Narrator: A reading from the first book of Samuel,

Narrator: The boy Samuel was serving the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room. Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord.

Narrator: Then the Lord called,

Lord: "Samuel! Samuel!"

Narrator: and Samuel ran to Eli and said,

Samuel: "Here I am! Here I am, for you called me."

Narrator: But Eli said,

Eli: "I did not call; lie down again."

Narrator: So Samuel went and lay down. The Lord called again,

Lord: "Samuel!"

Narrator: Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said,

Samuel: "Here I am, for you called me."

Narrator: The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said,

Samuel: "Here I am, for you called me."

Narrator: Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. He said to Samuel,

Eli: "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'"

Narrator: So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before,

Lord: "Samuel! Samuel!"

Narrator: And Samuel said,

Samuel: "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Narrator: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!