



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

† Sunday 10th February 2019

In England and Wales –

Cycle of Prayer: Prayer for the Sick and their Carers

Keynote: Called to serve the Lord

Prophet Isaiah 6: 1-8

Reflecting on what it is to be in the Lord God's service Isaiah says: *'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 yet my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of hosts.'* The sense of his own sinful unworthiness is contrasted with the overwhelming sense of the majesty and power of God: *'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord... his glory fills the whole earth.'* In the vision *'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 purged'*. Then Isaiah hears the voice of God, saying *'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?'* So, Isaiah answers *'Here I am, send me.'* In our own weakness we might contemplate the saving power of God made manifest in our lives, and prepare to respond to the call to service in a world waiting for freedom, waiting to see the end of evil.

Responsorial Psalm 137 (138) – A song of thanksgiving to a faithful God

First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 15: 1-11

Continuing with the reading of Paul's letter. *'I am the least of the apostles'* says Paul, and *'since I persecuted the Church of God, I hardly deserve the name apostle, but by God's grace that is what I am.'* Now Paul reminds all of us *'the gospel will save you only if you keep believing exactly what I preached to you – believing anything else will not lead to anything.'* So what is this message? *'Christ died for our sins, he was buried, and he was raised to life on the third day in accordance with the scriptures... he appeared first to Cephas... 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... and last of all he appeared to me.'* But what matters for Paul is that he preaches what the apostles preached, and that *'is what you believed.'*

Gospel according to Luke 5: 1-11

Luke tells us: *'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.'* So, Jesus gets into Simon's boat and standing off from the shore he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. Later Jesus tells Simon: *'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.'* Simon knowing these waters well says: *'Master, we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.'* The immense catch of fish that followed required both boats and the help of friends to bring to shore. This is the prelude to the call of Simon. Like the prophet in the first reading, Simon, deeply conscious of his unworthiness, falls at the knees of Jesus *'Leave me Lord; I am a sinful man.'* But Jesus says, *'Do not be afraid, from now on it is men you will catch.'* So, bringing their boats to shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

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