

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 10, 2019– Good Shepherd Parish

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8

In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, with the train of his garment filling the temple. Seraphim were stationed above. They cried one to the other, “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts! All the earth is filled with his glory!” At the sound of that cry, the frame of the door shook and the house was filled with smoke. Then I said, “Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!” Then one of the seraphim flew to me, holding an ember that he had taken with tongs from the altar. He touched my mouth with it, and said, “See, now that this has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed, your sin purged.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?” “Here I am,” I said; “send me!”

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8 (1c) **In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.**

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart,
for you have heard the words of my mouth;
in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;
I will worship at your holy temple
and give thanks to your name.

Because of your kindness and your truth;
for you have made great above all things
your name and your promise.
When I called, you answered me;
you built up strength within me.

All the kings of the earth shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
when they hear the words of your mouth;
and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD:
“Great is the glory of the LORD.”

Your right hand saves me.
The LORD will complete what he has done for me;
your kindness, O LORD, endures forever;
forsake not the work of your hands.

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

I am reminding you, brothers and sisters, of the gospel I preached to you, which you indeed received and in which you also stand. Through it you are also being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures; that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. After that, Christ appeared

to more than five hundred brothers at once, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. After that he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one born abnormally, he appeared to me. For I am the least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been ineffective. Indeed, I have toiled harder than all of them; not I, however, but the grace of God that is with me. Therefore, whether it be I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” Simon said in reply, “Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets.” When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that the boats were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.” For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

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Prayer

Father, the world is hurting,
and whether it realizes it or not,
it needs Jesus. Unfortunately,
many don't always find him.
May I not be a stumbling block.
Help me live for him by giving to others
even at the cost of sacrifice.
With your grace, that is possible.
Amen.

Reflection: Into the Deep

Simon Peter, the fisherman, is the first to be called personally by Jesus in Luke's Gospel. His calling resembles Isaiah's commissioning in the First Reading: confronted with the holiness of the Lord, both Peter and Isaiah are overwhelmed by a sense of their own sinfulness and inadequacy. Yet each experiences the Lord's forgiveness and is sent to preach the good news of His mercy to the world. No one is "fit to be called an apostle," Paul recognizes in today's Epistle. But by "the grace of God," even a persecutor of the Church—as Paul once was—can be lifted up for the Lord's service.

In the Old Testament, humanity was unfit for the divine—no man could stand in God's presence and live (But my face you cannot see, for no man sees me and still lives Exodus 33:20). But in Jesus, we're made able to speak with Him face-to-face, to taste His Word on our tongue.

Today's scene from Isaiah is recalled in every Mass. Before reading the Gospel, the priest silently asks God to cleanse his lips that he might worthily proclaim His Word. God's Word comes to us as it came to Peter, Paul, Isaiah, and today's Psalmist—as a personal call to leave everything and follow Him, to surrender our weaknesses in order to be filled with His strength.

Simon put out into deep waters even though, as a professional fisherman, he knew it would be foolhardy to expect to catch anything. In humbling himself before the Lord's command, he was exalted—his nets filled to overflowing; later, as Paul tells us, he will become the first to see the risen Lord.

Jesus has made us worthy to receive Him in the company of angels in God's holy Temple. On our knees like Peter, with the humility of David in today's Psalm, we thank Him with all our hearts and join in the unending hymn that Isaiah heard around God's altar: "Holy, holy, holy . . ." (Each of the four living creatures had six wings and eyes all over, inside and out. Day and night, without pause, they sung: "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, He who was, and who is, and who is to come Rev 4:8).

- *Scott Hahn, PhD*

Reflection Questions:

- First Reading: God had some big tasks in mind for Isaiah, Paul and Peter. What might be some small things or baby steps that God could call us to do first, until we get used to saying yes to bigger tasks?
- Second Reading: Paul persecuted the Church but then, because of grace, he became a great minister of Christ. Was he given the grace solely for his own benefit? Explain.
- Gospel: Where did Peter have to go before he could catch fish in the lake? Where did he have to go in his personal life before he could "catch" people for God? Was everything up to him or did Peter receive extraordinary help? When are you on the shore and when are you in the deep?

Prayer to St. Michael

St. Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the evil spirits
who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.