

## 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. ■

### 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

### 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)

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.