

Sunday, February 7, 2010
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany / Lectionary 5
Holy Communion

Worship Assistants

FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1–8 [9–13]

A reading from _____.

Through a vision in the temple, the eighth-century prophet Isaiah is called by God to announce judgment against Israel. Like other prophets, Isaiah is initially hesitant because of his awareness of his sin and his shortcomings, but when the Lord calls, Isaiah responds, "Here am I; send me!"

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the LORD sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "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!"

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The 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." ⁸Then 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!" ⁹And he said, "Go and say to this people:

'Keep listening, but do not comprehend;
keep looking, but do not understand.'

¹⁰Make the mind of this people dull,
and stop their ears,
and shut their eyes,
so that they may not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and comprehend with their minds,
and turn and be healed."

¹¹Then I said, "How long, O LORD?" And he said:

"Until cities lie waste
without inhabitant,
and houses without people,
and the land is utterly desolate;

¹²until the LORD sends everyone far away,
and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land.

¹³Even if a tenth part remain in it,
it will be burned again,

like a terebinth or an oak
whose stump remains standing
when it is felled."
The holy seed is its stump.\

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 138

Refrain: I will bow down toward your holy temple. (Ps. 138:2)

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with ¹my whole heart;
before the gods I will ¹sing your praise.

²I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast ¹love and faithfulness;

for you have glorified your name and your word a- ¹bove all things. R

³When I called, you ¹answered me;
you increased my ¹strength within me.

**⁴All the rulers of the earth will praise ¹you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words ¹of your mouth.**

⁵They will sing of the ways ¹of the LORD,
that great is the glory ¹of the LORD.

**⁶The LORD is high, yet cares ¹for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty ¹from afar. R**

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you ¹keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right ¹hand shall save
me.

⁸You will make good your pur- ¹pose for me;

**O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works ¹of your
hands. R**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1–11

A reading from _____.

Paul delivers in a nutshell the story of the gospel that was given to him. In the lineage of the Christian faith, we have received the good news of God's love from generations of believers before us, and we continue to tell this story to the world.

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you — unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ

died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But 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. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 5:1–11

The holy gospel according to _____.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus' teaching of God's word has begun to draw great crowds. For Simon, James, and John, Jesus' teaching inspires hospitality, then obedience, and then risk. After Jesus' creative power is revealed, fear and amazement lead these three fishermen to leave everything behind in order to become apostles.

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ²he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³He 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. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷So 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. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." ¹¹When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled with the power of the Holy Spirit through baptism, let us come before the throne of God to offer prayers for the needs of the church and world.

We pray for the church throughout the world, that God will touch the lips of its bishops and pastors with the fire of truth, and enliven them to preach the good news of Christ crucified. God of light,

show us your glory and hear us.

We pray for all living creatures, that humankind not exploit or destroy them but learn proper care of them for the preservation of creation and for the common good. God of light,

show us your glory and hear us.

We pray for nations and people suffering from economic crises, that God will open the minds and hearts of others to meet their needs and to effect long-term change, so that all people may have meaningful work and may live in dignity. God of light,

show us your glory and hear us.

We pray for all those neglected or discounted by society: the mentally ill, children living in poverty, the disabled, and the sick (*especially*), that God will deliver them through the work of Christ's body. God of light,

show us your glory and hear us.

We pray for our congregation, that those who hunger for God will be filled through the worship life and teaching ministry in this place. God of light,

show us your glory and hear us.

We pray in thanksgiving for the witness of those in every age who left all to follow Jesus; may their lives move us to greater faith in him and greater service in his name until we offer full and perfect praise in heaven. God of light,

show us your glory and hear us.

God of faithfulness, through the revelation of your Son we stand before you without fear and lift up to you all in need. In Jesus' name hear and answer our prayers according to your steadfast love.

Amen.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.