

**The Old Testament: Isaiah 6:1-13**

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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. 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. And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.” The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. 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!” Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. 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.” 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!” And he said, “Go and say to this people: ‘Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.’ Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed.” Then I said, “How long, O Lord?” And he said: “Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate; until the Lord sends everyone far away, and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land. Even if a tenth part remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak whose stump remains standing when it is felled.” The holy seed is its stump.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**The Epistle: I Corinthians 15:1-11**

Reader: A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the  
Corinthians.

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, 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. 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, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 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. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**The Holy Gospel: Luke 5:1-11**

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. 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. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” 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. 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. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; 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.” When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

## 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 love and faithfulness;
- 3 For you have glorified your Name \*  
and your word above all things.
- 4 When I called, you answered me; \*  
you increased my strength within me.
- 5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, \*  
when they have heard the words of your mouth.
- 6 They will sing of the ways of the Lord, \*  
that great is the glory of the Lord.
- 7 Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; \*  
he perceives the haughty from afar.
- 8 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.
- 9 The Lord will make good his purpose for me; \*  
O Lord, your love endures for ever;  
do not abandon the works of your hands.

## The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany—Year C

Welcome to our church. As Jesus began the work in which he was manifested as God's Son, he called and commissioned others to join him. In Luke's account of the calling of the first disciples, Jesus joins them on what had been up until then an unsuccessful day of fishing. When Peter sees the catch he says, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" Jesus says in return, "From now on you will be fishing for people." Then Peter, along with James and John, followed him.

Our first reading gives us a parallel to the call of the disciples and Peter's confession of unworthiness. This is God's call of Isaiah to be the prophet of God's judgment and of hope. Isaiah, like Peter, at first confesses himself unworthy to be called. Nevertheless, God, like Jesus, will be the means by which the prophet is made worthy.

As Paul nears the end of the first letter to the church in Corinth, he reminds his readers of the message he preaches: that Jesus died for our sins, that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day and appeared to Cephas (Peter) and the other Apostles. Finally, he appeared to Paul, who had been an opponent of the gospel. Paul's own qualifications, then, are based on God working in him.

We—like Isaiah and Paul and Peter—are called into sharing with God in carrying out God's plan. It is because of God and God's call to us in Jesus that we are who we are, the holy people of God. We gather in Eucharist to hear and respond anew to God's call and to go forth in the power of God to draw all people into God's family in our ministry and our communion with God in the Holy Spirit.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*. Copyright © 2007 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.