

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God of the peoples,
it is your desire
that the whole world
should hear
the message of Jesus.
Put your power into our lives
and send us out to do your work.
We make this prayer to you
through Christ our Lord.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

Both of our readings focus on call and response. Both Isaiah and Simon (Peter) acknowledge unworthiness even to be in the presence of God. After admitting their sinfulness, each receives the call to act in God's name.

Isaiah's confession finds immediate forgiveness, and he hears God's call: "Whom shall I send? Who will go for me?" Filled with God's grace, Isaiah responds, "Here I am! Send me."

Simon (Peter) too, having witnessed the power of Jesus, confesses his sin and receives immediate forgiveness followed by the call, "Do not be afraid" and "From now on you will be gathering people (for me), not fish." As in the case with Isaiah, Simon (Peter), filled with grace, can respond by leaving everything to follow Jesus.

*Who will go for me? Here I am!
Send me. And they left everything to
follow Jesus.*

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

One day, when I was in the temple, (I had a vision.)
I saw God sitting on a high throne,
and there were angels standing all around it.
One angel called to another,

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord!
The whole earth is full of God's glory!"

When the angel spoke,
the doors of the temple shook.
And the temple filled with smoke.

Then I said,

"I am a sinner, and my people are sinful people,
and yet I have seen God. Now I am doomed."

Then one of the angels came to me
holding a piece of burning coal.
The angel touched my mouth
with the hot coal and said,

"Now that this has touched your mouth,
your sin is forgiven."

Then I heard the voice of God say,

"Who will go and speak for me?
Who will I send?"

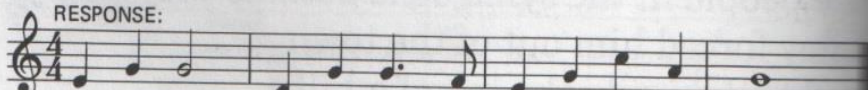
And I answered,

"I am here! Send me."

The Word of the Lord.


RESPONSE: *Psalm 40*

RESPONSE:



Here I am, O my God, I come to do your will.

VERSES:



1. You have put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to you.
2. I pro-claim your kind-ness. I will sing, your love is won-der-ful.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

1. Je - sus said: "From now on you will be
2. Al - le - lu - ia! "You will be

1-2 gath - er - ing peo - ple in." peo - ple in."

GOSPEL: *Luke 5:1-11*

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

One day when Jesus was standing on the shore beside Lake Gennesaret, he saw two boats by the lake.

The fishermen were busy washing their nets. Jesus got into the boat that belonged to Simon, and he said to him,

"Row the boat out where the water is deep. Put your nets into the water, and you will catch some fish."

Simon said,

"Master, we fished all night long and didn't catch anything! But if you say so, we will try again now."

So they put their nets into the deep water.

Soon they caught so many fish that their nets began to tear.

They called to their partners in the other boat to come and help them.

James and John came, and both boats were so full of fish that they almost sank.

James and John were amazed at what happened.

When Simon saw how many fish they caught, he fell down in front of Jesus and said,

"Lord, go away from me! I am a sinner!"

But Jesus said to Simon,

"Don't be afraid!

From now on you will be gathering people, not fish!"

They brought their boats onto the shore and left everything to follow Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

Last week we saw that God's call is not limited to age or location. In today's readings we hear that God calls even those who feel unworthy because of their sinfulness.

Help the children recall the story of Isaiah. Help them see that Isaiah confessed his sin because he saw how holy God is. But God is always ready to forgive and fill us with grace. Then we *can* respond to God's call. This should be brief so we can concentrate on the Gospel story.

Help the children visualize the scene by Lake Gennesaret:

- the crowd, the boats, fishermen busy washing their nets (perhaps a picture would be helpful);
- Jesus teaching the crowd, the dialogue between Jesus and Simon (Peter), and the wonderful catch of fish.

Help the children see that Simon (Peter) confessed his sin because he saw how holy Jesus is. Again, stress the readiness of Jesus to forgive and give us grace to do what he wants.

- Ask the children what Jesus meant when he said, "From now on, you will be gathering people, not fish."
- How does the Church do that today?
- *How can we follow Jesus and do that too?*