



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

† Sunday 14th January 2018

Peace Day – Peace on Earth

In England & Wales

Cycle of Prayer – Prayer for Christian Unity

Keynote: Jesus calls us to God's service – 'Come follow me!'

First Book of Samuel 3:3-10,19

The boy Samuel is seen as God's gift to his barren and aged mother Hannah, who names the child 'Samuel', 'since' she said, 'I asked the Lord God for him.' Later, the young boy Samuel – dedicated by his parents to a life of service – goes to live in the Temple. One night – and at a time when it was rare for the Lord God to speak – 'Samuel 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!"' Believing that the old man Eli who was sleeping nearby in the dark had been calling, Samuel runs to him. The old man tells the boy to go back to sleep. But this happens twice more, and then Eli 'understands that it was the Lord calling the boy.' Thus encouraged by the holy man Eli, Samuel responds to the word of God calling him to a new form of service, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening!' As Samuel grows up we are told, 'the Lord is with him, and lets no word of his fall to the ground.' Today we too may have our opportunity to listen to God and to respond in a variety of ways, with a generous heart.

Responsorial Psalm 39 (40) – An individual lament and plea for help

First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20

Paul addresses his words to the people of Corinth, a city-state that had a reputation in ancient times, as 'Sin City'. But life there was probably no better, no worse than any other Mediterranean seaport of the time. The baptised Christian is to recognise that their 'body is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body,' writes the apostle, '...you know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ – anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him' – so the disciple is to stay clear of evil ways, setting an example of wholeness, and put self at the service of God and the community. 'Your body... is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you since you received (the Spirit) from God. You are not your own property... that is why you should use your body for the glory of God.'

Gospel according to John 1:35-42

This passage tells of the call of the first disciples. Two of the disciples of John the Baptist – one of whom we learn subsequently to be Andrew the brother of Simon Peter – on meeting Jesus, accept the invitation to accompany him to his lodgings and stay with him for the rest of that day. 'Early next morning, Andrew met his brother (Simon Peter) and said to him "we have found the Messiah" – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus.' Some commentators see this dialogue as being an expression of the faith of the early Christian community, 'we have found the Messiah'. With them we can acknowledge that we too have found the Christ, for like those first disciples we are invited to know Jesus and to follow him.

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Note: Sunday Reading cycle B continues, and weekday cycle 2 is in use.