

- Hi, everyone. Welcome to our Liturgy of the Word where we learn what God tells us through the readings of the Bible. How's everyone doing? OK? Good, now remember the rules about this still being church, which means you have to behave like we're still in church, and there are no bathroom or water fountain breaks for the ten minutes or so that we are in here.
- So, let's take a moment to think about being God's children. Let's think about being with His Son, Jesus, Mary, His mother, and Joseph, His father on earth. Let's get our heads in the right frame of mind to *hear* God's word. *Now* let's pray our opening prayer, courtesy of Mrs. Quinlan. Let's pray it together. *In the name of the Father...Amen.*
- Okay. Where are we now? Well, by way of orientation, today marks almost 8 weeks since Christmas, yeah already, (and 10 weeks until Easter). And like we prepared for Christmas with the season of Advent, we prepare for the resurrection of Jesus on Easter with the season of what?—Right, Lent, which begins on what day?—Right, Ash Wednesday, which is in about 3½ weeks. The year is flying by, isn't it? Just 10 weeks until Easter, then Pentecost, then Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day, then the summer's over so it's back to school, then Halloween, Thanksgiving, and before you know it, you better watch out 'cause Santa will be coming back to town all over again. But for now I guess we better just concern ourselves with today, which is the 5th Sunday in what?—Right, Ordinary Time.

- As you already know because you're so smart, Ordinary Time is what the Church calls all Sundays which don't fall during the preparation or celebration of Christmas, Easter, Advent, Lent, or any other of the special feast days of the Church year. During the Ordinary Time Sundays we read in the Bible about the different experiences Jesus had during His all too brief time on earth and the different lessons He wants us to learn from His interactions with the people of the time.
- Some of you may or may not know that I'm an eye doctor, which means that I take care of vision. Vision, of course, is the act of seeing, which is what the eye does. When you see, your eye is providing you with vision. But does anyone here know what a vision is?—Right. Those are all good answers. Let's summarize them. A vision is the experience of seeing someone or something in a dream or in a way that God can send us a message. There are many visions in the Bible, beginning with some in the Old Testament...by the way, what's the Old Testament?—Right, the part of the Bible which takes place before Jesus was born...and there are some visions in the New Testament...which takes place when?—Right, after Jesus was born...and there are some visions in the Book of Revelation, which is the topic of a whole 'nother discussion.
- Well anyway, talking about visions brings us to the first reading today, from good ole reliable Isaiah, who was a what?—Right. A prophet, which means I'm going to ask you what question?—Right, what's a prophet? Just about every week we ask you this question. So what *is*

a prophet?—Right. Isaiah was given the gift of hearing God's word and then spoke God's words to the people of Israel, and of course, to us when we read his book in the Old Testament. Today we're going to do something a little different during Isaiah's reading. I want you to listen with your eyes closed. Isaiah is going to describe *a vision* that he had. While I'm reading, just imagine you have the same vision that Isaiah had. Try to see what Isaiah saw. OK, so everyone close your eyes.

- A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8).

In the year that King Uzziah died, I had a vision of the Lord. He was on His throne high above, and His robe filled the temple. Seraphim, flaming creatures with six wings, two for flying, two which covered their faces, and two which covered their feet, were flying over Him and cried out to each other over and over again, "Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts! Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory." Their voices made the door of the temple shake. I could smell the smoke that filled the temple. Then I cried out, "I am doomed! Everything I say is sinful, and everyone around me is sinful, too. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord All-Powerful." One of the flaming creatures flew over to me with a burning coal that he had taken from the altar with a pair of metal tongs. The seraph touched my lips with the hot coal and said, "This has touched your lips. Your sins are forgiven, and you are no longer guilty." After this I heard the Lord ask, "Is there anyone I can send? Will someone go for us?" I replied, "Here I am! Send me."

