

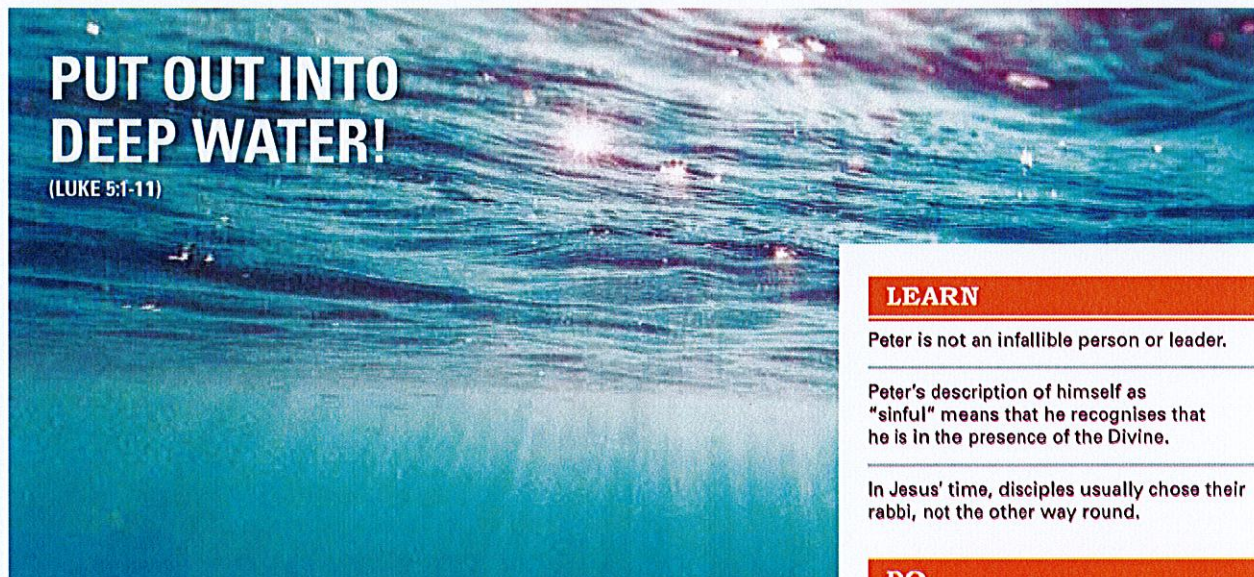
6 FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday Message

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • Psalter Week 1



PUT OUT INTO DEEP WATER!

(LUKE 5:1-11)

Our Gospel reading today presents the calling of Jesus' first disciples. Jesus teaches the crowd from Simon's boat then tells him to cast his net for a netting of fish.

We learn that Simon and his companions have spent a fruitless night in such activity, but the captain puts his trust in the word of Jesus the rabbi and does as he instructs. The result is overwhelming.

This is the first personal appearance of Simon Peter. His reaction to this revealing of the power of Jesus is twofold: first, he acknowledges that Jesus has divine power; he addresses him this time, not as Rabbi or Master, but as "Lord"; then he describes himself as "a sinful man". This does not mean that he is morally at fault in some way, but is the biblical way of describing the human person's feeling of awe when confronted by the Divine – as in the vision of Isaiah in the Temple.

Secondly, Peter asks Jesus to leave him, but ends up following him into the unknown. He thus represents the sinful person who responds positively to the person and message of Jesus. As a professional fisherman, he did not have much faith in Jesus' command to repeat the efforts of the night before, but had enough trust to do so and was overcome and converted by the outcome. The scene is set for Peter to become the spokesperson and leader of the disciples. ■

LEARN

Peter is not an infallible person or leader.

Peter's description of himself as "sinful" means that he recognises that he is in the presence of the Divine.

In Jesus' time, disciples usually chose their rabbi, not the other way round.

DO

If you disagree with anything your priest says, speak to him and discuss the matter with him. It is your right and responsibility.



SAY

I call you friends, says the Lord.

(John 15:15)

REFLECT

In Jewish culture, it was the practice for people to decide which rabbi's congregation they decided to join as they identified most closely with that person's interpretation of the scriptures. The unusual aspect of Jesus' gathering of disciples is that he calls them, rather than they presenting themselves to him.

