

Prairieland Parish

As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.
May we together experience the presence of God

*****.

We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord



Prelude – Welcome - Announcements

Do you know what it is like to be chosen? Our texts today is about being chosen by God. Most of us don't think that we were chosen, certainly not to be king like David. But surely, we chose the jobs that we do and the hobbies that we pursue and the service that we perform, didn't we? But God chose too. And not just in the past tense, God is still choosing.

Too often we think of being chosen by God as something for other people, for special ones like saints or clergy or mission workers or something. So, let's explore the idea of vocation. Vocation means to call. A vocation is a calling in the purest sense of the word.

What is your calling?

Perhaps your vocation is the job that you do to make a living. That sometimes happens. Often, however, we have a job to make money and support our family, but our calling is something else. Maybe some volunteer work in the community or the church. Maybe something done behind the scenes, writing or mentoring, visiting the sick or caring for the church facility. God calls us to all sorts of tasks and opportunities.

As we listen to the gospel text, however, let us discover that sometimes God calls us not to a specific task or job, but to be a living witness.

So, as we worship today, we pray for God to reveal to us our vocation, and at the same time, we pray for opportunities to share what we have already come to understand as our mission and ministry. Let us sing praise to the God who calls and the God who works within us to be sent out to declare the goodness and the ongoing presence of God in our living and our working.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Beloved, the journey of grace takes us to still waters, the valley of the shadow of death, even to tables surrounded by our enemies.

We gather to worship God, our Shepherd, who guides us on the journey.

The journey of grace points us toward the Light so that we may bear the fruit of the Light in all that we do.

We gather to be formed by grace so that our lives may bear the fruit of all that is good and right and true.

The journey of grace calls us to pay attention, to discern what is pleasing to God.

We gather to listen to the Spirit, who empowers us to go from this place to work together to do what is pleasing to God.

Come, let us worship God who provides, inspires, and empowers us on the journey of grace.

Come, let us worship God as we journey in grace together!

Opening Prayer

Loving Shepherd, you know our names; you care for us.

When we face darkness and death, journey alongside us.

When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence.

When we are fearful, feed us at your table.

**May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy
all the days of our lives. Amen.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading..... John 9:1-41

New Revised Standard Version

A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

9 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. 4 We[a] must work the works of him who sent me[b] while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, 7 saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." 10 But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." 12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." 16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. 17 So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight 19 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" 20 His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, 21 but we do not know how it is

that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus[c] to be the Messiah[d] would be put out of the synagogue. 23 Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

24 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” 25 He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” 26 They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” 27 He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” 28 Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” 30 The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. 32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” 34 They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Spiritual Blindness

35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”[e] 36 He answered, “And who is he, sir?[f] Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” 37 Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” 38 He said, “Lord,[g] I believe.” And he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” 40 Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” 41 Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

The Word of God for the People of God, **Thanks be to God!**

FAITH HYMN

“Message”

Joys/Concerns

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/Lord’s Prayer

Gracious God, we pray for our neighbors down the street and around the world who need food, water, clothing, and shelter.

We pray for our neighbors who are in distress, whose bodies and minds need your peaceful and loving presence.

Gracious God, we pray for our neighbors whose lives have been upended by disaster and who are in desperate need of provision and care.

We pray for our siblings who make up the Christian family across the world, that we would be your witnesses and workers for the flourishing of all creation.

Lord we raise to you this day...

Gracious God, we pray that goodness and mercy would follow us all of our days that we might be sharers of goodness and mercy everywhere we go.

Loving God as we come to you this day let us unite in the prayer your beloved Son taught us, Our Father...

Offertory (UM Hymnal 95) Doxology

Offertory Prayer

Generous God, you tenderly care for each person you have created. Guide us so that we will not regard others according to outward appearances but seek to find your love in their hearts. We dedicate our offerings and ourselves to contribute to the work of your kingdom on earth until Christ returns in glory. Amen. (1 Samuel 16:1-13)

Departing Hymn

Benediction

Beloved, may the blessing of God's mercy go before you, behind you, and all around you as we journey in grace, reflecting the Light of new life wherever we go. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**