The Word of the Lord. *THANKS BE TO GOD.*

- Alright, you can open your eyes now. So let's talk about what you saw in your visions while your eyes were closed. Did you see Seraphim? I'm sure just about none of you know anything about Seraphim, so let me tell you about seraphim, which is the plural form of the singular Seraph. This chapter in the book of Isaiah is the only place in the Old Testament where Seraphim are mentioned. They are said to be the highest class of angels, the keepers of God's throne. They also are mentioned in the Book of Revelation at the end of the New Testament. They are flaming creatures, because they burn with the fire of love for God. Isaiah tells us they have how many wings?—Right, six wings, two for flying, two to cover their faces, and two to cover what?—Right, their feet. Here is a picture of what Seraphim might look like. Is that anything like what you imagined with your eyes closed? They fly around God and continually chant "Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts! Heaven and earth are filled with your glory." Now where have you heard those words before?—Right. During the Mass right before the Eucharistic prayer. Listen for it today when we go back into the main church.
- So Isaiah sees God on His throne with the chanting Seraphim flying all around Him, and what does Isaiah do next?—Right. He cries out that he and everyone around him are sinners. And what does one of the Seraphim do?—Right. He forgives Isaiah's sins by

touching his lips with a burning coal from the temple altar. Then God asks if there is someone He can send to bring the people His message, and what does Isaiah say?—Right, all excited, “I’ll go. I’ll go. Send me!”

- Now let’s turn our attention to our Psalm for today, Psalm #138. Let’s recite the psalm...
- Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 138:1-2, 4-5).

In the sight of the angels, I will sing Your praises, Lord.
Everyone: *IN THE SIGHT OF THE ANGELS, I WILL SING YOUR PRAISES, LORD.*

With all my heart and in the presence of angels I sing Your praises. I worship at Your temple. *IN THE SIGHT OF THE ANGELS, I WILL SING YOUR PRAISES, LORD.*

All kings on this earth have heard Your promises, Lord, and they will praise You. You are so famous that they will sing about the things You have done. *IN THE SIGHT OF THE ANGELS, I WILL SING YOUR PRAISES, LORD.*

- Before God and all of His angels and everyone in church later on in today’s Mass, when we say, “Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts! Heaven and earth are filled with your glory,” are we not singing the Lord’s praises?

- Okay, now we have the second reading from St. Paul to a group of people from the city of Corinth, which was and still is a city in Greece. Let's listen to
- A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 11):

Sisters and brothers: I told you the most important part of the message, and you believed it. That part is: Christ died for our sins, as the Scriptures say. He was buried, and on the third day He was raised to life, as the Scriptures say. Christ appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. After this, He appeared to more than five hundred other followers. Most of them are still alive, but some have died. He also appeared to James, and then to all of the apostles. Finally, he appeared to me [in a *vision*], as the least of the apostles, [why the least?] because I persecuted His church. But it doesn't matter who I am. All of you believed the message, just the same.

The Word of the Lord. *THANKS BE TO GOD.*

- So St. Paul gives us a summary of the last weeks Jesus walked the earth. As we all know, Christ died on the cross for our sins, and on the third day He rose from the dead. Then He appeared to how many people?—Right, more than 500. Then, after He ascended into heaven, He appeared to Paul *in a vision*. And even though Paul was a persecutor of Christians, Jesus appeared to him *in a vision* to send him to bring God's message to the people. Do you see the similarity to Isaiah's vision?

Jesus said, “Paul, why do you persecute Me? Instead, go out and tell the world about Me.” And what did Paul do? He listened. And God asked “Who can we send?” And what did Isaiah say? “Send me!” *He* listened.

- Now let’s turn our attention to the gospel. In the gospel, Luke tells us a famous story. Let’s listen to his words.
- Almighty God, cleanse my heart and my lips that I may worthily proclaim Your holy gospel.
- And now, we have the alleluia verse before the gospel. Let’s all stand.
- Alleluia, Alleluia. *Alleluia, Alleluia.*
- Come follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of people.
- *Alleluia, Alleluia.*
- Now as I announce the reading of the gospel, I will trace the sign of the cross on *my* forehead, lips, and heart. And as you respond “Glory to you, O Lord,” you should make the same tracing of the cross on *your* forehead, lips, and heart.
- A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (Luke 5:1-11).

