

About the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Theme: Sent forth to Speak the Word

– *highlighting the Scriptures for the week* –

**I**saiah was terrified; his eyes had seen the King, the LORD of hosts, exalted on the praises of Israel. (Isaiah) Though high and lifted up, the LORD sent down His angel to cleanse the prophet's unclean lips to speak His Word. So it is that the church forever brings her praise through lips made clean by Jesus' blood. (1 Corinthians) She speaks in ordinary tongues; not in spirit only, but with mind, and heart, and soul. Thus the body of Christ is built up in the most holy faith. So it was that the Lord Jesus called fishermen to leave their boats and follow Him to speak His Word. The spectacular catch of fish foreshadowed the Word's mighty power to gather men into the Kingdom of God.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Use the schedule below in your personal devotion. The first three readings are the lessons read today; the last three will be read next Sunday. The Wednesday reading is the psalmody for the week. Each day you may want to pray that Psalm or the prayer printed in our service folder today, followed by the suggested reading and your personal requests and Thanksgivings to our Heavenly Father.

- Sunday** Isaiah 6:1-8 What did Isaiah see in the temple the year that King Uzziah died? What was the song of the angels? When and how does the church's liturgy echo that song? What was Isaiah's reaction to this vision? Why? In what dramatic way did the LORD purge away Isaiah's sin? By what means does He purge away our sin? What call did the LORD have for Isaiah? For us? What does this mean?
- Monday** 1 Corinthians 14:12b-20 Which are the gifts of the Holy Spirit that build up His church? When and how does the church pray and sing with both mind and spirit? How do you praise God in your worship? How do you build up your fellow Christians in worship? How can this Biblical insight lend vitality to your time "in church?" What is a childish attitude toward worship? What is a mature attitude toward worship? How is this done?
- Tuesday** Luke 5:1-11 What was Jesus doing at the Lake? How does the church continue her Lord's work of preaching and teaching? What was unusual about Jesus' fishing instructions? Why was Peter astounded at the results of this fishing expedition? How did Peter respond to the Holiness of Jesus? How did Jesus absolve Peter? How does He absolve us? Why did the disciples beach their boats? What commission did Jesus give them? How is this done among us? What does this mean?
- Wednesday** Psalm 138 What two things has God exalted above all things? Why? What happens when we call upon His name? Whom does the LORD look upon? Whom does He keep at a distance? What endures forever? What does this mean?
- Thursday** Deuteronomy 34:1-12 What did Moses see from the top of Mt. Nebo? Why could he not cross over into this land? Who would? Where was Moses buried? How? Who was Moses' successor? What was absolutely unique about Moses among all the other prophets? How is he therefore a type (prefigure) of Jesus?
- Friday** Hebrews 3:1-6 How do the readers of this text share in "a heavenly calling"? How is Jesus both an "apostle" and a "high priest"? In what way(s) is Jesus the Christ greater than Moses? What does this mean for us?
- Saturday** Luke 9:28-36 What happened to Jesus as He was praying on the mountain? Who appeared there and talked with Jesus? What were they talking about? What enveloped the disciples? Whose voice did they hear? What did He say? Where and how do we hear Jesus today? What does this mean?