

Welcome to Trinity

Luther on John 1:35ff

John 1:35-37, “Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. ³⁶And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, ‘Behold the Lamb of God!’ ³⁷The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.”

But now how do we bring these two reports of Matthew and John into accord? We proceed in the following way: When Christ was baptized by John, He did not have any disciples as yet and now began to preach. He did not behave in an unusual manner; but He was unpretentious, mingled congenially with the people, and associated freely with all. Thus one after the other gradually came to Him and rallied about Him, today one, tomorrow another. John the Evangelist narrates here that after Christ’s Baptism **Andrew** came, others later; thus one after the other found his way to Him, sought His companionship, and eagerly listened to what He said. And these, as you see here, He received in a friendly way. He could adapt himself to the people so that they loved and followed Him.

Thus John’s theme is not the calling of the apostles into office; it is their congenial association with Christ. He wishes to tell us that they joined Him because of His friendly attitude toward the people. Then John the Baptist’s disciples were also motivated by their masters testimony and message about Christ. They heard and saw Christ, learned to know Him, and became personally acquainted with Him. However, these did not immediately become Christ’s disciples, nor did Christ call them into office at this time. After they had formed a friendship with Christ, they left Him and returned home. But later, when Christ came to the Sea of Galilee on His wanderings, He called them into the apostolate. At the time when they saw Christ on the banks of the Jordan, they did not suppose that one day they would become His disciples....

Thus **Andrew**, one of John’s disciples, was the first to come to Christ and make His acquaintance. After this he departed and conversed with his brother Simon. The gist of his words might have been: “Do you want to hear some wonderful news? John, our master,

preached about this man, telling us that He is the Lamb of God and the Messiah.” Without a doubt John had often preached on Christ at great length. **Andrew** had given John’s words credence, and now he came to his brother and said: “We have found the Messiah,” the very man to whom John has pointed and declared that He was the Messiah. **Thus Andrew became the first preacher and witness to the Messiahship of Christ.** This is the message that he relayed to his brother Peter upon meeting him: that he had found Him of whom the Law of Moses and the prophets had written. This took place at Bethsaida, whence Peter and **Andrew**, animated by the conviction that they have found the Messiah foretold by the prophets, set out to come to Christ.

Now when **Andrew** led Peter to Christ, saying: “This is Christ!” the Lord graciously confirmed the words of Andrew as He demonstrated His omniscience. Christ had never seen Peter before, nor had He known his parents or friends. Still He addresses him with the words: “So you are Simon, the son of John? You shall be called Cephas.” These are friendly and companionable words, such as good friends might utter at table. Nothing is said here about St. Peter’s calling or ordination into the apostolate. All we are told is that a new name is assigned to him. Originally he was called Simon; now he shall be known as Cephas. Just as if Christ wanted to say: “I know you very well. Your name is Simon, but henceforth you shall be known throughout the world as Peter.” Thus the first meeting between Christ and Peter came to pass; in it Christ showed forth His divinity, manifesting that despite His human form He was also very God. And when Christ accosted Peter so affably, when He knew his name and conferred a second one, Peter probably felt the urge to say: “**Say, Andrew, those are prophetic words and divine thoughts!**” The words of Christ evoked a high regard in Peter.

Luther, M. (1999, c1957). Vol. 22: Luther's works, vol. 22 : Sermons on the Gospel of St. John: Chapters 1-4 (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed.). Luther's Works (Jn 1:45). Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House. (Luther’s Works vol. 19, p.194)

The Order of Vespers, p. 29

from ASBH The Psalter

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+ “O Lord, open my lips... p.29

+ Psalmody

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St. Matthew 4:18-22,

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“Forever, O Lord...”

Office Hymn

“Jesus Calls Us; o’er the Tumult” ASBH #110

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Collect for Advent (back)

Special Prayers

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Advent Prayer

HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

O Lord Jesus Christ, Thou King of Glory, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Son of the living God and Son of David, we thank Thee that Thou hast enabled us to enter once more upon the holy season of Advent. We are still living in the day of grace, which Thou didst so gloriously prepare by Thine advent into the flesh, and as Thou didst once hold Thine entry into Jerusalem, Thou dost hold Thine entry among us, and dost still come to us by Thy holy Word and Sacraments.

O Thou, our Lord, come now unto Thy Church, which Thou hast purchased with Thy blood. Come with Thy gracious presence, that we may rejoice in Thee. Come and rule over us, that we may serve and follow Thee. Come with Thy love, humility, and perfect obedience, and let Thy lowliness be our glory. Forgive us our sin, and do not in anger cast away Thy servants; for Thou art meek and gracious. Clothe us with the garment of Thy righteousness, for Thou art the Lord our Righteousness. Satisfy us with the abundance of Thy house; for Thou didst become poor for our sakes, that we through Thy poverty might be rich.

Preserve, we beseech Thee, Thy beloved Church among us. Dwell and rule in the hearts of our baptized children. Preserve Thy believers in a state of grace. Strengthen the pastors and teachers of Thy holy Church, that they may proclaim Thy Word with boldness and power to the salvation of many souls, and keep them in purity of doctrine and holiness of life, that they may prepare the way for Thee. Grant that under the protection of our government and civil magistrates Thy Church may thrive and Thy kingdom ever come to us. Make us willing to give up all we possess, if need be, for Thy sake, inasmuch as Thou also for our sakes didst become poor. Bestow upon us, Thy grace, that, as Thy palm trees, we may flourish beneath the very cross, set our affections on things above, and be watchful and ready to receive Thee with gladness and serve Thee with a pure heart, until we shall enter the heavenly Jerusalem and lift up our voices to Thee in everlasting songs of praise. Hear us. Lord Jesus, for Thy holy name's sake. (The Lutheran Liturgy, p.327-328)

Eve of St. Andrew's Day



Ottheinrich Bible 1430 (VIII:22) White Robes Revelation 6

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Ezekiel 3:16-21

16 Now it came to pass at the end of seven days that the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 17 “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: 18 When I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. 19 Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul. 20 Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand. 21 Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also you will have delivered your soul.”

Romans 10:8-18

8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” 12

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” 14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. 18 But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: “Their sound has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.”

St. Matthew 4:18-22

18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” 20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him. 21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.



Office Hymn for Advent

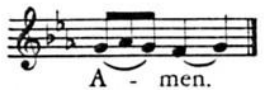
Creator of the Stars of Night



- 2 Thou, grieving that the ancient curse
Should doom to death a universe,
Hast found the healing, full of grace,
To cure and save our ruined race.
- 3 Thou camest, the Bridegroom of the bride,
As drew the world to eventide,
The spotless Victim all divine
Proceeding from a virgin shrine.
- 4 At whose dread name, majestic now,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
All things celestial thee shall own,
And things terrestrial, Lord alone.
- 5 O thou, whose coming is with dread
To judge and doom the quick and dead,
Preserve us from the ancient Foe
While still we dwell on earth below.

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- 6 To God the Father and the Son
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally. Amen.



Text: 9th-century Office hymn; trans. John Mason Neale (1818–66), alt.
Tune: **Conditor alme siderum** (Sarum plainsong, Mode IV)

