a great leader of the people.

*This is the Word of God.*

## RESPONSE: *Psalm 40*

RESPONSE:  
Here I am O my God. I come to do your will.

VERSES:  
1. I wait-ed pa-tient-ly.— You turned your face to me.—  
2. I love your law, O God,— it makes my heart re-joice.—  
3. A new song I will sing:— your love is won-der-ful.—

to Response

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

① "Come and see, come and see, come and fol-low Je-sus.

②

③ He is the Mes-si-ah," al-le-lu-ia.

④

## GOSPEL: *John 1:35-42*

*This is a reading from the Gospel of John.*

When John the Baptist was in Bethany with two of his disciples, he saw Jesus walking by, and said,

"Look! There is the Lamb of God!"

The two disciples who were with John heard what he said and began to follow Jesus. When Jesus turned around and saw them following him, he asked them,

"What do you want?"

They answered, "Rabbi (this word means teacher), where do you live?"

Jesus said, "Come and see!"

So they went with Jesus. Now, it was about four o'clock in the afternoon and so they stayed with him for the rest of that day.

One of the two who followed him was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. So the next morning, the first thing Andrew did was find his brother Simon and tell him,

"We have found the Messiah!"

When Andrew brought Simon to Jesus, Jesus looked at him and said,

"You are Simon, the son of John. But from now on you will be called Peter."

*This is the Good News of the Lord.*

## REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

For this Sunday, we suggest that you do the reflections on each of the readings separately. The story of Samuel is long, but it is also one that children usually enjoy and so will be well worth separate consideration before going on to the Gospel.

After the first reading, ask the children to recall the story of Samuel. It is always best to give the children time to retell the story from what they remember. If they have difficulty recalling, you might lead them with questions such as:

- Where was Samuel?
- What was his ministry?
- Who is Eli?
- What did Samuel hear?
- What did Eli tell Samuel to do?
- What are the words Samuel said when he heard the voice the third time?

Remind the children that Samuel was called to be a prophet to his people.

- Why is it important for a prophet to "listen"?

Help the children to see that the prophet is one who speaks for God and therefore must always listen to God. You may wish to sing the Psalm Response again.

After reading the Gospel, ask the children what they remember of John the Baptist from Advent. Again, if necessary, help them to recall what they heard in the story.

- What did John call Jesus?
- What did Jesus ask the two disciples who were following him?
- When they asked "where do you live?" what did Jesus answer?
- What other disciples were called in this story?

Help the children to understand that to "see" means more than physical sight.

- How else do we use the word "see"?
- What did Jesus mean?
- What did Andrew do after he "saw"?

Help them come to understand that as disciples we listen, see and tell others.

*Note: If you choose to reflect on only one of the readings, we suggest the story of Samuel. There are very few stories involving children in the Scriptures and the children love to talk about them. Since the theme is the same in both readings, the children will profit from hearing the Gospel proclaimed even if reflections are not made specifically on it.*