

## **Sunday, February 9, 2025 - Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

### **First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-13**

*Notice the vast difference in the way that Jeremiah responded and the way that Isaiah responded to being called by God.*

*Jeremiah 1: 6 – Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.*

*Isaiah 6: 8 – Here am I; send me!*

*Moses in Exodus 4: 13 – O my Lord, please send someone else.*

1 - In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty.

*Uzziah had been king for fifty-two years. For many Israelites he had been the only king they had ever known.*

*Isaiah lost not only his king. He also lost a personal friend.*

*During a time of great challenge and change – of great personal, national, and global upheaval, anxiety, uncertainty, and loss - we need to see the Lord high and lofty (high and lifted up).*

*Were you able to see the Lord high and lifted up the past few years? If so, how and where?*

*There is no mention of anyone else being in the Temple that day, but I believe that many, many people had flocked to the Temple that day.*

*Cf. the Sunday after the assassination of President Kennedy, the evening of September 11, 2001, and the Sunday after.*

### **Isaiah saw four things that day.**

#### **He saw the Lord.**

#### **He saw himself.**

5 - 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!

*The closer you get to God, the more clearly you see your own sin.*

*The more you see the glory of God, the more you realize how far you fall short of the glory of God.*

#### **He saw God's cleansing power.**

6-7 - 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."

*The coal had been touched by two things – blood and fire.*

*Blood removes sin; fire brings power for holy living.*

#### **He saw the world.**

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!"

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

3 - I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received.

*Are we handing on to others – including the next generation – things that we have received that are of first importance?*

*Where are we falling short? How could we be doing better? What do we need to do differently?*

3-4 - 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.

5-7 - 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.

8-9 - 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.

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.

### **Gospel: Luke 5:1-11**

1-3 - 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.

*Jesus had the right to make use of Simon's boat, because all boats belong to Jesus. What is your boat? Your boat is whatever you do to make a living and/or to live your life. Labor Day Sermon – "Give Jesus Your 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." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets."

*Would you, a seasoned fisherman, be willing to do what a carpenter told you to do?*

6-7 - 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.

8-10 - 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.

*In Mark 1 Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John had already begun to follow Jesus. And in John 2 after Jesus turned water into wine they had come to believe in Jesus. But here they are back to fishing, and what is the result? They work all night long but catch nothing. The same thing will happen in John 21. After the resurrection, they go back to fishing. Again, they work all night but catch nothing. Again, there is a miraculous catch of fish.*

10-11 - 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.