

REFLECTION: I remember a time when I was able to go inside myself and realized what was causing me make bad choices in life... I remember... I remember...

Caught

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle C | February 9, 2025



Artwork made by Travis Larimer

WISDOM FROM THE CELLS

I remember an experience I shared with Jesus and felt he understood me... It was when I was at the end of my rope, so to speak, and I knew I had to change. I was desperate and was feeling hopeless because for most of my life, I had messed things up. Here I was at 45 years old and still an incarcerated gang member in the Security Housing Unit with nothing to show for my life, except a false sense of respect, violence, and pain.

I had enough of this 'tough guy' business or the smile-in-your-face and stab-you-in-the-back type of life that I lived for more than 20 years. I now wanted to do good but I knew I couldn't do it alone. I needed a power that was greater than myself. This was our Lord and Savior Jesus, who I opened up to. He not only embraced me, but understood me and ever since then, the Lord continues to heal me, helps me to see things differently, and is always there when I need Him. Thanks be to God.

-Manuel, who is in a California State Prison.

PENITENTIAL RITE

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.
R. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray:
Jesus,
You do so many wonderful things for me in this life, but sometimes I refuse to recognize and thank you for them. Help me to follow you proudly, just like Peter and the Apostles did.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

This is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are we who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray:
Lord,
Thank you for the peace and freedom that you offer each one of us through the experiences and people in our life. May your constant love and guidance give us life and courage as we face the many difficulties that lie ahead of us.

We ask this through Jesus, our Savior. **R. Amen.**



OUR FATHER

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:
**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.**

R. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

SIGN OF PEACE

Jesus, you said to your apostles: "I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live forever and ever. **Amen.**"

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R. And with your spirit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 6: 1-2a, 3-8

In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, with the train of his garment filling the temple. Seraphim were stationed above. They cried one to the other, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts! All the earth is filled with his glory!" At the sound of that cry, the frame of the door shook and the house was filled with smoke. Then I said, "Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Then one of the seraphim flew to me, holding an ember that he had taken with tongs from the altar. He touched my mouth with it, and said, "See, now that this has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed, your sin purged." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" "Here I am," I said; "send me!"

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5

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

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart,

for you have heard the words of my mouth; in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;

I will worship at your holy temple and give thanks to your name.

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

Because of your kindness and your truth; for you have made great above all things your name and your promise.

When I called, you answered me; you built up strength within me.

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

All the kings of the earth shall give thanks to you, O LORD,

when they hear the words of your mouth; and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD: "Great is the glory of the LORD."

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 11

Brothers and sisters, I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures; that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. After that he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one abnormally born, he appeared to me. Therefore, whether it be I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

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 alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that the boats were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

MEDITATION: WHAT LIES BELOW?

from the eyes of peter

the lake was still
jesus looked at me
saying:
peter, stop
this is the place
we are going
to catch fish

i was thinking
this is crazy
we will have
to go deep
to catch fish

so we began to
untangle the nets
not sure why
we were doing this
but i wasn't going
to let jesus down

just as i thought this
there was a pain
so deep
it was like having
three heart attacks

letting jesus down?
this triggered
an avalanche
of feelings
shooting across
my chest

letting others down
that is what my life
has been about

in the middle
of the lake
i was ready
to throw in the nets
because i felt so bad

for letting those
who believe in me
who have given me
another chance
down

i have let
people down
again and again
like throwing
this net
again and again

but this time
was different
being with jesus

then jesus said:
peter,
are you ready
to throw in
the nets?

i looked out
onto the surface
of the lake
and thought
what was beneath
the surface of
this lake?

i wasn't going
to let jesus down

i lifted the nets and
with the others
i threw it into
the water and
it hit the surface
falling down
deeper and deeper

jesus came over
to where i was
he looked at me

and said:
peter,
what stops you
from going deeper?
do you believe
you can be healed
of the pain
that lies below?
do you?

i looked into
jesus's eyes
as he was
watching the nets
go deeper
and deeper

all my life
i have spoken with
family and friends
about so many things
but about what lies
deep below
within me?

never, jesus
never have spoken
to anyone about
what lies within me
none of us are
used to that
it is easier
to just be superficial
but you know, jesus
the good fish are
found deep below
at the bottom

jesus,
am i afraid of
going down there?

yes

right there

at that moment
in the middle
of the lake
with the nets
falling deep
i told jesus
what had happened
to me as a kid
about the violence
in my family about
the nightmares i had

it was as if
nothing else
was happening
i was able to go
deep with jesus
for the first time
it seemed like
it lasted for days

when i finished
i felt a pull on
my hands and
we began to lift up
a huge catch of
deep-lying fish

i was never the same
after that day

jesus had taught me
many things
during these years
but nothing
as important as
to go to our depths
to bring our hurts
to the surface
and be healed
by an amazing
fisherman
called jesus

