

**Do not be afraid 6th February 22 C
Epiphany 5.**

Psalm 27 v1&2.

**The Lord is my light and my salvation- so
why should I be afraid?**

**The Lord is my fortress protecting me
from danger, so why should I tremble?**

Hymn 11.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to
Thee:

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the
glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before
Thee,
Who wert and art, and ever more shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide
Thee,
Though the sinful human eye Thy glory may
not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside
Thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth
and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Prayers Of Praise

Almighty Father, we turn to You for You
alone are our God, the fount of everlasting
wisdom, the light of our lives, the soul of our
souls, with whom faithful people of every
age have found love and friendship.
Our minds cannot hold You, our words
cannot express You, for Your light and
loveliness are beyond our understanding.
And yet You have been our guide and
companion over every mountain and through
every dark valley of our experience.

Today we offer You our worship and lift our
hearts to You in praise and adoration.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Isaiah's Cleansing and Call Isaiah 6 v1-8

All readings are from the New Living
Translation.

6 It was in the year King Uzziah died^[a] that I
saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty
throne, and the train of his robe filled the
Temple.

² Attending him were mighty seraphim, each
having six wings. With two wings they
covered their faces, with two they covered
their feet, and with two they flew.

³ They were calling out to each other,
“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven’s
Armies!

The whole earth is filled with his glory!”

⁴ Their voices shook the Temple to its
foundations, and the entire building was
filled with smoke.

⁵ Then I said, “It’s all over! I am doomed, for
I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I
live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I
have seen the King, the LORD of Heaven’s
Armies.”

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a
burning coal he had taken from the altar with
a pair of tongs.

⁷ He touched my lips with it and said, “See,
this coal has touched your lips. Now your
guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven.”

⁸ Then I heard the Lord asking, “Whom
should I send as a messenger to this people?
Who will go for us?” I said, “Here I am.
Send me.”

The First Disciples Luke 5 v1-11

5 One day as Jesus was preaching on the
shore of the Sea of Galilee, ^[a] great crowds
pressed in on him to listen to the word of
God.

² He noticed two empty boats at the water’s
edge, for the fishermen had left them and
were washing their nets. ³ Stepping into one
of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, ^[b] its owner,

to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.”

⁵ “Master,” Simon replied, “we worked hard all last night and didn’t catch a thing. But if you say so, I’ll let the nets down again.”

⁶ And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear!

⁷ A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

⁸ When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m such a sinful man.”

⁹ For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him.

¹⁰ His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.

Jesus replied to Simon, “Don’t be afraid! From now on you’ll be fishing for people!”

¹¹ And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

Hymn 248

I heard the voice of Jesus say:

‘Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down
Your head upon My breast.’

I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary and worn and sad,
I found in Him a resting place,
And He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say:

‘Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one
Stoop down and drink and live.’

I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say:

‘I am this dark world’s Light;
Look unto Me, your morn shall rise,

And all your day be bright.’

I looked to Jesus, and I found

In Him my star, my sun;

And in that light of life I’ll walk,

Till travelling days are done.

Talk

Simon, the fisherman, was sitting by the lake washing his nets; he was tired out and fed up. Simon and his partners, James and John, had been fishing all night and caught nothing.

Then the new Young Teacher arrived followed by a huge crowd, Jesus the teacher made straight for Simon and asked to sit in his the boat a little way from shore.

Simon said OK and sat in the boat listening to Jesus, talking about a new day dawning today, a day when God was becoming King. This was so different, it was riveting.

When it was all finished, to Simon’s astonishment, Jesus wanted to go fishing. This was crazy, night time was when you caught fish.

But there was something about Jesus, authority that was it! And Simon had seen Jesus heal many people, even Simon’s own mother in law, so off they went.

Simon obeyed Jesus, let down the nets and then the miracle happened. There were more fish than Simon had ever caught in his whole life. The nets were tearing, they filled Simon’s boat and his partners, both boats full to the gunnels!

