

**Prairieland Parish**

*As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.*

*May we together experience the presence of God*

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***We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord***



**Prelude – Welcome – Announcements**

**Opening Meditation**

Today we will hear Luke’s story of Jesus calling the first disciples which is unique among the synoptic Gospels.

While Mark and Matthew speak of Jesus walking along the Sea of Galilee and abruptly calling Simon, Andrew, James, and John to follow him, only Luke tells the story of a miraculous catch of fish preceding the call.

Our text today offers rich possibilities for reflecting on how God calls ordinary people to discipleship and mission. After all, there is nothing the slightest bit extraordinary about Simon Peter and his fishing partners. They are simple fishermen, and they are simply doing what they did every day. They are minding their own business, cleaning their nets after a long, particularly discouraging night of work, when Jesus comes along, enters into their utterly normal, mundane lives and changes everything.

And throughout Scripture we see that human inadequacy is no obstacle to God’s call. God calls imperfect people to do God’s work, people who are aware of their unworthiness and are often doubting and resistant to God’s. You See, God doesn’t wait for us to shape up. God calls us as we are and then works on shaping us into faithful servants.

The true question we need to ask ourselves is:

How often do we resist Jesus’ claim on our lives because what he is calling us to do seems too crazy, too impractical?

How often do we avoid putting out into the deep waters of following and bearing witness to Jesus because we are convinced that we will not see any results?

What might it mean for us to go deep-sea fishing with Jesus — to trust and follow him outside our comfort zones, to let go of our certainties, to have our lives radically reoriented?

Folks, we all are called to participate in God’s mission to the world in Jesus Christ. We all are called daily to reorient our priorities to align with God’s priorities, to use the gifts God has given us in service to others, to share the good news of Christ in word and deed.

Jesus’ mission does not wait until we think we are ready. We are called right now — even in the midst of our ordinary, busy, complicated lives. So, let us come before Him this day with trust in our hearts and commitment to His call as our guide as we unity in our call to worship...

## **Call to Worship**

As followers of Jesus Christ,  
living in this world-  
which some seek to control,  
but which others view with despair-  
we declare with joy and trust:

**Our world belongs to God!**

From the beginning,  
through all the crises of our times,  
until his kingdom fully comes,

**God keeps covenant forever.**

**Our world belongs to him!**

God is King! Let the earth be glad!

**Christ is Victor; his rule has begun. Hallelujah!**

The Spirit is at work, renewing the creation. Praise the Lord!

**Come, Lord Jesus! Our world belongs to you.**

## **Opening Prayer**

**Empowering God of the cross and Resurrection, we give thanks that you do not give up on us or leave us alone. We are grateful and amazed that you continue to desire to work in and through your people, so that all might experience the abundant life that comes through you. Help us to hold fast to your grace and love in all that we say and do. Amen.**

## **Praise Hymn**

### ***We Hear God's Word***

**Gospel Reading.....Luke 5:1-11 (NRSV)**

#### Jesus Calls the First Disciples

5 Once while Jesus[a] was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, 2 he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. 4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." 5 Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." 6 When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" 9 For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." 11 When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

The Word of God for the People of God, **Thanks be to God!**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### FAITH HYMN UMH

#### “Message”

##### Joys/Concerns

##### Pastoral Prayer

O God, giver of all good gifts, you have given us life.  
You have bestowed upon us your love and that love includes your plans for us.  
Thank you for loving us so.

Lord, help us to listen to the rhythm of each day, so that we are not overwhelmed with thoughts of the future. Yet guide us into that future so that we know who and whose we are

Fill our hearts, fill our eyes, fill our ears with Your love, O God Let us be Your hands and feet in the world,

For You are the God who calls people like us, so we give you thanks that you are a calling God.

We pray for your grace and mercy among us and upon those we name before you this day...

We pray in the one who embodied your promise and enacted your call, Jesus. Our Christ and come to you in one voice saying, Our Father....

##### Offertory/Doxology/Prayer

Gracious and merciful God, we offer our gifts to you this day with open hands and open hearts. We know there have been days when we have clung to money for our security, to try to control our future. At times, we've been tempted to believe that in gaining more, we would find salvation. Open our ears and minds to hear the truth from your apostle Paul: we need only hold firmly to the good news of Christ's death and Resurrection – it alone will save us. In the holy name of Jesus, our redeemer, we pray. Amen. (1 Corinthians 15:1-11)

### Departing Hymn

##### Benediction

Remember the Good News that we have received and proclaimed this day– the Good News in which we stand and through which we are being saved. For we are witnesses to this Good News, and God commands that we do not keep this news to ourselves! Let us go out this week and testify to all that Christ is Lord! Amen