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5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 6 February 2022

Anthony Doran

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6 February 2022

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reflection by Anthony Doran

Introduction

The call of God in our lives comes when we least expect it. Just ask Isaiah and Simon Peter. We read the story of both of their calls in this Sunday's readings. God seems never to be much interested in how worthy we are (or feel we are) or how ready we are (or feel we are). God is interested in how we respond.

Penitential Act

Use one of the *Roman Missal* texts or this optional litany form:

Lord Jesus, you forgive us and bring us a new life.
Lord, have mercy.

You came to give salvation to all humankind.
Christ, have mercy.

You are the new Temple of God.
Lord, have mercy.

Collect

*Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care,
that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace,
they may be defended always by your protection.*

The heart of this Sunday's collect is the petition that God, in devoted loving kindness, continually guard, protect and strengthen the community. The request is made out of the belief that the faithful are members of God's family. In this we belong to the divine household both as adopted children and as servants, implying a deep intimacy with God and a willingness to serve. The divine guardianship is an expression of God's intimate devotion to us as the head of the household and, as such, carries the expectation that God will protect us.

The ancient manuscripts show the prayer was used early in the year, either in proximity to Lent or as a Lenten collect. This association highlights the helplessness the prayer expresses in face of sin. The only sure hope is reliance on heavenly grace.

The combination of God's 'care', custodianship and protection point to the intimacy with which God relates to the faithful. Further these are associated in the prayer tradition with God's guarding, protecting, cherishing, ruling, defending and strengthening. The collect is insistent that the family of God need these gifts continually.

First Reading

Isaiah 6:1-8

At a critical turning point in the history of Judah, Isaiah is called to be a prophet. Isaiah protests his unworthiness for this new ministry, but his protestations are as nothing when the seraph cleanses him with the live coal from the altar. Isaiah can then respond, "Here I am, send me."

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 137:1-5. 7-8. R̥ v. 1

In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

In this psalm, the Psalmist is moved to praise and thanksgiving because God has responded to a desperate plea for help.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

In this last major 'teaching' section of the First Letter to the Corinthians, Paul restates and defends the Christian teaching of the resurrection of the dead. It is not something which Paul has 'invented' but which he was taught himself when he came to belief in Christ.

Gospel Reading

Luke 5:1-11

Our Gospel Reading today tells the story of the call of Peter and James and John, following the miraculous catch of fish. Like Isaiah, Simon Peter protests his unworthiness. Jesus is not concerned with our worthiness, but rather with our readiness to respond with love.

Reflection

Today's first reading tells the story of the calling of the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah has a vision of the Lord in the sanctuary of the Temple. And the Lord's voice shakes the

foundations of the Temple when he speaks. Isaiah protests that he is a “man of unclean lips”. So an angel brings a live coal and places it in Isaiah’s mouth. Then Isaiah hears the voice of the Lord asking “Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?” And Isaiah can answer: Here I am, send me!

Our Gospel Reading today also tells the story of a calling. Of the calling of Simon Peter and James and John. In many ways, it is similar to the calling of Isaiah. Just as Isaiah does, Peter, too, protests that he is not worthy. But Jesus is not to be deterred. He does not accept Peter’s protests, but simply answers: “Do not be afraid.” Perhaps the most gentle “No” in all of Scripture.

For all of us who have ever felt unworthy or inadequate in answering Jesus’ call to discipleship, St Augustine has the answer for us:

If Christ had first chosen a man skilled in public speaking, such a man might have said, ‘I have been chosen because of my eloquence.’ Had he chosen a senator, the senator might have said, ‘I have been chosen because of my rank’. If his first choice had been an emperor, the emperor might have said, ‘I have been chosen for the sake of the power I have at my disposal’. But 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. Although I mean to include senators, orators and emperors among my recruits, even when I have won over the senator I shall still be surer of this fisherman. The senator can always take pride in what he is; so can the orator and emperor, but the fisherman can glory in nothing except Christ alone. Any of these others 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 (Augustine, Sermon 43, 5-7).

Thus Peter dares leave his past for a future with Jesus. Thus Peter, dealing with sinners, never forgot that he was a sinner too.

And so, what of us?

When Jesus calls us, what will our answer be? Are we prepared to be challenged by the call of God, and find the foundations of our life shaken when God calls, as Isaiah found the foundations of the Temple shaken when God called him?

Can we be like Simon Peter? Despite our own unworthiness, can we let Jesus take away our fear and take possession of us? Can we let Jesus work in us and through us?

Prayer of the Faithful

Introduction

In today's Gospel, the Apostles left everything and followed Jesus. In prayer we likewise lay everything in God's care, knowing that our needs will be granted.