Jesus gave those potential disciples a miracle which met their real need, in it Jesus met them in their world and proved to them that the Good News He brought was relevant to their situation and could turn their lives around; Jesus can do that for each of us if we trust Him, as He calls each of us by name. We listen, respond and our lives are changed.

Simon’s mouth was dry and his knees were weak, who was this Jesus, at the very least a true prophet of God, Simon was just an ordinary sinful man and he knew it, at that moment he really knew it; he wasn’t good enough to be involved in all this, whatever this was.

Remember also Isaiah prepared for death because he had seen the glory of God.

Both Isaiah and Peter felt the magnitude of their unworthiness when they came face to face with God, and they repented of their sinfulness, not just turning away from their sins, but turning to God in a willingness to be forgiven, to embrace change, to be cleansed and made ready for service.

Jesus smiled at Simon, 'Do not be afraid', He said, 'I have a job for you, you're going to be catching people from now on.'

Come on Simon Peter, my rock, this is the first day of the rest of your life.

'Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Do not be afraid'' and Simon in repentance welcomed the call of the kingdom of God.

Do not be afraid, wonderful comforting words reminding us how much God values each of us.

God calls us in our emptiness and fills us.

Haven't you felt in these last years of lockdowns and isolation that time is slipping away from us?

More than ever we need our relationship with our loving Parent God, made possible through Jesus, God with us.

You see whether we admit it or not, we are afraid of many things, but Jesus brings us the assurance that we need not be. We are forgiven and well-loved; our great caring Parent God will always give us the strength we need to follow Him.

So, let's go for it and trust God.

Isaiah saw God and responded to His call.

Simon Peter saw God in Jesus and responded to His call.

What about us? Would we like to see God and how would we respond to Him?

Prayer of Confession

We confess to You, ever loving God, That we have hidden our discipleship from others and have failed to share Your love with those in need.

We confess that we have used Your gifts selfishly and have failed to take care of Your creation.

We have been faithless, but Jesus, who was faithful to the end, speaks to us of God's mercy and love, and offers us forgiveness. Hear His words to those who repent and put their trust in Him; 'Do not be Afraid, Your sins are forgiven.' **Amen.**

Prayer of Intercession

Lord, our light in darkness, our hope in despair,

Our peace in struggle, our joy in sorrow, our way when we are lost.

May Your light shine in the very darkest places of our hearts and of the world.

May Your hope touch the hearts of those in despair.

May Your peace reach individuals and countries torn by war .

May Your joy be known to those who mourn.

May those who are lost know You, the Way, And may we be channels of Your light, Your hope, Your peace, Your joy,

And lead others in the Way of Your love.

Amen

A prayer of Commitment by William Temple.

Take possession of our hearts, O Lord, and subdue them wholly with Yourself.

Fill our minds with pictures of Your love, That within us there may be no room for thoughts discordant to Your Holy Will.

May we not be slow to hear Your call or to obey it,

For the sake of Your only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

The 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.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us
from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are

Yours,

Now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn 250.

Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult
Of our life's wild restless sea,
Day by day His voice is sounding,
Saying, 'Christian, follow me.'

As of old apostles heard it
By the Galilean lake,
Turned from home and toil and kindred,
Leaving all for His dear sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship
Of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us,
Saying, 'Christian, love Me more.'

In our joys and in our sorrows,
Days of toil and hours of ease,
Still He calls, in cares and pleasures:
'Christian, love Me more than these.'

Jesus calls us! By Your mercies,
Saviour, may we hear Your call,
Give our hearts to Your obedience,
Serve and love You best of all.

Blessing

Do not be afraid to go out into a world that
does not understand you.

Do not be afraid to love, though loving takes
and drains and hurts.

Do not be afraid.

For the love of the Creator will protect you,
the resurrection of the Saviour reassure you,
and the power of the Spirit give You
strength.

The blessing of the Holy Trinity is with us
all, now and ever more. **Amen**