

Welcome to Worship at  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI  
Epiphany 5 - February 6, 2022

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

**Hymn #93 - *"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"***

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
Great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
To set the captive free,  
To take away transgression,  
And rule in equity.**

**He comes with rescue speedy  
To those who suffer wrong,  
To help the poor and needy  
And bid the weak be strong,  
To give them songs for sighing,  
Their darkness turn to light  
Whose souls, condemned and dying,  
Are precious in his sight.**

**Kings shall bow down before him  
And gold and incense bring;  
All nations shall adore him;  
His praise all people sing.  
To him shall prayer unceasing  
And daily vows ascend,  
His kingdom still increasing,  
A kingdom without end.**

**O'er ev'ry foe victorious,  
He on his throne shall rest,**

**From age to age more glorious,  
All blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove;  
His name shall stand forever -  
That name to us is Love.**

### **Confession of Sins:**

**P:** Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C:** **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

**P:** Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

### **First Lesson: Isaiah 6:1-8**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each one had six wings. With two they covered their faces. With two they covered their feet. With two they flew. One called to another and said, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Armies! The whole earth is full of his glory! The foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of the one who called, and the temple was filled with smoke. Then I said, "I am doomed! I am ruined, because I am a man with unclean lips, and I dwell among a people with unclean lips, and because my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Armies!" Then one of the seraphim flew to me, carrying a glowing coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. He touched my mouth with the coal and said, "Look, this has touched your lips, so your guilt is taken away, and your sin is forgiven." Then I heard the Lord's voice, saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am. Send me!" (EHV)

## **Psalm 85**

**Refrain: I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.**

**You showed favor to your 'land, O LORD;  
You restored the fortunes of 'Jacob.**

**You forgave the iniquity of your 'people  
And covered 'all their sins.**

**Show us your unfailing 'love, O LORD,  
And grant us your sal'vation.**

**Refrain: I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.**

**I will listen to what God the 'LORD will say;  
He promises peace to his people, 'his saints.**

**Surely his salvation is near those who 'fear him,  
That his glory may dwell 'in our land.**

**Love and faithfulness meet to'gether;  
Righteousness and peace kiss each 'other.**

**Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son  
And to the Holy 'Spirit,  
As it was in the be'ginning,  
Is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.**

**Refrain: I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.**

### **Second Lesson: Romans 10:12-27**

So there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives generously to all who call on him. Yes, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." So then, how can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one about whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without a preacher? And how can they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news of peace, who preach the gospel of good things!" But not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who believed our message?" So then,

faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through the word of Christ. (EHV)

**Verse of the Day:** Alleluia. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” Alleluia.

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

One time, while the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there along the lakeshore. The fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Jesus got into one of the boats, which belonged to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the shore. He sat down and began teaching 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 him, “Master, we worked hard all through the night and caught nothing. But at your word I will let down the nets.” When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their nets were about to tear apart. They signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, because I am a sinful man, Lord.” For Peter and all those with him were amazed at the number of fish they had caught, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Jesus said to Simon, “Have no fear. From now on you will be catching people.” After they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him. (EHV)

**The Apostles’ Creed:**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn #463 - *“Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult”*

Jesus calls us o’er the tumult  
Of our life’s wild, restless sea;  
Day by day his voice invites us,  
Saying, “Christian, follow me!”

As the first disciples heard it  
By the Galilean lake,  
Turned from home and toil and kindred,  
Leaving all for his dear sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship  
Of the vain world’s golden store,  
From each idol that would keep us,  
Saying, “Christian, love me more.”

In our joys and in our sorrows,  
Days of toil and hours of ease,  
Still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
“Christian, love me more than these.”

Jesus calls us! In your mercy,  
Savior, help us hear your call;  
Give our hearts to your obedience,  
Serve and love you best of all!