Petitions

Let us pray for Pope Francis and our bishops that through the power of God they do not falter in their calling. May they work diligently in guiding the people of God to eternal life through the pilgrim journey of the Synod process.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

Let us pray for the leaders of all nations, that they be open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit so that they can promote justice and peace and supply COVID-19 vaccine equitably to all in need.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

Let us pray that since we are all called to be missionaries and preachers through our Baptism that, when we hear the voice of God, we do not harden our hearts but respond with joy.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

Let us pray that all Australia people open their hearts to the Holy Spirit as we journey towards the conclusion of the Plenary Council in July this year.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

Let us pray for all those who are suffering from COVID-19, domestic violence and other illnesses of mind, body and spirit. May they find support through our frontline health workers, agencies and family members to give them strength and the will to get well.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

Let us pray that as a parish community we may be missionaries in our families and local community by living exemplary lives.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

Conclusion

With confidence in the knowledge that God will hear our petitions and answer according to the divine will, we pray through the power of the Spirit and in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

Amen.

Music selections by Alessio Loiacono and Chris deSilva

GA

Be not afraid. B. Dufford SJ. 449
Christ is made the sure foundation. J. M. Neale et. al./ H. Purcell. 482
Come down, O love divine. R. F. Littledale/ R. V. Williams. 375
Do not be afraid. C. Willcock SJ. 28
Forth in the peace of Christ we go. J. Quinn SJ/O. Gibbons. 495
Here I am, Lord. D. Schutte. 496
Holy God, we praise your name. C. A. Walworth et. al/ Grosser Gott. 411
I have loved you. M. Joncas. 402
Let all mortal flesh keep silence. Liturgy of St James/ French Carol Melody. 190
Lord, you give the great commission. J. Rowthorn/ C. Taylor. 313
The summons. J. Bell. 502

AOV1

Be not afraid. B. Dufford SJ. 114
Come down, O love divine. R. F. Littledale/ R. V. Williams. 118
Here I am, Lord. D. Schutte. 90
I have loved you. M. Joncas. 126
Praise, my soul, the King of heaven H. Lyte/ J. Goss. 78

AOV2

Do not be afraid. C. Willcock SJ. 73
Holy God, we praise your name. C. A. Walworth et. al/ Grosser Gott. 129
Praise to the Lord, the almighty. C. Winkworth/ German Chorale. 132

AOVNG

Will you come and follow me/The Summons. Graham Maule and John L. Bell. 149

CWB

Go now, you are sent forth. Leo Watt OFM. 690
The Spirit of God. Lucien Deiss. 832

CWBII

Sunday by Sunday hymn suggestions
O come and sing to God, the Lord. Trans. *The Psalter*. 175
Holy God we praise thy name. Ignaz Franz, tr. Clarence Alphonsus Walworth. 504
Here I am, Lord. Dan Schutte. 518
Let all mortal flesh keep silence. Trans. Gerald Moultrie. 533
Be not afraid. Bob Dufford SJ. 652
Additional selections by Chris deSilva
Go, make of all disciples. Leon M. Adkins. 493
Go now, you are sent forth. Leo R. Watt. 494
God has chosen me. Bernadette Farrell. 495
Go to the world! Sylvia G. Dunstan. 496
Take the word of God with you. James Harrison. 607
The Summons. John L. Bell and Graham Maule. 645
You walk along our shoreline. Sylvia Dunstan. 653

S&S1

The Summons. John L. Bell. 137
Here I am, Lord. Dan Schutte. 152

S&S2

Fish with me. Ken Canedo. 342
God has chosen me. Bernadette Farrell. 345

Psalms Selected by Chris deSilva and Angela McCarthy

Psalm 137: *In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.*

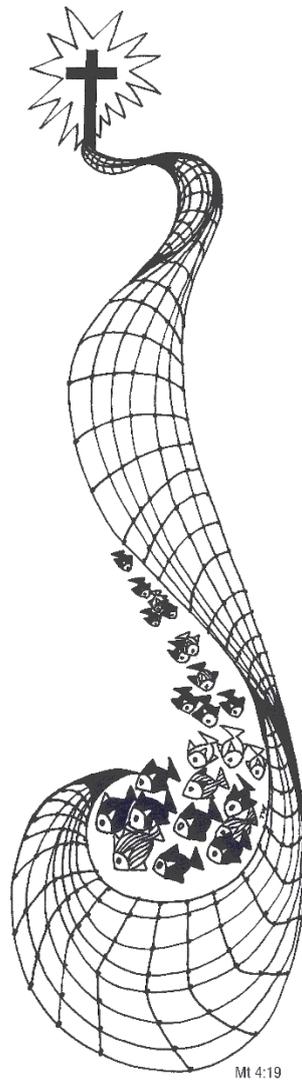
Psalm 137: David C. Isele. CWB 363

Psalm 138 (137): Jenny O'Brien. JOBC pg. 62

In the sight of the angels. LPC Tony Alonso pg.94

Music selections by Michael Mangan

Heaven shall be yours (TCS) *Beatitudes* [Communion]



Mt 4:19