

**February 6<sup>th</sup> Worship – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Introduction to the Day**

The fifth Sunday after Epiphany continues to highlight unlikely instruments and circumstances appointed to reveal God's glory. "Who will go for us?" God asks. A person of unclean lips, a former persecutor of the church of God, and three fishermen who couldn't catch a thing. More surprising still, perhaps, is that we are also called.

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who creates us,  
redeems us,  
and calls us by name.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you  
and your beloved children.**

**We have turned our faces away from your glory  
when it did not appear as we expected.**

**We have rejected your word  
when it made us confront ourselves.**

**We have failed to show hospitality  
to those you called us to welcome.**

**Accept our repentance for the things we have  
done and the things we have left undone.  
For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.  
Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe  
in the glory of your Son born among us,  
and reflect your love for all creation.**

**Amen.**

Rejoice in this good news:

In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

You are descendants of the Most High,  
adopted into the household of Christ,  
and inheritors of eternal life.

Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song**

**"Will You Come and Follow Me"**

**#798 vs. 1,2,4,5**

**Prayer of the Day**

Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Lesson – Isaiah 6:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory."

<sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

**Children's Message**

## **Gospel – Luke 5:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, <sup>2</sup>he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. <sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” <sup>5</sup>Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” <sup>6</sup>When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. <sup>7</sup>So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup>But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” <sup>9</sup>For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; <sup>10</sup>and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” <sup>11</sup>When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

### **Message**

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

Years ago at a conference I had the privilege of hearing renowned Christian Theologian and storyteller, Walt Wangerin, speak. The following is a quote that sticks with me from that event.

“To communicate love and to love are not the same thing. One is to preach; the other is complete loss of self.”

Our Gospel text comes after Jesus had just had the experience in the synagogue where he was rejected by those in his hometown who couldn’t see beyond themselves and their shortcomings to fully live into what God was calling them to.

This experience may not have come immediately following that one in Jesus timeline, but as far as Luke’s gospel goes, and the selected texts for our Sunday mornings, it is the next thing we hear.

So, Jesus goes from passing through the midst of those whom could not see beyond themselves to what God was calling them to, and we are now at the lakeshore. The crowd has heard of him, they are pressing in on him, so he gets into a boat.

There were fishermen nearby who were cleaning up from a days work and Jesus steps into their boat, tells them to push out from shore, and starts to teach from the water.

He gets done teaching from the boat of the fishermen who had been wrapping up his day on the water, and he tells them to put their nets out into the deep. They had fished all day. They’ve caught nothing. And wanted to be done.

If you’ve ever fished you know this feeling. You’re packing up your stuff, it’s been a miserable day, and you look at your open tackle box and it seems to speak to you saying, “You haven’t cast over there yet.” Fine, one more cast.

So, Simon threw his nets into the deep, and they were filled to the point of breaking. They were filled to the point of needing to call his buddies, James and John, to come and help and BOTH boats were filled with fish.

They went from having a miserable day in the boat, to having the very best of days they could ever imagine.

And Jesus tells them to leave it.

“Do not be afraid. From now on you will be catching people.”

And when they got to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Have you ever found yourself experiencing the very best of what you've been called to in life and thought to yourself, "you know, I should pull up anchor and do something else." Ever had those thoughts? I would bet probably not.

It is not our tendency, when we are doing something really well that we really love, to move on to the next thing.

In fact, it is the opposite. It is our tendency when we have those experiences, those feelings, to remain in those moments, often time far beyond when those things are still enjoyable and some of the best of the best. Because we are afraid of change, and we cling to what has been, rather than throw ourselves into what could be.

Because what could be, is terrifying. It is unknown. Unfamiliar. Will take work. Work that we've maybe not done before. Or, perhaps, the work we've been avoiding even though we know we would do it well.

That is the experience the disciples are having in the boat that day. They have the best of days fishing, and immediately Simon Peter falls to Jesus feet and starts to tell him why he is not cut out for that which he knows Jesus is calling him into. "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man."

But Jesus can use him. He sees his gifts. He knows that he is what God's mission in the world will need. "Do not be afraid, from now on you'll be catching people."

And they went. They followed. They stepped out of their boats into the unknown. Into the wonderful mystery of what God was up to in the world.

"To communicate love and to love are not the same thing. One is to preach. The other is the complete loss of self."

They left the very best day of their fishing careers to follow Jesus. They could have stayed. Jesus has led them to the secret spot where their nets will be filled. But they go. They follow.

Contrary to those in Nazareth who couldn't see beyond their own disqualifications, Simon, James, and John, see the wonderful mystery of God's action in the world right in front of them, they hear Jesus' grace spoken into that moment, and leave everything they know, everything that is comfortable, and they follow.

Let us do the same.

Thanks be to God. Amen

**Song of the Day**

**"You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"**

**#817**

**Apostle's Creed**

**Prayers**

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

Equip your church to proclaim the good news that we have first received: the forgiveness and grace shown to us through Jesus Christ. Send us out as apostles, sharing the hope of your salvation with a waiting world. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Holy are you, O God of hosts. Heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Reveal your splendor in fiery sunsets and in deep blue twilights. Teach us to recognize you in the beauty of our natural world. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Softening the hearts of rulers and governments that they perceive and tend to the needs of their people. Remove corruption and the impulse toward violence. Protect first responders and military personnel who risk their lives in service of others. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon those who look to you for hope and healing. Bless doctors, nurses, social workers, therapists, and all caregivers. Draw near to those who are scared, sick, or in pain (*especially Peyton, Kathy Smith, Matt Miller, Bob Hodges, Bob Kries, Jim and Sandy Nelson, Joe Christensen, Bill and Bonnie Kuehn, David Gunderson, Cassie Skinner, Keith Franson, Frank Garber*). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

The disciples received help from partners as they brought in an abundant catch of fish. So strengthen this congregation's partnerships with community organizations and ministries (*especially*). Multiply our shared efforts and bring joy to our relationships. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for our ancestors in faith who boldly answered your call. By their example give us courage to live in faith and to proclaim your mercy until the day that you gather us into your glory. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **Offering**

### **Offertory Prayer**

Blessed are you, O God,

Sovereign of the universe.

You offer us new beginnings

and guide us on our journey.

Lead us to your table,

nourish us with this heavenly food,

and prepare us to carry your love

to a hungry world,

in the name of Christ our light.

**Amen.**

### **Words of Institution – We invite you to find bread and wine or juice and partake in this Holy Meal.**

(Holding the bread) In the night in which we was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and broke it, gave thanks and gave it for all to eat saying, "This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

(Holding the cup) Again after supper he took the cup, and after giving thanks he gave it for all to drink saying, "this cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. So often as you do this, remember me."

Once you've taken the elements say, We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

## **Communion Prayer**

**Blessing**

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness,  
who rejoices over you,  
and who calls you by name,  
✠ bless your going out and your coming in,  
today and forever.

**Amen.**

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Announcements**

**Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, Feb. 6 following worship.

**Giving Statements**

Your End-of-the Year statements have gone out. If you have questions, please let DeAnne know.

Your offering envelopes are not being mailed out this year. Please stop by the church to pick them up.

**Luther Park Events**

Luther Park Annual Meeting will be Saturday, Feb. 5 at 9:30 a.m. We are in need of 3 delegates. If you are interested, please let Pastor Josh or the office know.

ChiliFest 2022 will be Sunday, Feb. 6, 12-4 p.m. Join in a day of fun and fellowship to support the ministry and mission of Luther Park. Aside from chili and hotdogs, enjoy sledding, games, crafts and much more.