

# livingtheword

[www.livingtheword.wordpress.com](http://www.livingtheword.wordpress.com)

Hearing and Living the Sunday Readings

## Reading I

[Is 6:1-2a, 3-8](#)

In the year King Uzziah died,  
I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty  
throne, with the train of his garment filling the  
temple. Seraphim were stationed above.  
They cried one to the other, "Holy, holy, holy is  
the LORD of hosts! All the earth is filled with  
his glory!" At the sound of that cry, the frame of  
the door shook and the house was filled with  
smoke.

Then I said, "Woe is me, I am doomed! For I  
am a man of unclean lips, living among a  
people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen  
the King, the LORD of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphim flew to me,  
holding an ember that he had taken with tongs  
from the altar. He touched my mouth with it,  
and said, "See, now that this has touched your  
lips, your wickedness is removed, your sin  
purged."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,  
"Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"  
"Here I am," I said; "send me!"

## Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8](#)

(1c) **In the sight of the angels I will sing  
your praises, Lord.**

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my  
heart, for you have heard the words of my  
mouth; in the presence of the angels I will sing  
your praise;

I will worship at your holy temple  
and give thanks to your name.

**In the sight of the angels I will sing your  
praises, Lord.**

Because of your kindness and your truth;

for you have made great above all things  
your name and your promise.

When I called, you answered me;  
you built up strength within me.

**In the sight of the angels I will sing your  
praises, Lord.**

All the kings of the earth shall give thanks to  
you, O LORD,  
when they hear the words of your mouth;  
and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD:  
"Great is the glory of the LORD."

**In the sight of the angels I will sing your  
praises, Lord.**

Your right hand saves me.

The LORD will complete what he has done for  
me;

your kindness, O LORD, endures forever;  
forsake not the work of your hands.

**In the sight of the angels I will sing your  
praises, Lord.**

## Reading II

[1 Cor 15:1-11](#) or [15:3-8, 11](#)

Brothers and sisters,

I handed on to you as of first importance what I  
also received: that Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;

that he was buried;

that he was raised on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures;

that he appeared to Cephas, then to the

Twelve. After that, he appeared to more

than five hundred brothers at once,

most of whom are still living,

though some have fallen asleep.

After that he appeared to James,

then to all the apostles.

Last of all, as to one abnormally born,

he appeared to me.

Therefore, whether it be I or they,

so we preach and so you believed.

## Gospel

[Lk 5:1-11](#)

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets."

When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that the boats were in danger of sinking.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon.

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

## Reflection Questions

- Reading the passages slowly and reflectively, what word, phrase or idea strikes you in the readings? (circle or underline them)
- What do you think God is trying to say to you personally through these words?
- Isaiah shares his vocation call from God. His response of feeling unworthy 'I have unclean lips', God's healing response 'your sin is purged' and his response 'Here I am, send me!'. Call, resistance, healing, acceptance, is the common pattern of vocation. What is your personal vocation story and what 'stage' are you at?
- St Paul is writing to the Corinthian community which was beginning to practice a 'selective christianity'. They discarded teaching which they did not like. Some could not accept the teaching of the resurrection because they thought matter was evil and spirit was good. They are reminded that christian teaching can be traced back to Jesus, from the scriptures, from the Apostles - and Paul himself is faithful to their teaching. Is there elements of the Church's teaching which you want to be 'selective' about? Who could you talk to to find out more about the 'why' of the Church's teaching?
- Simon was using 'reasonable thinking' suggesting to Jesus that it was not a good idea to go fishing. He had plenty of evidence that it wasn't going to work. But he moved beyond 'reason' to 'risk'. 'At your command I will lower the nets'. Is there a word, experience, invitation from God recently which I need to be obedient to? What is the fear that stops me from taking a 'risk'?
- Isaiah, St Paul and Peter all share their human experience of frailty, guilt, unworthiness. Paul even refers to his feeling 'abnormally born'! God uses this painful self-awareness positively and is not afraid of our human weakness. In God's eyes, only those who have tasted personal frailty are ready for pastoral leadership. "Do not be afraid." Consider what it would be like to live and make decisions not based in fear. What would you do, how would you live?
- In the greek, the text hints at 'catching people alive'. The special use of words points to catching people to lead them into the fullest life. Do you consider leading people to Jesus as joyful and life-giving?
- What is one action that you will do to 'livetheword' this week?