

GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 5:1-11

Our Gospel Lesson includes the account of the calling of the first of the Apostles. We are aware that these men had a previous knowledge of Jesus. We teach that John was had been one of the two who stayed with Jesus (John 1:35-42). Peter makes certain claims about what it means to be an Apostle (Acts 1:21-22.) It is a little unclear if these three understood exactly what Jesus was calling them out to become. In a similar manner, Jesus calls us out of the world to follow Him. He calls us to be His disciples, giving us a vocation by which we fulfill our role as those who follow Jesus. We can't all preach like Paul, so God gives some the Word to teach to our children, and we are all given the ability and the power to pray.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Ⓢ Almighty God, Father in Heaven, may Your kingdom come among us, Your humble servants. We thank You for the Revelation of Jesus as Lord and Christ and as king forever. We pray that His dominion may be established from the rising to the setting of the sun. We praise You for sending us a king; Whose law is Love, Whose crown is truth, and Whose scepter is righteousness. We pray that one day every nation, society and family will confess that Jesus is Lord and God, the Light of our salvation.

May Your kingdom come to everyone on Earth so that all governments and people bow before Your Son Jesus Christ. Let all the people of the Earth see that He is the only One who can heal all the wounds caused by sin.

We ask that You vent Your righteous anger on those who spread violence among us. Make them know that You are a God whose Law must be obeyed. Bring Your Law and allow Your justice to prevail. Bring down the plans of those who seek to achieve their goals by taking the law into their own hands. Protect us from the violence of terrorists and others who would seek to do us harm.

Because of our sin we have no right to expect Your divine consideration, but we come to You in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, Your Son. By His merit we ask Your forgiveness and Your mercy. Save us from from weakness and error, from unfaithful shepherds, heresy and false doctrine.

Though it was not His mission for coming into the world, we know that through His great compassion Jesus did miracles of healing and blessing to those whom He chose. Therefore we ask that You would bring comfort to those who mourn and give patience to the sick. Focus strength on the weak and abundance on the needy. Grant forgiveness to the penitent and sanity to the rebellious.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. **(Time of silent prayer.)**

We pray in the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

© **Amen.**

EPIPHANY FIVE

Chant Tone



ENTRANCE PRAYER: Heavenly Father, Creator of all good things and Redeemer of the world, give me a full measure of Your Spirit that I may be a good and faithful steward of Your gifts. Forgive me when I leave matters undone, neglect my talents, and misuse my gifts. Help me do the difficult and bitter tasks as well as the pleasant and joyful duties. Make me diligent in using all my talents and energy to a full capacity. Help me to be zealous in all my work. Give me ambition for unselfish service. Prompt me to serve You and those around me for Your sake. Bless me with the joy of an unworthy servant who has been made worthy through the merits of Jesus Christ. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

JESUS TOOK CENTER STAGE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

All of the prophets, priests and kings who had been born among the people were only place holders for He Who came as the Savior of all. The week we have the call of some of the Apostles. From what we can understand, all of them had been eye witnesses of the Baptism of Christ and many of them had been with John when Jesus came back from the wilderness. Jesus called Peter and the fisherman away from their chosen field of endeavor to follow Him in their new task as "fishers of men" in the kingdom. It is by the grace of God that we have been able to answer the call of Jesus on this Day. Setting aside our earthly endeavors, we follow Christ to His house of worship.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Fishers of Men

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 71:12;) Psalm 71:16-18

David wrote Psalm 71 during a time in his later years when he was being attacked (perhaps by his son Absalom.) Psalm 71 is considered useful for people facing affliction (as Matthew Henry says,) "in their declining years." Our selected verses do indeed ask for help in our old age and gray hairs.

COLLECT

One of the worst things that happens is when an organization that claims to be Christian, subverts the truth of Christ. We pray that the whole Christian Church would be kept in true faith, and that we are defended from those who would subvert that faith.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 6:1-13

Previous to our 2006 revision to the liturgy the church did not read Isaiah 6 in worship. Now we use it twice here and Trinity "B".) This is sort of stunning as Isaiah was describing his ordination into the office of Prophet and placed that ordination in the Temple in Jerusalem, in the presence of the Lord. The word we translate, "Lord," is that odd word, "Adonai" "אֲדֹנָי", it is the plural of the word "Adon." Today the Jews say that the plural form is used to denote majesty. Before the Resurrection of Jesus, they said it denoted the work of God as, creator, savior and spirit. The ordination of Isaiah is quite a powerful reading because it sets up his proclamations concerning the Messiah.

GRADUAL—Psalm 117:1-2a, 96:8

Psalm 117 (a two verse Psalm) is a general song of praise for all God has done for us, in making us over into His people, His disciples. Psalm 96 was sung as the Ark was moved into Jerusalem. It looks beyond that event to the reign of the Christ and especially when the Gentiles will join in the celebration of the kingdom, when we are all allowed to be called as disciples of Jesus.

EPISTLE LESSON—1 Corinthians 14:12b-20

We stop just short of verse 33 that summarizes this section and is often quoted, "For God is not a God of confusion but of peace." This connects to our Introit, Collect and Old Testament Lesson in that we look for an orderly world. We all want even our worship to be done in a fashion in which we can participate and that we don't find simply confusing. Paul lays out some "rules," that are less like rules and more like common sense. However, don't be discouraged because this world can in fact be confusing. It is sin that has caused the confusion and we always ask God for the wisdom to see beyond our sin.