

FEBRUARY 9, 2025
FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



Jesus calls his first followers.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

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| Sunday | Luke 5:1-11 | Jesus calls the first disciples |
| Monday | Isaiah 6:1-13 | The call of Isaiah |
| Tuesday | 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 | The call of Paul |
| Wednesday | Psalms 36 | Human sin and God's goodness |
| Thursday | 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5 | Request for prayer |
| Friday | Deuteronomy 7:6-11 | The Lord's chosen people |
| Saturday | Psalms 138 | Praise the Lord |
| Sunday | Luke 6:17-26 | Sermon on the plain |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him. **Luke 5:10b-11 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to tell others of your mercy at work in the world that they may know of your loving power through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Be present at our table, Lord; be here and everywhere adored. These mercies bless and grant that we, may strengthen for thy service be. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with grace and mercy.



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FEBRUARY 9, 2025
HYMN OF THE WEEK

*You Have Come
Down to the Lakeshore*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How do you describe your daily routine?
- How would you respond if Jesus asked you to leave your home and daily routine to follow him?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 5:1-11.

Jesus calling Simon Peter, James, and John to follow him is part of a miracle story. The first scene, if not a miracle, is at least surprising: a first-century crowd pressing in on Jesus who was a rather unknown traveling speaker at the time. The more recognizable miracle is the catch of fish, an unbelievable amount of fish for those who had just fished all night without catching a thing. Next, Simon Peter, aware of Jesus' holiness and his own unworthiness, is afraid of being close to Jesus. However, Jesus changes Simon Peter's fears by giving him a new calling for his life to be a disciple. Now, Simon Peter will help more people get close to Jesus. Finally, Simon Peter, James, and John leave their prior life's work to follow Jesus, leaving all else behind. From beginning to end, the story contains the miraculous work of God. This story tells us to expect the unexpected grace and mercy that Jesus brings to us and the entire world.

Discuss: When have you experienced God's unexpected grace and mercy?

Pray: **Almighty God, your presence in our lives is full of grace and mercy; help us to extend that grace and mercy to all through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you care for others with God's surprising mercy?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Isaiah 6:1-8, Isaiah was involved in worship when he received his call as a prophet. The word worship comes from the Old English word "worthship". We worship not only to praise God for God's worthiness but also to receive our own worthiness as those loved and sent by God into the world. God uses ordinary people like Isaiah and the disciples to do extraordinary work. In what ways do you feel called and sent into the world to serve God? Make a list of talents and gifts you have and think about how they can be used to serve God.

Pray: **Generous God, you call us by name and send us out to tell of your extravagant love for us. Give us the faith, strength, and courage to be your followers. In Jesus' name, amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org