



Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity 5th September

Father God, help us to come to you this morning with open and thankful hearts. Fill us with the joy and peace that comes with knowing you. Be with us as we walk in your light, rejoice in your love and reflect your glory.

Amen

Hymn 367: Jesus where're thy people meet

Welcome

The Lord be with you,
and also with you

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Prayer of Confession

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself". There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,**

through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal through Jesus Christ our lord. **Amen**

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Collect for today:

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: Colossians 1: 9 - 14

9 For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the

saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Hymn 67: Be still for the presence of the Lord

Gospel Reading: Luke 5: 1 - 11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord

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 signalled to 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon: Revd Kathryn Waite – from Thursday 2nd September

I have found it incredibly hard to watch the scenes over the last few weeks as thousands of people have desperately tried to leave Afghanistan. It has been even more difficult to hear the stories told by some of those who have made it out of the country on the British and American flights – stories of how those who have worked with the British forces in the past have been hunted down, how many have gone into hiding to avoid capture. We have heard reports that some of those who have been caught have been tortured and executed.

In today's gospel reading however, a different word for catching people is used. The Greek word *zogron* is used, one that is rather unusual in the New Testament, but it means catching alive. *Unlike some of those caught by the Taliban and killed and the fish that the disciples eventually caught, which would have been alive as the net came in but would have died very shortly afterwards – Jesus calls Simon to catch people, and to catch them alive.*

This story of Jesus calling the disciples is unlike that in both Mark and Matthew's gospels which describe Jesus simply walking along by the Sea of Galilee and suddenly calling Simon, Andrew, James, and John to follow him. It is only in Luke's gospel, our gospel reading this morning, that the story of the miraculous catch of fish precedes Jesus' call to the fishermen. And this story of the miraculous catch of fish is also very similar to that in John's post-resurrection story of Jesus meeting his disciples at the Sea of Galilee. In both stories there had been a futile night of fishing on the part of the fishermen, professional fisherman who would have known the waters of the Lake of Gennesaret or the Sea of Galilee as we tend to know it, very well. Fishermen who receive advice from Jesus leading to an enormous, miraculous catch of fish.

Prior to this account in Luke's gospel, Simon had already met Jesus, when Jesus visited his home in Capernaum and healed his mother-in-law. Perhaps that explains Simon's willingness to let Jesus use his fishing boat as, what can only be described as a floating pulpit. And why he readily agreed to Jesus' request to put the boat out a little from the land. And also perhaps having met Jesus previously made Simon more open to Jesus' suggestion to let down the nets in the deep after an exhausting, unsuccessful night even though he clearly thought that it wasn't going to work. You can almost hear the frustration in his voice "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing." But he goes on "Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." And we know what happens next: a huge catch of fish ensued, so big that it required two boats to bring it to land and Jesus' subsequent calling of Simon to follow him and to catch people.

As is all too often the case, those affected by the 20 year conflict in Afghanistan are ordinary people, the ordinary people of Afghanistan and the ordinary people who served in the British and American forces who were posted there. The disciples too were very ordinary people, ordinary fisherman. The disciples are often portrayed as being rather stupid, uneducated and slow to understand what Jesus was telling them. Although actually, they may have been wily businessmen and probably in addition to Aramaic able to speak pretty good Greek, the working language of commerce at the time, which they would have needed to get the best price for their catch. Even so they were ordinary people all the same. Indeed, the Bible is full of very ordinary, in fact quite a number of pretty flawed characters that are called to serve God in extraordinary ways, and are often, perhaps not surprisingly, like Peter rather reticent.

Simon Peter's resistance to follow Jesus appears to come from his sense of unworthiness. He is also rather sceptical about launching the nets into the deep after a whole night of not catching anything. How could this man just come along and tell him, an experienced fisherman what to do? Was he crazy?

Perhaps Jesus' radical call to us to follow him sometimes seems rather crazy, just too impractical? I wonder, do we stay in the shallows because we are comfortable there and the chances of having any success out in the deep waters seems impossible? As humans we don't like to go outside of our comfort zones very often and we tend to avoid any possibility of not being successful.

The call to follow Christ for most will not mean leaving our current professions and roles behind us (although for some of us it has.) It was not one I was expecting 6 or 7 years ago. But we are all called as baptised Christians to participate in God's mission to the world. We all are called to use the gifts that God has given each of us to serve others, to share the good news of Christ with others.

And Jesus' mission for us does not wait until we think we are ready. Thankfully God equips the called rather than calling the equipped. We are called right now - in spite of our frailty, failures, and doubts, even in the midst of our ordinary, busy, complicated lives. Jesus' word to encourage Simon Peter should also encourage us: "Do not be afraid." This is Jesus' mission, in which we all have our parts to play, like small areas in a much larger colourful tapestry. We have to trust that God will keep working with us and through us, "catching" others as he has caught us -- in the deep, wide net of God's abundant mercy and love.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers

The Peace:

Take a moment and offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God for each other and our church family church community. Maybe call or text someone who would enjoy sharing the peace with you.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy, that you may be kept safe and blameless in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Hymn 310: I heard the voice

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours.
Now and for ever.
Amen.**

Hymn 517: O love that will not let

Remembering the Lord's Supper:

Take a moment to remember the final meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. As we think about this meal - with the washing of feet and bread and wine shared with friends - we remember Jesus' offering of himself on the cross. We rejoice in his resurrection from the dead and look forward to the coming of God's Kingdom. While we cannot receive Christ in the sacraments in the usual way, we can be the presence of Christ in our homes and communities and we can be a praying presence wherever we are.

Hymn 580: Rejoice the Lord is King

Closing Prayer:

Lord God, we thank you for this time of worship; may your love and peace remain with us in the coming days. Be with us in all that we will think, say and do so that our lives may reflect your glory. We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen