

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing
care,
that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly
grace,
they may be defended always by your
protection.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Is 6:1-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

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.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 137

Response:

Before the angels I will bless you, O 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 15:1-11

(For shorter form, read between > <)

>A reading from the first letter of St Paul to
the Corinthians.<

Brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I
preached to you, the gospel that you received
and in which you are firmly established;
because the gospel will save you only if you
keep believing exactly what I preached to
you – believing anything else will not lead to
anything.

Well then, >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.<

I am the least of the apostles; in fact, since
I persecuted the Church of God, I hardly
deserve the name apostle; but by God's grace
that is what I am, and the grace that he gave
me has not been fruitless. On the contrary,
I, or rather the grace of God that is with me,
have worked harder than any of the others;
>but what matters is that I preach what they
preach, and this is what you all believed.

The word of the Lord.<

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 5:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.

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 boats.

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

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
(all bow during the next two lines)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.

Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O Lord, our God,
who once established these created things
to sustain us in our frailty,
grant, we pray,
that they may become for us now
the Sacrament of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who have willed that we be partakers
in the one Bread and the one Chalice,
grant us, we pray, so to live
that, made one in Christ,
we may joyfully bear fruit
for the salvation of the world.
Amen.

PUT OUT INTO DEEP WATER!

(LUKE 5:1-11)

Our Gospel reading today presents the calling of Jesus' first disciples. Jesus teaches the crowd from Simon's boat then tells him to cast his net for a netting of fish.

We learn that Simon and his companions have spent a fruitless night in such activity, but the captain puts his trust in the word of Jesus the rabbi and does as he instructs. The result is overwhelming.

This is the first personal appearance of Simon Peter. His reaction to this revealing of the power of Jesus is two-fold: first, he acknowledges that Jesus has divine power; he addresses him this time, not as Rabbi or Master, but as "Lord"; then he describes himself as "a sinful person". This does not mean that he is morally at fault in some way, but is the biblical way of describing the human person's feeling of awe when confronted by the Divine – as in the vision of Isaiah in the Temple.

Secondly, Peter asks Jesus to leave him, but ends up following him into the unknown. He thus represents the sinful person who responds positively to the person and message of Jesus. As a professional fisherman, he did not have much faith in Jesus' command to repeat the efforts of the night before, but had enough trust to do so and was overcome and converted by the outcome. The scene is set for Peter to become the spokesperson and leader of the disciples. ■

LEARN

Peter is not an infallible person or leader.

Peter's description of himself as "sinful" means that he recognises that he is in the presence of the Divine.

In Jesus' time, disciples usually chose their rabbi, not the other way round.

DO

If you disagree with anything your priest says, speak to him and discuss the matter with him. It is your right and responsibility.



SAY

I call you friends, says the Lord.

(John 15:15)

REFLECT

In Jewish culture, it was the practice for people to decide which rabbi's congregation they decided to join as they identified most closely with that person's interpretation of the Scriptures. The unusual aspect of Jesus's gathering of disciples is that he calls them, rather than they presenting themselves to him.

Simon Peter is an important and interesting character in the Gospel tradition. In our episode today, he represents someone confronted with the person of Jesus, who undergoes a

profound conversion and change of life. He and the others "leave everything and follow Jesus". Luke, in his writings, shows a deep suspicion of possessions and riches, seeing them as an obstacle to a proper commitment to Jesus and his teachings. Most of Jesus' disciples were family folk who had to provide for their children, so it is more the judicious use of material goods which is at issue, not the complete renunciation of them – as though that were possible.

Simon Peter is also a sympathetic

character who attracts much affection because he is so obviously human. He is a fallible person who is always getting it wrong, who is guided more by his heart than his head. It is his obvious attachment to Jesus which brings him through in the end. He is "sinful" only in the sense that he acknowledges that he is simply a human being in the presence of the Divine, so in that he is an example of faith and trust for us all.

The abundance of the catch is due to Peter's trust in Jesus. ■