The Sermon:     **Luke 5:1-11**  
                      **“Going Fishing”**

During this Epiphany Season, a lot of attention is paid to the **calling** of various prophets. Last week we heard about **Jeremiah’s** calling, while **this** week’s Old Testament Lesson speaks about **Isaiah’s** calling. God has a good **reason** for telling us about these events. He wants us to feel **confident** that these men were sent by **God** Himself. They didn’t come up with their own **messages**, nor did they **choose** the office of **prophet** on their own. In fact, **many** of the prophets showed a definite **reluctance** to take on this great responsibility. Of course in the end, God always won out. This same guidance and direction from God was **also** evident in the calling

of Jesus' 12 **disciples**. The Scriptures tell us, "*Men spoke **from God** as they were being carried along by the **Holy Spirit**.*" Our text today relates the calling of the first **four** of Jesus' disciples, and we'll consider their calling under the theme - **Going Fishing**. It's a **fitting** theme because all four of these men were **fishermen** by trade - two sets of **brothers** - Peter and Andrew, James and John. Jesus shows us that even though **they** were the **professionals**, it was **Jesus** who knew where the **fish** were, and it was **also** Jesus who had all the right **bait**.

It isn't surprising to us that Jesus knew **where** to fish. We know that He is God's Son, and that He is **omniscient**, or all **knowing**. The knowledge of Jesus is so penetrating that He knew right down to the **moment** the time when this huge school of fish would be passing under their boat. Interestingly enough, this miracle can also be explained in **another** way. Because Jesus is the Son of God, He is also **omnipotent**, or all **powerful**. Therefore, as the ruler over the seas and all that's **in** them, Jesus could have actually **commanded** those fish to be in the proper place at the proper time.

As I said before, this isn't surprising to **us**, because we can look **back** and see Jesus risen from the **dead** in all His heavenly **glory**. But this catch of fish **was** somewhat surprising to Jesus' **disciples**. At that particular point in time, they knew Jesus primarily as the **carpenter** from Nazareth, even though they had already witnessed His miraculous changing of water into wine at the wedding of Cana. At any rate, **this** miracle was considerably **more impressive**. Jesus said, "*Put out into the **deep water**, and let down your nets for a catch.*" The words were addressed to **Peter**, and they caused a **conflict** within him. Peter's answer seems to indicate a degree of **doubt**. He said, "*Master, we worked hard **all through the night**, and caught **nothing**.*" Peter's human **reason** and fishing **experience** were telling him that Jesus was suggesting an unlikely **time** for catching fish (about noon), as well as an unlikely **place** (the **deep** water). Peter and his partners had tried all the **proven** methods for catching fish with **no results**. Peter was **tired**, and his old Adam was telling him to go to **bed** and get some **sleep**. But Peter's **faith** was telling him something **else**. It was saying that even though it didn't seem to make any **sense**, and even though it wasn't **convenient**, he should listen to Jesus **anyway**. It was Peter's **faith** which won the battle. He replied, "*But at **your word**, I will let down the nets.*"

Peter's response wasn't **logical**, and it wasn't **practical** - it was simply an act of **faith**.

God richly **blessed** that faithful response too. Jesus brought about a **tremendous** catch of fish - a catch which was beneficial for **many** people, but which was **particularly** beneficial for those four fishermen. Why? Because it touched the part of their lives with which they were the most **familiar** - it touched what they knew **best** - what was **closest** to their **hearts**. The miracles involving the **sea** were most appreciated by disciples like Peter, Andrew, James, and John because they were **fishermen**. In a similar way, the miracles of **physical healing** were most appreciated by St. **Luke** because he was a **doctor**. What this **shows** us is that although the generosity of Christ is extended to **all**, **some** will reap a greater benefit.

