

**The Call of Simon Peter
(5th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C)**

Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8—The Call of the Prophet Isaiah

1. King Uzziah: king of Judah (8th century B.C.)
2. Temple Vision:
 - a. Heavenly Throne Room: “sitting upon a throne”
 - b. Angels: “seraphim” (Hebrew, “burning ones”)
 - c. Doxology: “Holy, holy, holy...” (Hebrew *qadosh*)
 - d. Incense: “smoke” filled the room
3. Theophany: “Woe is me! I am lost... my eyes have seen... the LORD of hosts!”
4. Forgiveness: Isaiah’s “sin” purged with the burning “coal” (cf. Purgatory!) (6:6-7)
5. Call of Isaiah: “Whom shall I send...?” (6:8)

Psalms 138—Worship in the Temple

1. Temple: “I bow down toward thy holy Temple” (v. 2)
2. Savior: “The LORD will fulfill his purpose in me” (v. 8)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11—The Good News of the Resurrection

1. Gospel = “good news” (Greek *euangelion*) of Paschal Mystery (cf. Creed?)

Luke 5:1-11—The Call of Simon Peter

1. Simon Peter: fisherman
2. Jesus of Nazareth: carpenter (= non-fisherman!)
3. Failure: fruitless night of fishing
4. Teaching: Gets into “Simon’s” boat to teach “from the boat” (5:3)
5. Instruction: “Put out into the deep...” (Latin *Duc in altum*)
6. Peter’s Humility: “at your word I will let down the nets”
7. Miraculous Catch: nets “were breaking”; boats begin to sink! (cf. Roman Rite!)
8. Sinner: Peter’s Response, “Depart from me, I am *a sinful man*...”
9. Call of the Disciples: “Do not be afraid..., You will be catching men”
10. Why Did Jesus Choose Fisherman?
 - a. Observation and Patience
 - b. Persistence and Reliance on God

The Living Tradition

St. Augustine: Christ says: Give me this fisherman, this man without education or experience, this man to whom no senator would deign to speak, not even if he were buying fish. Yes, give me him: once I have taken possession of him, it will be obvious that it is I who am at work in him.... The senator can always take pride in what he is; so the orator and the emperor, but the fisherman can glory in nothing except Christ alone. Any of these other men may come and take lessons from me in the importance of

humility for salvation, but let the fisherman come first. He is the best person to win over an emperor. Remember this fisherman, then, this holy, just, good, Christ-filled fisherman. In this nets cast throughout the world he has the task of catching this nation as well as all the others. (Augustine, *Sermon* 43, 5-7; trans. E. Barnecut, p. 79)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (5th Sunday Ordinary Time, Year C)

1. What parallels are there between Isaiah’s vision of the heavenly Temple and the Eucharistic liturgy? How is the earthly liturgy a participation in the heavenly worship?

2. Can you think of a parallel between the “burning coal” placed in Isaiah’s mouth and the reception of Holy Communion?

3. Why do you think Jesus chose Peter the fisherman to be the chief of his apostles? What human virtues did Peter possess as a fisherman? How does this miraculous catch point forward to the mystery of the Church?

For Further Study

1. Pablo Gadenz. *The Gospel of Luke*. Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018), 109-114.
2. Arthur A. Just, Jr. *Luke*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament III. Downers Grove: IVP, 2003. Pp. 86-89