

February 7, 2016

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Be open to God's grace!

Isaiah 6: 1-2, 3-8

Psalms 138: 1-5, 7-8

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

Luke 5: 1-11

In the first reading Isaiah has a vision of the Lord on a lofty throne. The Seraphim cry, Holy, Holy, Holy is the One upon the throne. A Seraphim cleanses Isaiah's lips with a glowing ember from the heavenly altar and his wickedness is removed, his sin is purged. Without this purification Isaiah felt endangered in his sinful condition in the presence of the Lord. When Isaiah hears the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" he responds, "Send me!"

The psalmist is thankful and praises the Lord constantly. The Lord answers his prayers and is the source of his newly founded strength. The glory of the Lord will even be acknowledged by the kings of the earth. The psalmist is confident that the Lord will complete in him that which he begun, and will always be near in times of danger.

In the second reading Paul reminds his listeners of the gospel preached, namely that Christ died for our sins, was buried, rose after three days, and was seen by many. There is no question that Christ truly lives and the Corinthians are to stand firm in these beliefs through which they are being saved. Paul acknowledges himself as the least of the apostles and that God's grace now allows him to work hard at preaching the gospel.

In the Gospel Jesus preaches to the pressing crowd from a boat and then guides the disciples to a large catch of fish. They are amazed since they fished all night, the best time to fish, and caught nothing. Peter is completely awed and pleads unworthiness in the presence of the Lord. The disciples are given the mission of "catching men" from now on and they leave everything to follow him.



The Father empowers the graces  
Sent to us through the Holy Spirit,  
And guided by the Son in using them.

## Grace

The theme of our readings points to the basic truths in the gospel. We are saved by the resurrected Christ, and are to stand firm in this belief. Our God of gods, Lord of lords, is good and merciful, and the angels are still here to protect us. Ask that your faith be strengthened.

*Grace will always be given to persons who are thankful for its benefit. Those gifts most needed by the humble will be given to them as they are taken away from the proud and haughty. We are not to seek consolation that isolates repentance or leads to pride.*

*When we experience grace and later feel the emptiness of its withdrawal we will better understand our nothingness. Give to God what is God's and ascribe to ourselves what is ours and in this way come to understand the difference. When we attribute to God the good we receive we need not seek glory from one another, and direct that glory only to God. When we are grateful for the least of graces we are worthy to receive greater ones. If the least of graces is deemed by us as something very great, then greater ones will be considered as special favors. In realizing who is the One that makes it happen no grace will be considered too small or too great.*

(Adapted from Imitations, Kempis, Book 2, Chapt. 10)

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