The same thing is true of God's **Word**. The **message** will always remain the same - equally generous to **all**. But the greatest **benefits** of God's Word will go to those who hold that Word closest to their **hearts**. It's equally true that those who hold God's Word **dearest**, will be the most aware of their own **sinfulness**. When Peter saw there were so many fish that they nearly caused two boats to **sink** he said, "*Go **away** from me, because I am a **sinful** man, Lord*" Peter didn't really want Jesus to **leave** - and what a blessing it was that Jesus **didn't** leave him. Peter simply felt the full weight of his sins as he compared **his life** over against the generous **blessing** of fish which Jesus had just given. The two didn't fit together, and Peter was **painfully** aware of it.

In reality, the blessings in our text go far **beyond** supplying a huge catch of **fish**. In fact, we don't even know what **happened** to the fish after our story ends. More importantly, there were blessings to the **people** of Galilee who had come out to hear Jesus **speak**. Jesus had preached the **Word** to a great multitude of them, and I think it's safe to assume that **some** of them lingered on the shore and **witnessed** this miracle from afar. Perhaps among them was **Luke**, the man who **recorded** the incident in our text.

And **certainly** there were blessings to those four relatively **new** disciples. Actually, this was the **second** time Jesus had **called** them into His service. The **first** time He had allowed them to continue with their

fishing business, but **this** time we're told, "*They left **everything** and followed Him.*" They literally **abandoned** the fruits of years of hard labor - their boats, their nets, their fish, even their co-workers - they left them **all** behind. They didn't **need** those things anymore, because **now** they would no longer be catching **fish** - they would be catching **men**. And equally as significant, their actions would no longer result in **death** for their **captives** - rather, their actions would result in eternal **life** for those who received their message in **faith**.

It's **fun** to **Go Fishing** with Jesus, because He knows where all the **believers** are. I remember **Going Fishing** with my **father** as a child. Sometimes I would catch a **few** fish, but **most** of the time Dad would catch **all** the fish, and I wouldn't catch **any**. It was very discouraging, so I would change **poles**, or change **baits**, or fish off the **other side** of the boat. But the result was still the **same** - **Dad** caught all the fish. In many ways fishing for **souls** with **Jesus** is very similar - **He** catches **all** the souls. Many times those who are fishing along **with** Jesus are not even **aware** that He caught another one. There are times in the work of the Church when it might seem from **our** point of view that nothing at all is being **accomplished**. But Jesus knows **better**. It's impossible to remain **neutral** toward Jesus and His Word. **Everyone** reacts - His enemies with **hatred** and **reviling** - His disciples with **humility** and **reverence**. Thank God that Jesus **continues** to fish with us in the Church today - turning those who are His own to **revere** Him, and turning those who have **rejected** Him to their own **destruction**.

I'm sure from your own fishing experience you know that fish won't **bite** unless the **time** is right. That's why **Peter** wondered about Jesus' suggestion to go fishing at **noon**. The best time to fish is in the early **morning** or early **evening**, because the fish have to be **hungry**. Well, the time was **definitely** right for winning **souls**, when Jesus came into the world as a **man**. God sent Him when the time was **just right** - at the time He had specifically **chosen**. The people were truly **hungry** for the message which Jesus brought, and He did not delay in **delivering** that message to them.

That reminds me of something **else** I remember about fishing with my father. He always seemed to have the right **bait**, and he had a knack for **delivering** it in the right **way**. If there were **sunfish** nearby, Dad always

seemed to have a **worm** on a **cane** pole. If there was a nice **northern** pike in the area, he would be trolling with a **daredevil** on his line. If we were passing over a school of **crappies**, Dad was fishing with either a **minnow**, or the right size and color **jig**. He was pretty good at catching **fish**. But **Jesus** is even **better** at catching **souls**. And when it comes to **bait**, Jesus takes away all the **guesswork**. He **never** changes baits. He **always** uses the Word of God - and it **never fails**. He may **deliver** it in a slightly different **way** - sometimes faster, sometimes slower. Or He may deliver it from a slightly different **place**. In fact, Jesus could and **did** make almost **anything** serve as His pulpit. He could preach in a **synagogue**, or in a **Temple**; He could preach on a **mountainside** or in a **desert**; He could preach as He was walking along the **road**, or as He did in our text, He could even preach from a **boat**. Wherever the people **were**, Jesus brought them the **Word of God** which they so desperately **needed**.

