



AMDG  
2ND SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
YEAR B  
14TH JANUARY 2018



**Here I am Lord!**

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things,  
both in heaven and on earth,  
mercifully hear the pleading of your people  
and bestow your peace on our times.

Christ calls us to follow him. The readings for this Sunday invite us to listen for Christ calling us.

Samuel, in the *First Reading*, responds willingly to the call of God, at first thinking it is his master Eli. Eli leads him to the truth, and teaches him to listen with an open heart. Samuel grows strong in the love of God and his holy word.

This is what God asks of us: an open heart to wait for the Lord; an open ear to listen; an open spirit to respond to the Lord's will. (*Psalms*).

St Paul, writing to the Corinthians (*Second Reading*), reminds us that we are one in mind, body, and spirit with Christ. The Holy Spirit dwells within the heart of the believer. This knowledge will guide our actions and prompt us to desire only that which will deepen our love of God.

In the *Gospel*, John the Baptist recognises who Jesus truly is. John's witness to his disciples leads them to follow Jesus. Jesus asks them what they desire. Their answer may seem unusual to us, but Jesus invites them to 'come and see', and experience for themselves his love in action. These first followers cannot keep the Good News to themselves, but invite others to come and see, and to listen.

Let us ask for the grace to hear God calling us, and to be ready to respond to that call with an open and willing heart. Whom can we invite to come and see?

## FIRST READING: 1 SAMUEL 3: 3–10, 19

**S**amuel 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.

As I come to my place of prayer, I ask for the grace to listen.

I may want to begin my prayer with the response of today’s Psalm:

*Here I am Lord, I come to do your will.*

In order to be fully present to God, I let my mind settle on the rhythm of my breath, letting go of thoughts and distractions as best I can.

When I am ready, I read the text slowly, allowing images from the scene to come alive in my imagination.

What do I notice about the relationships between Eli, Samuel and the Lord?  
Why is Samuel so willing to respond to the call he hears?

I share my thoughts with the Lord.

I slowly read the text again. This time I place myself in the scene, and imagine it is me attending Eli in the temple. I hear my own name being called and go to Eli, and I listen to what he says.

I hear God calling my name. I say, ‘*Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.*’

I wait on the Lord and I listen.

Samuel cherished the word of God. What words of God do I hold dear to my heart? I tell God why they are special to me and I thank God for them.

I slowly draw my prayer to a close, making a prayerful sign of the cross.

## GOSPEL: JOHN 1: 35–42

**A**s 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.

Setting time aside, I go to my place of prayer and gently bring myself into the presence of God. Looking back on the last few days, I ponder where I noticed God alongside me. When did God seem distant?

I place my thoughts and feelings before God, knowing that he loves and accepts me as I am.

I take my time as I read the Gospel text. I let my imagination create the scene before me. Perhaps I see the events unfold as a bystander, or maybe I place myself in the heart of the story ... taking on the role of one of the disciples, speaking their words.

I see Jesus turning around and looking deeply into my being ... and I hear his words as if they were spoken to me: ‘[my name], what do you want?’ I pause before responding ... What do I desire from God ...?

What does God desire for me?

How do I respond?

I see and hear Jesus say to me: ‘[my name], come and see.’

Where does Jesus lead me? What does Jesus want me to see?

Andrew went off to share the good news with his brother – whom can I bring to Jesus? How will I do this?

I talk to Jesus as I would to a close friend about this time of prayer.

When I am ready, I finish my prayer by saying *Our Father* ...

## Here's a text if you've only got a minute ...

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

*First Reading*

Here I am Lord! I come to do your will..

*Psalm Response*

We have found the Messiah – which means the Christ –  
grace and truth have come through him.

*Gospel*

*This week's texts if you want to reflect further*  
*1 Samuel 3: 3–10, 19; Psalm 39 (40);*  
*1 Corinthians 6: 13–15, 17–20; John 1: 35–42*



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