Simon Peter is an important and interesting character in the Gospel tradition. In our episode today, he represents someone confronted with the person of Jesus, who undergoes a profound conversion and change of life.

He and the others "left everything and followed [Jesus]". Luke, in his writings, shows a deep suspicion of possessions and riches, seeing them as an obstacle to a proper commitment to Jesus and his teachings. Most of Jesus' disciples were family folk who had to provide for their children, so it is more the judicious use of material goods which is at issue, not the complete renunciation of them – as though that were possible.

Simon Peter is also a sympathetic character who attracts much affection because he is so obviously human. He is

a fallible person who is always getting it wrong, who is guided more by his heart than his head. It is his obvious attachment to Jesus which brings him through in the end. He is "sinful" only in the sense that he acknowledges that he is simply a human being in the presence of the Divine, so in that he is an example of faith and trust for us all.

The abundance of the catch is due to Peter's trust in Jesus. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing
care,
that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly
grace,
they may be defended always by your
protection...
Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 6:1-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the
Lord seated on a high throne; his train filled the
sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one
with six wings.

And they cried out one to another in this
way,

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.
His glory fills the whole earth."

The foundations of the threshold shook with
the voice of the one who cried out, and the
Temple was filled with smoke. I said:

"What a wretched state I am in! I am lost,
for I am a man of unclean lips
and I live among a people of unclean lips,
and my eyes have looked at the King, the
Lord of hosts."

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding
in his hand a live coal which he had taken
from the altar with a pair of tongs. With this he
touched my mouth and said:

"See now, this has touched your lips,
your sin is taken away,
your iniquity is purged."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying:

"Whom shall I send? Who will be our
messenger?"

I answered, "Here I am, send me."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 137

Response:

Before the angels I will bless you, O Lord.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.

Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)

3. All earth's kings shall thank you
when they hear the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the Lord's ways:
"How great is the glory of the Lord!" (R.)

4. You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

(For shorter form, read between > <)

>A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians.<

Brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I
preached to you, the gospel that you received
and in which you are firmly established;
because the gospel will save you only if you
keep believing exactly what I preached to
you – believing anything else will not lead to
anything.

Well then, >in the first place, I taught you
what I had been taught myself, namely that
Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the
scriptures; that he was buried; and that he was
raised to life on the third day, in accordance
with the scriptures; that he appeared first to
Cephas and secondly to the Twelve. Next he
appeared to more than five hundred of the
brothers at the same time, most of whom are
still alive, though some have died; then he
appeared to James, and then to all the apostles;
and last of all he appeared to me too; it was as
though I was born when no one expected it.<

I am the least of the apostles; in fact, since I
persecuted the Church of God, I hardly deserve
the name apostle; but by God's grace that is
what I am, and the grace that he gave me has
not been fruitless. On the contrary, I, or rather
the grace of God that is with me, have worked
harder than any of the others; >but what
matters is that I preach what they preach, and
this is what you all believed.

The word of the Lord.<
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 5:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.

Jesus was standing one day by the lake of
Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round
him listening to the word of God, when he
caught sight of two boats close to the bank.
The fishermen had gone out of them and were
washing their nets. He got into one of the boats
– it was Simon's – and asked him to put out
a little from the shore. Then he sat down and
taught the crowds from the boats.

When he had finished speaking he said
to Simon, "Put out into deep water and pay
out your nets for a catch." "Master," Simon
replied "we worked hard all night long and
caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out
the nets." And when they had done this they
netted such a huge number of fish that their
nets began to tear so they signalled to their

companions in the other boat to come and help
them; when these came, they filled two boats to
sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the
knees of Jesus saying "Leave me, Lord; I am
a sinful man." For he and all his companions
were completely overcome by the catch they
had made; so also were James and John,
sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners.
But Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid;
from now on it is men you will catch." Then,
bringing their boats back to land, they left
everything and followed him.
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the
Father;

through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(all bow during the next three lines)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin
Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of
life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic
Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O Lord, our God,
who once established these created things
to sustain us in our frailty,
grant, we pray,
that they may become for us now
the Sacrament of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who have willed that we be partakers
in the one Bread and the one Chalice,
grant us, we pray, so to live
that, made one in Christ,
we may joyfully bear fruit
for the salvation of the world.
Amen.