

CREATION AND VOCATION

Isaiah 45:18-19

Thus says the Lord, the Creator of the heavens,
- he is God, who shaped the earth and made it,
who set it firm,
who did not create it to be chaos,
but formed it to be lived in -
I am the Lord, and there is no other;
I have not spoken in secret,
in some dark corner of the underworld.
I did not say: *Children of Jacob,*
search for me in chaos!
I am the Lord: I proclaim saving justice:
I say what is true.

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Now the boy Samuel was serving the Lord in the presence of Eli the priest; in those days it was rare for the Lord to speak; visions were uncommon. One day it happened that Eli was lying down in his room. His eyes were beginning to grow dim; he could no longer see. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying in the Lord's sanctuary, where the Ark of God was, when the Lord called: *Samuel! Samuel!* He answered: *Here I am!* and running to Eli, he said, *Here I am since you called me.* Eli said, *I did not call. Go back and lie down.* So he went back and lay down. And again the Lord called: *Samuel! Samuel!* He got up and went to Eli and said, *Here I am, since you called me.* He replied, *I did not call, my son; go back and lie down.* As yet, Samuel had no knowledge of the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, *here I am, since you called me.* Eli then understood that the Lord was calling the child, and he said: *Go and lie down, and if someone calls, say: Speak, Lord! Your servant is listening.* So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before: *Samuel! Samuel!* Samuel answered, *Speak, Lord! Your servant is listening.*