

Church of the Divine Love

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 6, 2022

10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Please observe silence after the candles are lit

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn **#671 – Amazing grace! how sweet the sound**

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (sung) page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)**

Psalm 138

Second Lesson: **1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

Gradual Hymn **#448 – O love, how deep**

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

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

Confession of Sin page 360

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn **#530 – Spread, O spread, thou mighty word**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer B page 367

Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal) page 362

The Lord's Prayer page 364

The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer page 337

The Communion of the People

Communion Hymn – **#711 – Seek ye first the kingdom of God**

Post Communion Prayer page 365

Prayer for Peace – on insert

Prayer of St. Francis page 833

Dismissal Hymn **#599 – Lift every voice and sing**

Sermon Sunday February 6, 2022

Isaiah 6: 1-8(9-13); Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11; Luke 5: 1-11

Beloved people of God,

It has been a long night for Simon. He has done everything a good fisherman is supposed to do, just like he had been taught. He has been doing it like this for years; night after night, week after week, season after season. But tonight, is different. The usual routine did not work this time. The net is empty. Simon caught nothing. Not one fish.

Now I am not a fisherman, but I remember times like that, and I will bet you do too. Times when we have done everything right, gave it our best, did all we could, said our prayers, lived faithfully, worked hard. We did all this, and our nets still came up empty and we were left entangled in disappointment, doubt, sadness and grief, anger, fear, confusion. A few years ago, a gentleman told me, "I sold my house and now I do not know what to do. I do not know who I am." His nets are empty. Another person told me about the disappointment and pain in her marriage. More empty nets. The death of a loved one always seems to leave the nets of our life empty. Empty nets are not, however, the final reality for us.

The antidote for empty nets is deep water. "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch," Jesus says. But frustration, fatigue, and despair sometimes make it difficult to leave the shore. Sometimes it seems there is nothing to do but to sit on the shore and wash our empty nets; nets that now serve only to remind us of what we did not catch, symbols of the one that got away and what we have lost. Simon protests, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." Simon's initial protest turns to resignation. It is the resignation of one who has nowhere else to go, nothing else to do.

Though Luke writes about a lake, boats, nets, and fishermen this story is about more than fishing. It is a story of life and transformation, Simon's, and ours. Jesus is calling Simon to a new life, a new way of being. This happens in the context of fishing because that is what Simon knows best. Jesus comes to us in the ordinary everyday circumstances of our lives. Whether we are fisherman or land lubbers we are asked to put out into the deep water and let down our nets for a catch. But there is something about depth that is frightening. Deep water is risky. You cannot touch the bottom. You are in over your head. You cannot see the bottom or what might be down there. People drown in deep water. And that is the point. The deep is the place where we both drown and swim. It is the place where we are buried with Christ and raised with Christ. It is where we experience the fullness of our baptism, the fullness of divine life. Too often, however, we are content to stay in shallow water. It is safe, comfortable, and familiar. If it gets too scary, we just step out. But shallow water is the place of empty nets. The deep is exactly where we must go. It is what we need, and it is what the world needs. The world does not need smarter people, harder working people, or more beautiful people. The world needs deep people. People of depth who are willing to be transformed; people willing to go to the deep end, to get in over their head, to reach where they cannot see, to stand where they cannot touch bottom, to trust beyond their understanding and fear. That is the place to which we are invited this day.

Every day that we put out into deep water becomes a new day, a day of creation. For just as in the beginning "the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters" (Genesis 1:1-2) so today the Son of God and Simon are moving upon the face of the water. A new creation is about to take place. Jesus will take Simon deep water fishing. He will re-create Simon and his life. He will teach Simon a new way of fishing and show him a new place to catch fish. Jesus will give Simon a new use for his empty nets. The empty nest of Simon's life will be lowered into the depths of divinity and Simon Peter will bring up divine abundance, abundance that stretches his life to the limits. He is not, however, simply bringing up a great many fish. Simon Peter is bringing up the gifts of God – love, compassion, wisdom, mercy, forgiveness, peace, hope, healing, a vision for the future. The deep is always the place of sacred transformation, a place of new life and abundance beyond quantity. We want meaning and fullness in our lives. We want our lives to matter and count for something. We want to feel alive. We want to be whole and complete. We want to experience and live in the good, the true, the beautiful. We want life abundant. Isn't that how you want to live and what you want for yourself and those you love?

What if those places in which we feel stuck, frustrated, empty, restless, disappointed, as if we have missed the boat, are the deep waters into which we are to let down our nets? Jesus did not let Peter and the others run away from their exhaustion, their disappointment, their empty nets. He sent them back to the deep water to let down their nets for a catch and they were amazed at the catch of fish, so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. Are you exhausted and frustrated with your life? Good. You're hearing the desire beyond desire calling you. Do you feel unfulfilled and restless? Congratulations. You have recognized that there is something more. Do you feel stuck and like you have missed the boat? Great. That's another chance to put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch. Do you feel amazed at and blessed by your life, and wonder how it could ever get any better? Perfect. That's an invitation to desire beyond desire.

So instead of washing the nets and going home let's open our eyes, our ears, our hearts to the deep waters of life. Let's be attentive to what lies below the surface. Let's make ourselves open and available to the desire beyond desire. It is always unfolding before us, and it is never just one thing. It comes to us in a thousand different ways. It changes throughout the seasons and circumstances of our lives. That

desire beyond desire is why we still cast our nets even after a night of having caught nothing. It's why we struggle to do the right thing and to live with integrity. It's why we forgive and make amends. It's why we speak for justice and the dignity of every human being. It's why we open our hearts and risk loving. It's why we get up each morning and put out into the deep water.

I don't know what this desire beyond desire is for you. And I don't know what form or shape it might take for me. But I know this. There is always something coming to us in what we desire, something more than what we know or can name as our desire, something that will stir the pot of our present desire and take us beyond our usual fishing grounds. That something is our desire beyond desire. And it's happening in your life and my life.

Every day something new is coming to us. And we better be ready. That's not a threat. That's about the promise of new life, the gift contained in our desire beyond desire. Let's not miss it. Let's stay awake and alert, expectant and hopeful. I don't want to miss it and I don't want you too either. Let's put out into the deep water of our lives and let down our nets for a catch. But there is something else we need to know about the deep places. When Jesus took Simon deep water fishing, he did not say, "let down your nets and see if there's anything here." He said, "let down your nets for a catch." You see, in the deep water the catch is always guaranteed. **Amen.**

SUNDAY – 5 EPIPHANY

10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
11:15 AM	PARISH ANNUAL MEETING	

MONDAY	8:00 AM	AA MEETING
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WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
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THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
	8:00 PM	AA MEETING

SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
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SUNDAY – 6 EPIPHANY	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
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SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Give to all who suffer the refreshing waters of your compassion and healing. Make them dwell in the safety of your care even in the midst of all that troubles them. Especially we remember before you:

Girard Bishop	Chrissy Neville	Bob Curley
Nathan Treadwell	Arlene Goodenough	Dorothy
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Grace Schinella
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Robert Sweat
Martinisi Family	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Sylvia
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Laura
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Taylor
Ciara	Gabriel	Aidan
Elodie	Del	Julia
People of Haiti	Parkhurst Family	Tim
Theresa K.	Amy E.	Jason
Christopher & Family	Victims of Natural Disasters	

Help us to speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them. Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen

Prayer before Worship

Almighty God, who pours out on all who desire it, the spirit of grace. Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father I adore you,
Lay my life before you,
How I love you.

Repeat twice with second verse starting with Jesus and third verse starting with Spirit.

Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominions and glory, now and forever. Amen