BIBLE STUDY
February 5-6, 2025

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Isaiah 6: 1-2a, 3-8
Luke 5: 1-11
1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

1. **Isaiah 6: 1-2a, 3-8**
    - V. 1: The Call of Isaiah: In the Holy of Holies in the temple, there were two statues of angels whose wings formed the throne of God. The Ark of the Covenant was God's footstool. The glory of God filled the temple.
    - V. 2: Angels (Seraphim) were with an otherworldly appearance were present.
    - V. 3: They cried out to one another: Holy, Holy, Holy. We use these words in the Mass at the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer, and in other prayers.
    - V. 4: The power and majesty of God is symbolized by the shaking (earthquake) and the smoke (a reminder of the clouds and fire on Mt. Sinai.)
    - V. 5: Isaiah acknowledges his sinfulness and how unworthy he is to be in the presence of the Lord. He will surely die because he has seen the Lord.
    - V. 6: The angel purifies his lips with a burning coal.
    - V. 7: The fire of the coal purifies Isaiah of his sinfulness.
    - V. 8: Isaiah hears the voice of the Lord asking for a messenger to bring his word. Whom shall we (the heavenly court) send? Isaiah answers, "send me!"
2. **Luke 5: 1-11**
    - V. 1: The magnitude and the insistence of the crowd is the reason that Jesus meets Peter.
    - V. 2: The fishermen with peter are mending their nets after a night of fruitless fishing. Jesus sees the boats.
    - V. 3: Jesus uses Peter's boat as his pulpit. The boat has become by Luke's time a symbol of the church- a community of disciples gathered around Jesus to bring the good news of the hospitality of God and his Kingdom. Jesus preaching from the boat is a sign of his desire to gather a community to continue the work of saving people. The hunger and thirsting of the crown for the word of life prompts Jesus' first gathering of the church.
    - V. 4-7: Jesus, who is not a fisherman, gives fishermen a command to fish in the daytime. Peter is reluctant at first but then obeys. They are rewarded with an enormous catch of fish. They experience a miracle through Jesus' power. They go from fruitless fishing to reluctant fishing and an abundant catch.

- V. 8-9: In the presence of the divine. Peter becomes painfully aware of his own sinfulness and unworthiness. He falls to his knees and tells Jesus to leave because he is not worthy to be in his presence.
- V. 10: Luke identifies the companions of Peter, James, and John. Jesus dismisses their fears. Do not be afraid signals the presence of God. Jesus commissions them to go from fishers of fish to fishers of people alive. Fishing for fish involves the fish's death. Fishing for people involves bringing them to fuller life.
- V. 11: The first disciples leave everything and follow Jesus.

3. **1 Corinthians 15: 1-11**
    - Paul is answering Corinthians who are denying the bodily resurrection from the dead. They may be influenced by Greek philosophy that saw the body as inferior to the soul and could not imagine a body living after death. Or they are part of the "spiritually sophisticated" who saw resurrection as a purely spiritual experience and having taken place in baptism. Paul affirms the core Christian belief that we will rise body and soul—our whole person will be saved. He reflected the Jewish understanding that the body and soul are one and are inseparable.
    - V. 1: Paul signals that he is about to speak about something important—the gospel message.
    - V. 2: The gospel will save them if they hold fast to it.
    - V. 3: Paul is now quoting an early Christian creed that he has received. First, Christ died for our sins as the Scripture says.
    - V. 4: Second, Christ rose from the dead on the third day as the Scriptures say.
    - V. 5: He appeared to Simon Peter and the Apostles
    - V. 6: He appeared to 500
    - V. 7: He appeared to James and to all the Apostles
    - V.8: He appeared to Paul, last of all
    - V. 9: Paul expresses his unworthiness because he formerly persecuted the church.
    - V. 10: He expresses his identity as a loved sinner. He embraces his past and his present life of grace. He displays a remarkable self-knowledge and acceptance of who is he and the role that God's grace and mercy play in who is today.
    - V. 11: This is what he and everyone else preaches. He encourages them to believe.