He does it for **you** too. When you have a problem, turn to **Jesus** for help. When you are disgusted, turn to **Jesus** to improve your attitude. When you don't know where to turn, remember that **Jesus** always has what you need. **Go Fishing** with Jesus, and you'll find out, like the disciples in our text, that the **blessings** are **overflowing**. Precious **souls** will be gathered into His kingdom, and your **own** soul will be greatly strengthened. Amen.

### **Prayers:**

Lord Jesus, blessed Savior of mankind, at times we are tempted to say to You as Peter did, "Go **away** from me, Lord; I am a **sinful** man." And it is indeed **true** - we **are** sinful. Our sins are more **numerous** than the hundreds of **fish** which were caught in the disciple's nets at Your command. Our transgressions are more numerous than the **hairs** of our head. They cannot be **numbered**.

But Lord, we don't **want** You to go away from us. We **need** You more than anything else. If You should **leave** us, life would not be worth **living**. If You should **leave** us, we would be the most **miserable** of all people. If You should **leave** us, we would be **lost** forever.

Therefore we pray that You would **forgive** our sins. By Your **blood**, wash our hearts **clean**, and make them **pure** forever. Wrap us up in the **net** of Your **Gospel**, and **gather** us all into the ship of Your **kingdom** while we are here on the

earth, so that we may safely sail with **You** and all those who have been **redeemed**, into the blissful harbor of **heaven**. Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer:**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name;  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
But deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory  
Forever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn #573 - "*Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying*"**

**Hark! the voice of Jesus crying,  
"Who will go and work today?  
Fields are ripe and harvests waiting;  
Who will bear the sheaves away?"  
Loud and long the Master calleth;  
Rich reward he offers thee.  
Who will answer, gladly saying,  
"Here am I - send me, send me?"**

**If you cannot speak like angels,  
If you cannot preach like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus;  
You can say he died for all.  
If you cannot rouse the wicked  
With the Judgment's dread alarms,  
You can lead the little children  
To the Savior's waiting arms.**

**If you cannot be a watchman,  
Standing high on Zion's wall,  
Pointing out the path to heaven,  
Off'ring life and peace to all,**

**With your prayers and with your off'rings  
You can do what God demands;  
You can be like faithful Aaron,  
Holding up the prophet's hands.**

**Let none hear you idly saying,  
"There is nothing I can do,"  
While the multitudes are dying,  
And the Master calls for you.  
Take the task he gives you gladly;  
Let his work your pleasure be.  
Answer quickly when he calleth,  
"Here am I - send me, send me!"**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**The Blessing:**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

**Hymn #560 - "*I Hear the Savior Calling*"**

**I hear the Savior calling! The gospel comes to me,  
My eyes once closed in blindness are opened now to see  
That I myself was helpless to live eternally,  
But, dying, Christ did save me, and now he calls for me!**

**I hear the Savior calling! He leads a soul to me,  
A soul in bitter anguish, one needing to be free.  
The gift I have to offer is Christ, my Lord's decree  
That all have been forgiven - my Savior calls for me!**

**I hear the Savior calling! He gives this charge to me:  
To serve the best I'm able, whate'er the call may be.**

**Thus hand in hand with others who share the gospel key  
We spread the gospel tidings my Savior calls for me!**

**I hear the Savior calling! He changes hearts for me.  
From door to door I witness to share my Savior's  
plea:  
Yet nothing can be added, no word on bended knee,  
Beyond the simple gospel - my Savior calls for me!**

**I hear the Savior calling! His call has urgency!  
Each moment souls are dying; soon comes eternity.  
And so, my precious Savior, this is my humble plea:  
Prepare me for my mission for you are calling me!**