

Lectionary Bible Study Our Savior Lutheran, Vero Beach

Epiphany 2B - Jan 17, 2021

Readings:

1 Samuel 3:1-10, Psalm 139: 1-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51

**Live Bible Studies Hosted on Zoom
Wednesdays @ 10:00 AM
More Info & Link at**

www.OurSaviorELCA.com/BibleStudy



Photo by Artist Tom Hussey

Psalm 139:1-18 (NRSV)

- ¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
- ⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"
¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
- ¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.

¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.

Psalm 139 is a beloved psalm. It is technically characterized as a psalm of lament – which may seem confusing based upon the verses listed above. The psalm has an additional 6 verses (not included here), which are never used as part of our worship. (In fact, we rarely use psalms of lament in our worship – what does that say about us?). For today’s purposes, we will focus on the first 18 verses.

Notice that the psalm here is broken into stanzas of 6 verses each. While the stanzas were an addition by an editor, they help us to see the similar themes of each stanza.

Verses 1-6: God’s Omniscience

1. *Who is the focus of this stanza?*
2. *How does it address God’s omniscience?*
 - a. *Notice the pairing of opposites to show the expanse: sit down/rise up, path(work)/lying down(rest)*

Verses 7-12: God’s Omnipresence

3. *Who is the focus of this stanza?*
4. *How does it address God’s omnipresence?*
 - a. *Notice the pairing of opposites here: Heaven/Sheol, morning (East)/sea(West/Mediterranean)*
 - b. *How else do we see darkness and light used in scripture? What is implied?*

Verses 13-18: God’s Careful Creation – God Holds Life in God’s Hands

5. *Who is the focus of this stanza?*
6. *How does it fit with the other 2 stanzas? How is it different?*
7. *How does verse 15 match the creation story in Genesis?*

This sheet begins with an image of an elderly woman seeing her former self in a mirror. She sees herself in a way her caregiver doesn’t. *Have you ever felt truly seen? What does it mean that God truly sees us, perhaps in a way more honest than we see ourselves?*