

## V Trinity 2024

### Sermon – Saint Joseph Parish

Father Craig Looney

*The Collect I Peter 3.8-15 St. Luke 5.1-11*



*God, you created order in the world, please make it into the peaceful place you intended it to be...so we who are called to be your Church, may always do your work with quiet joy and happiness.*

The Collect for the Fifth Sunday after Trinity is one of the oldest in the *Book of Common Prayer*. It was written in the Sixth Century but we can readily identify with what we are asking of God. It is an urgent prayer for peace.

If we were able to use the Internet to travel back to the Sixth Century, we might find a YouTube video that would show the Roman Empire on the verge of collapse. There was war and famine. We might tune into Mass at the local parish church. We might hear the priest pray for peace in the city, the state, the world and our hearts.

The Greek word ***Ekklesia*** is commonly translated as ***Church*** and literally means ***those who are called***. Father Massey Shepherd, author of the Oxford American Prayer Book Commentary, writes those of us who been called to be Church have entered into a special covenant-relationship with God. The peace we pray for is not something the world can give us.

The peace we already have exists in our hearts...and it is the peace Paul writes to the Church in Philippi that is far beyond our human understanding, and yet it keeps our hearts and minds safe in union with Jesus Christ.

In the Epistle, Peter writes...

*...“But even if you should suffer for doing what is right, how happy you are! Do not be afraid of anyone, and do not worry. But have reverence for Christ in your hearts, and honor him as Lord.”*

Jesus has given us the special gift of honoring us...by calling us to be his Church.

In the Gospel, Jesus had so many people crowding around him, he asked Peter to take him out a bit from the shore so people could see and hear him better. The Gospel doesn't tell us what Jesus said to the people. He then

asked Peter to go out into deeper water and catch some fish. Peter agreed even though they had been fishing all day and caught nothing. They caught so many fish they need their friends help to get the fish to shore.

Several years ago my brother-in-law gave me a tee shirt that reads...

*...“Jesus said...go fishing! He said nothing about fixing the sink, mowing the lawn, walking the dog, painting the trim, washing the car, cleaning the garage, or weeding the garden.”*  
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This funny yet respectful saying is from the “Jesus Said” tee shirt line that first appeared in the 1990s.

Today's Gospel is all about going fishing...for people! What Peter and the others were being asked to do was put all their trust in Jesus. They left a successful fishing business for what they must of thought was an uncertain future. And they began to experience the inner peace of God that is far beyond our human understanding and share that peace with others.

We are asked to put all our trust in Jesus...and we can be certain there is no uncertainty about our future. God will give us the tools we need to do his work, and ultimately, everything we do is his work. We strive to do his work with patience and love even when things get tough and the road ahead seems impassable.

World peace may seem illusive, but God's peace is not...we have it in our hearts, minds and souls now. It is not something we have to wait for. It defines who we are as Christians.

We who are the Church have been called to continue the work begun by the Apostles when they left everything to follow Jesus and catch people.

And we must continue to pray for peace in the World...peace in our Country...peace in our City...and peace in our hearts. And we must always go about doing God's work...our work...catching people, with quiet joy and happiness.



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