

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come follow me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of my people.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke.

They left everything and followed him.

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 boat.

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
boats to come and help them; when these came,
they filled the 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.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

6 FEBRUARY 2022

APOSTLES OF THE LORD

All the readings for today share a sense of awe
and wonder as Isaiah, Peter, and Paul reflect
on their respective vocations. In their own
ways, each of them has to come to terms with
their unworthiness to undertake the mission
they have been given. Having seen the living
God in a vision, Isaiah knew he was unworthy.
However, once he had been purified, he was
able to respond willingly and generously
to God’s call. In the face of the miraculous
catch of fish, Peter pleads with the Lord that
he would depart from him. He knows he is
a sinner and yet the Lord will make use of
him as one who will be catching people for the
kingdom of God.

Paul understood that of all the people
who bore the name apostle, he was the
most unworthy. He makes mention of his
persecution of Christians before his conversion
in 1 Corinthians 15:9, Galatians 1:13,23,
and Philippians 3:6. The damage that he had
inflicted was to become a powerful stimulus
for his tireless missionary endeavours. In
today’s reading, Paul reminds the Corinthians
of the message they had received concerning
the resurrection by drawing upon one of the
earliest creeds. Some of the members of the
community had mistakenly come to think
that they already shared fully in the life of
the resurrection. Their baptism had immersed
them in the mystery of the death and
resurrection of Jesus Christ, but Paul knew
that Christians would need to wait until Jesus’
return to experience this fully.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 6:1-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Here am I! Send me.

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 137:1-5, 7-8. R. v. 1

**R. In the sight of the angels I will sing
your praises, 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 Cor 15:3-8, 11

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to
the Corinthians

*I preach what they preach, and this is what you
believe.*

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.

But what matters is that I preach what they
preach, and this is what you all believed.

■ The word of the Lord.

Longer form, 1 Cor 15:1-11.