

Scripture Prayer For The Week

"Once...
when Jesus...
was praying alone..." (Luke 9:18)



Artwork Dorothy Woodward

Ordinary Time – Yr A Week 3

We Gather: In the prayer space, have the bible opened at the Gospel reading. With the image of the Lake and the fishermen so strong in this Gospel, have a piece of fishing net and a shell placed on the green drape of the prayer stand, next to the open Bible. Encourage members of the community to pick up the shell or touch the net as they come in or go out to their teaching.

Leader: Blessed be you, O God, creator of lake and sea, of fish and creatures of the deep.

All: You call us to sail into the deep of your heart: to fish for the prize of your Word.

We Listen: The Gospel Matthew 4:12-23

Read the gospel passage reflectively. After a time of silent reflection, the line from scripture below could be repeated and the short commentary read.

"They were casting a net into the sea...they were in the boat mending their nets."

Commentary:

The two pairs of brothers were in the time honoured cycle of fishermen: casting their nets and mending their nets. One thing leads to and is vital to the other. They would fall back into this pattern as they themselves were caught up by Jesus, their lives mended and they embarked to harvest a whole humanity. Now they would cast wide the net of the Good News of repentance, sinking back into the care and faithfulness of a loving God. Now they would mend their own minds and hearts with the fibre of the Word that was Jesus Christ. We too are to cast, to mend, to fish and to sail the seas of the kingdom.

We Respond: *"Mending and casting their nets."*

In silence, reflect on the questions below? You may wish to have a time of brief sharing.

- Is this an exciting challenge/opportunity- to leave that boat behind and follow Jesus?
- What are the broken fibres in the net of my personality, my attitude to others, my relationships? Do I finally need to get a new net?
- What are the dreams and goals I need to cast wide into the sea to harvest a rich haul of life-giving food? What do I want to catch?

Song: Galilee Song (F Andersen-AOV1) or Fish with Me (Ken Canedo-Spirit & Song-OCP)

We Go Forth:

God, you have called us to follow your Word Jesus Christ. 'Come', you urge, 'leave behind the nets of anxiety, frustration and despair and joyfully cast your dependency and energy into the sea of my compassion'. We answer 'yes', knowing that as we fish with you, life will never be the same again! We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.