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

Jesus was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret, teaching the people as they crowded around Him *to hear* God's message. Near the shore He saw two boats left there by some fishermen who had gone to wash their nets. Jesus got into the boat that belonged to Simon and asked him and one of his partners to row it out a little way from the shore. Then Jesus sat down in the boat to teach the crowd. When Jesus had finished speaking, He told Simon, "Row the boat out into deeper water and let your nets down to catch some fish." "Master," Simon answered, "we have worked hard all night long and have not caught a thing. But if You tell me to, I will let down the nets." They did it and caught so many fish that their nets began ripping apart. Then they signaled for the partners in the other boat to come and help them. The men came, and together they filled the two boats so full almost to the point of sinking. When Simon saw this happen, he knelt down in front of Jesus and said, "Lord, don't come near me. I am a sinner." He and his partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were all completely surprised at all the fish they had caught. Jesus told Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on I will make you fishers of people instead of fish." The men pulled their boats up on the shore. Then they left everything and followed Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.

- *PRAISE BE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST.*
- So as you may remember from the past few weeks of gospels, this Jesus fellow's reputation has been

spreading rapidly, with the voice of God from the sky after He was baptized, then he changed water into wine at the wedding of Cana. So He is drawing crowds wherever He goes. Now remember, there were no microphones, so people had to crowd around Him to hear whatever He said. You know they couldn't read about Him on the internet. So in order to better preach to the crowd, what does Jesus do?—Right. He gets into Simon's boat and has him row out a bit onto Lake Gennesaret, also known by the more common name of the Sea of Galilee, so He can better talk to the people. After talking, He has Simon do what?—Right, throw his nets into the water. And even though he & his partners had been trying to fish without much success all day and night, what happened?—Right. They caught a whole *bunch* of fish, which prompted Simon to kneel down and say, "Go away because I am a" what?—Right. A sinner. And so was Paul. And so was Isaiah. And so are we. But God said I want to send you, Isaiah. Stop persecuting my people, Paul. Come, Simon, and I will make you fishers of people. Each time, God said to them, "it doesn't matter what you are doing. I'm calling you." And what did Isaiah, Paul, and Simon Peter do?—Right, they listened. So do you hear God when He is calling you to be good and to do His will? When God calls us, we need to listen!

- And that, boys and girls, is the powerful lesson in today's readings. When God calls us, we need to listen.
- It's time to tell God and each other what we believe, what we truly believe, what makes us Catholics. Let's

stand and say the Apostles' Creed like we really mean it.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. ¶
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. ¶
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

- We always want to be guided by God's word. Let us pray that God will help us hear that word and respond to it generously. Please respond each time with "Lord, hear our prayer."
- That now that we have celebrated the birth of Christ & know that He is with us, please help us to *listen* to Him, we pray to the Lord.
- That the word of God will always be in our minds, in our hearts, and on our lips so that we will know God's love and what He wants us to do, love God above all things and love each other, and speak to others of God, we pray to the Lord.
- That Pope Francis will be guided by the Holy Spirit to continue St. Peter's work, guiding us to God, we pray to the Lord.
- That all men and women in the military fighting to protect our freedom will return home safely, we pray to the Lord.

- (That people who argue and fight will show their love for God and for their neighbor by becoming people of peace, we pray to the Lord.)
- For Fr. Richard, Fr. Bill, Fr. Roberto, and all the teachers of religious education, that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide them as *they* lead us closer to Jesus, we pray to the Lord.
- (That people will notice when others need their help, and show their love for God by giving freely to help others, we pray to the Lord.)
- That God will comfort sad people and heal sick people, we pray to the Lord.
- For all of our mothers, fathers, grandparents, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, cousins, teachers, friends, and their families and their pets who may be sick or injured or who may have died recently, we pause now and pray silently...for all of these people, we pray to the Lord.
- Loving God, we are waiting for the coming of Jesus and are ready to *listen* to Him and follow Him, so in heaven we will see You face to face and be happy with You forever. We pray, as we always pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, Your son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.