

"Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break."

~Luke 5:5-6

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church 5th Sunday after Epiphany – February 9, 2025

420 Beaver St., PO Box 411 Mars, PA 16046-0411 www.stjohnchurchmars.org

Phone: 724-625-1830 email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org

Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning! Know that you are welcome here just as you are.

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshiping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.

During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.

At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:



You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.

As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then prefilled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.

A playroom is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service.

This room is by the elevator on the lower level. An adult must remain with the child.

Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

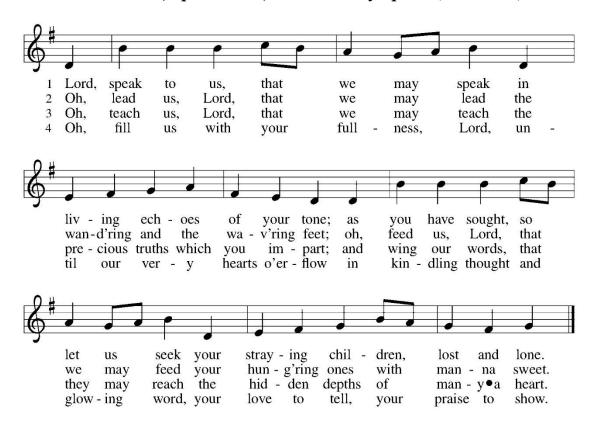
PRAYER FOR STEWARDSHIP

Almighty god, you call us into congregations where we can grow in faith, and into mission in the world where we live out our faith each day. So guide and direct us that we may be wise and faithful stewards of all that you have entrusted to us, that your love may be made known to all; through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*GATHERING SONG Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak (ELW 676)



SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM with AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION

Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font. The assembly is seated.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

PRESENTATION FOR BAPTISM

Sponsors for candidate present the candidate: We present Sebastian Burgh for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Response: We do.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with them among God's faithful people,

bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,

teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,

place in their hands the holy scriptures,

and nurture them in faith and prayer,

so that your children may learn to trust God,

proclaim Christ through word and deed,

care for others and the world God made,

and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: We do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture this child in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: We do.

PRESENTATION FOR AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

A representative of the congregation presents those making affirmation. I present Chantel, Matt, and Aria, who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these siblings in Christ whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

The assembly stands.

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses candidate for baptism, the parents and sponsors of young children who are to be baptized and those making public affirmation of baptism. The assembly may join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them!

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them!

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them!

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

*AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Chantel and Matt,

You have made public profession of your faith.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth

helping your children to grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support those who are baptized today, and those making public affirmation of their baptism, and to pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

*BAPTISM

Sebastian is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen! Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.**

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your beloved children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Sebastian with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Sebastian, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in Matt, Chantel, and Aria the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

*WELCOME

A lighted candle is given to a sponsor.

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE This Is the Feast



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ 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. ² 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.

³ And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;

the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵ 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!"

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ 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." ⁸ 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!"

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 138

- ¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I will [|] sing your praise.
- ² I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;

for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

- ³ When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.
- ⁴ All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD, when they have heard the words of your mouth.
- ⁵ They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.
- ⁶ The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.
- ⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.
- ⁸ You will make good your purpose for me;
- O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

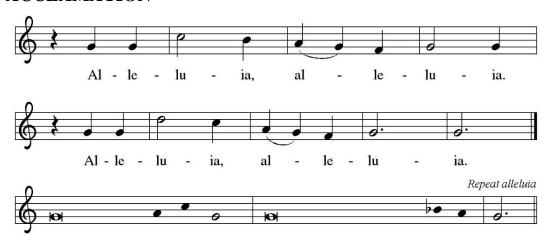
¹ Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ² through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴ and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING: Luke 5:1-11

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ 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. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷ 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. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰ 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." ¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY Here I Am, Lord (ELW 574)

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence*

God of surprising abundance, you call your people to enter deeply into the world. Equip us to respond to your call, gather up what we have, and offer it to all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, provide protection from the elements and other hazards to all whose work brings them outside: for fishers, ranchers, line workers, and construction crews. Guide us to live carefully alongside the wonders of the land and waters. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Open the hearts of all leaders, especially those who serve in the armed forces, that they respond to their commission with wisdom and patience. Ensure that all who serve are kept safe in body, mind, and spirit. We pray for an end to all war and armed conflict. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Fill with your compassionate presence all who are suffering from addiction, mental illness, injury, or illness of any kind especially Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Ellen, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, those on our prayer list, all whom we remember in our hearts, and all who suffer in any way. Draw helpers to their side so that they find relief from their burdens. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Call our faith communities to do marvelous things. Bless the labor and efforts of this congregation, that we may be a sign of your presence in the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for those who have courageously gone before us in the faith. May we too show a deep trust in you throughout our lives. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our strength, look upon us with your everlasting mercy, and receive the prayers gathered before you now (*blue prayer cards are read*). We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen.

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING COLLECTION

OFFERTORY HYMN Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy (ELW 762)



*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Generous God, we offer to you what is already yours - all that we have and all that we are. Grant us grateful hearts that can see your goodness toward us, and willing hands that are open to share the blessings we have known from you; in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

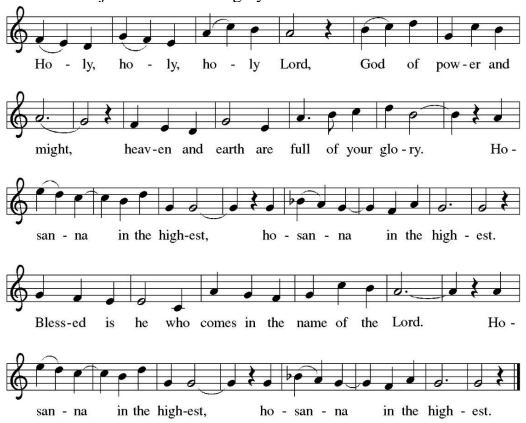
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and 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 sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen

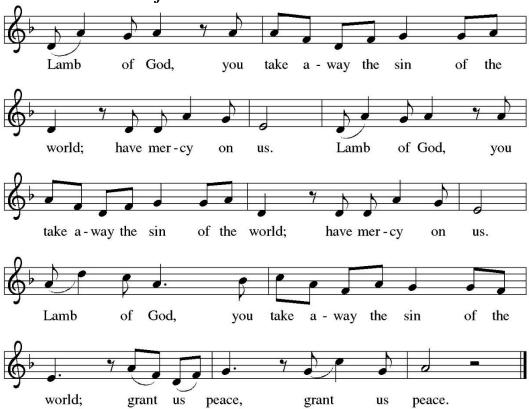
*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

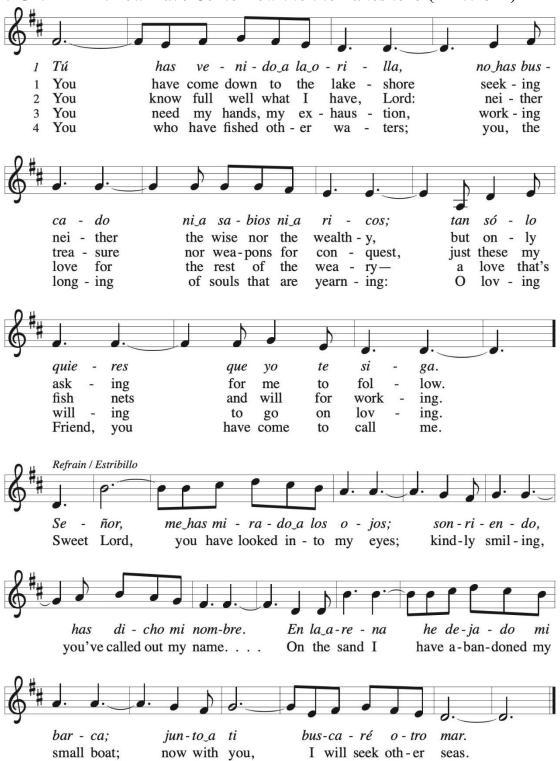
Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

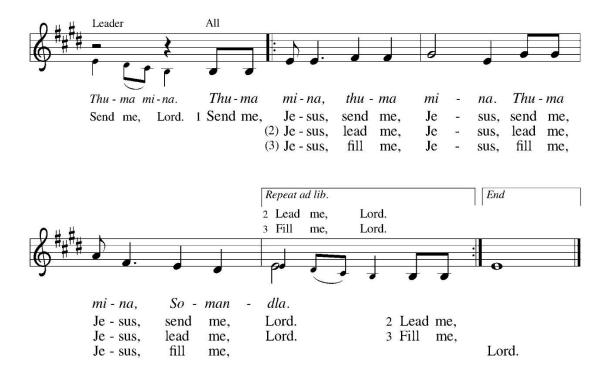
COMMUNION SONG Lamb of God



COMMUNION HYMN You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore (ELW 817)



COMMUNION HYMN Send Me, Lord (ELW 809)



*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace. **Amen**

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*BLESSING

May Almighty God, the Holy One who created the world, the Son who lived to teach us how to live together, and died that we might live together with him forever, and the Spirit who inspires and nurtures us in faith, + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

*SENDING SONG Holy God, We Praise Your Name (ELW 414)



*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The flowers on the altar were supplied by Janet Senka in memory of her brother, John J. Closshey

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Missy K

Acolyte: Cate S Ushers: Volunteer

Offering: Ava N & Ella N

Attendance last week: 60 + 3 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

Isaiah declares, "I am a man of unclean lips." Paul asserts, "I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God." Peter responds to Jesus' miracle of plenty by saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" Yet, without question, God used these flawed human beings to proclaim God's mercy and love.

In a world where we are constantly being told that we are insufficient—that we do not have enough, know enough, or matter enough—God's trust in our capacities seems imprudent, even irrational. But notice, Jesus precedes a call to discipleship with a miracle pointing to God's abundant provision, signaling that we will be given all we need.

Martin Luther writes in *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, "What I accept, I accept not on my own merits or by any right that I may personally have to it. I know that I am receiving more than a worthless one like me deserves; indeed, I have deserved the very opposite. But I claim what I claim by the right of a bequest and of another's goodness" (*Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings*, ed. Timothy Lull [Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989], p. 302). Jesus meets us at the shorelines of our own lives, going about our daily work, and calls us to lifelong discipleship. Caught up in God's abundant grace, and fed out of that bounty, we are commissioned to go catch others.

Today's Music

Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak. Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt., Music: Robert Schumann, 1810-1856. Public Domain. Here I Am, Lord. Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946, Music: Daniel L. Schutte. OCP (Oregon Catholic Press).

Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy. Text: Guillermo Cuéllar, b. 1955; tr. Linda McCrae, Music: Guillermo Cuéllar. GIA Publications, Inc.

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore. Text: Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1936-1991; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946, Music: Cesáreo Gabaráin. OCP (Oregon Catholic Press).

Send Me, Lord. Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom is Coming, 1984, Music: South African traditional; arr. Freedom is Coming. Walton Music / Public Domain.

Holy God, We Praise Your Name. Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900, Music: Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, 1774. Public Domain.

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Next Week's Readings:

Jeremiah 17:5-10 Blessed are those who trust the Lord, they are like trees by water Psalm 1 They are like trees planted by streams of water

1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Christ has been raised, the first fruits of those who have died Luke 6:17-26 Jesus speaks blessings on the poor and hungry; woes on the rich and full