**Homily for** **the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time***Rev. Francis D. Kim*

 Mark Twain told the story about a man who had memorized the Ten Commandments. He told Twain that his ambition was to go to the Holy Land, climb Mount Sinai, and recite the Ten Commandments aloud. Then, Twain replied the man, “Have you ever thought about just staying home and keeping them?”

 This story may give us a good chuckle, but it is a reminder that God calls us to live, to love, and to serve others right here where we are. We don’t have to travel great distances to look for opportunities to recognize God’s presence because wherever we are, wherever we go, that’s the place where we will find God’s presence in our daily life.

 Today, Jesus begins His public ministry by calling His disciples. We begin our second week of Ordinary Time with beginning of His ministry. His ministry is to make God present in the ordinary events of daily life.

 “What are you looking for?” Jesus asks to us today as He asked John’s disciples. They want to know where Jesus is staying. Jesus invites them to come with Him and see. They meet Jesus face to face and stay with Him.

 We also meet Jesus face to face every day. We know where Jesus is staying. He has turned to us, looked at us, and by His Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist, empowered us to respond to His calling to follow Him.

 That’s why we hear the phrase, ‘Here I am, Lord.’ This phrase echoes repeatedly throughout the first reading today and also in our psalm response. And, in the second reading and again in the Gospel, we see examples of what life should look like for us as Christians. We follow the example of the first disciples in leaving everything behind to walk closely with Jesus.

 We see John the Baptist in action and the fruits of his fidelity to God’s plan. As he discreetly redirects two of his best disciples to follow Jesus, his humility is in full play. Not only does he accept the fact that he must take second stage to Jesus, he actively works for this to happen.

 It can be very difficult for us to seek only God’s glory and the good of those around us. Our hearts easily attach themselves to people, to areas of responsibility, and to the attention we may get because of what we do. But, if we want to do God’s will, we have to know when it is time for us to let go everything. Like John the Baptist, the only thing we should have our hearts set on is establishing God’s kingdom on earth.

 God is calling us in a special way. Sometimes, a single call can change our lives. That’s what Samuel and Peter and Andrew got, a call that changed their lives. God called each one of us. Neither Samuel nor Peter expected it. God calls at any time in any place. Samuel was sleeping at night in the temple when God called. Peter and Andrew the fishermen were probably fishing. God called Peter and Andrew right in the middle of the workday.

 Our personal calls from the Lord may not have been as dramatic as the calls of Samuel, Andrew, and Peter. But, we were called to do something for God. God called Samuel to be His prophet, God called Peter and Andrew to be His Apostles, God called each of us to build up His kingdom. No matter who we are, where we are from, and what we have done, God equips each and every one of us with unique gifts and talents that we can offer in the service of building up His kingdom here on earth. It is our mission and destiny.

 Let’s begin today to let God work in, on, with, and through us to accomplish His plan for us as individuals as well as for our community.

 As we continue our celebration of the Eucharist, and as we are invited forward in a few minutes to receive the Body of Christ, may we respond with all our hearts, “Here I am, Lord. I come to do your will.”

 May we be nourished and strengthened by this sacred meal to go forth and do God’s will as the disciples Christ desires today. We are called.

 Jesus invites everyone for staying with Him and working with Him. And, He calls us to come and see what He has planned for us. This invitation leads us to eternal happiness.

 Jesus says to us today, “Come, and you will see.”