

First Sunday of Luke 5:1-11



“But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.”

On Friday we tried to read the gospel on the stairs at the mission. We were not well organized and without structure. In spite of this, reading the gospel outside made us, even for a little while, to see and hear Jesus preaching to people in the light of the day, sitting in the boat. Listening to the gospel along with the sound of the wind and with the noise of the street and with other activities going on around the mission (including Angela spray painting the outside library, adding more flavor to our coffee), one could really feel that the Word of God is coming to meet the life of the community or what was left from it; the daily reality of our life, giving it a purpose and meaning and beauty. To hear the good news.

Even with our short attention span, I heard Eliana's understanding of Peter kneeling at Jesus' feet. “He was a simple poor man. He was not used to seeing the abundance. That was too overwhelming for him.” It was like it made him feel smaller and poorer than he was. The poor people are content with the little they have, working very hard for it. In Guatemala, there is a saying, Eliana said, that “one bean is enough to feed many”. It means from the little you have you can share with everybody. It is enough. They don't think about having much because they never have. They know God from within their poverty and they don't expect abundance.

It is the way Peter might have felt, seeing the sin in Him, in the presence of God and His abundance. He worked hard being used to working in vain. He worked at night, respecting all the conditions of a small catch, when the sea is calm and the fish are not scared by the multitudes of the boats of the day. He might have chosen night also to avoid, as some say, the heat of the day. To catch fish during the day was a foreign thing to him. Especially with the noise and with the multitudes around Jesus, and also close to the shore. “It was totally unexpected for Peter”, Eliana said. Something he would never have predicted happening. The miraculous catch was going to be a sign of recognizing the risen Lord on the shore of the sea of Tiberias (John 21:6). The unexpected abundance after fishing in the dark becomes a reality in which the resurrection is manifested and shared by Jesus with his disciples on the shore. “Bring some of the fish ...” (John 21:10)

Peter had the intuition of the resurrection in the presence of Jesus, through his sinfulness that cannot enter the new kingdom. It was the genuine prayer of a simple poor man. It was the only true reaction of a human soul who foretasted the resurrection in the presence of the Son of Man. It is the prayer of the Publican that leaves justified from the temple.

We can relate to Peter's insignificance up to a point. It seems that the times we live now make the

life we have within our soul to be more and more insignificant. Being alive, we are labelled as being irrelevant for existence. Our times shame and humiliate us for being alive. The existence of death, as a possibility, is stronger than the reality of life. And we are taught that what is stronger is more desirable, because you can also count on it happening. I heard during the week a few times about this anxiety that is not coming from within the soul but from outside. It makes people afraid, and for good reasons, and they are looking for a place to hide, to close more within oneself. There is no expectation of something very good to happen but only the certainty of a well foreseen death, a catrasphone in the making that cannot be prevented anymore.

On Friday, we asked at lunch about the last time we received good news in our life. And most of us were able to come up with something. Even Murray, who could not remember any good news, did not lose the hope yet that one day he will. Good news for Ana was that she came back to church to pray after her surgery. The good news for her was not that she is able to see us now more clearly after the surgery, but that she can come here and pray. I go to other churches, but I do not feel the same. "In other places I listen more to the music and it is nice, but here I can really talk to God, when we pray together."

Her testimony reminded me that the people who came up from the anxiety of the world this week said similar things. Here in church somehow the anxiety goes away and they can pray and cry and have hope. Somehow the unexpected happened. They are touched by the presence of Christ and the reality of the suffering people who come almost daily to look and receive hope. Here, the humiliation that they experienced for being alive is touched by the overwhelming and abundant joy. They can confess to Christ that they are sinful and do not deserve the abundant grace and yet to feel the forgiveness and the touch of it.

There is not much good news today to share outside with the people on the porch. We see where things are going and there is no real hope that they would somehow stop and change direction. The signs of this time are not good. There is darkness within the community of soul and if there is any attempt to catch something the little toil seems to be in vain. There is no sign of fatigue or tiredness, just the illusion of bare hands and bared hearts.

Nothing good to expect. The gospel today reveals to us that the real unexpected thing is the resurrection which will be catching the multitudes of hearts within one net. This is revealed to those who toil again and again. The revelation happens when they are obedient one more time to the Lord, the time that makes the least sense for them. That's how and where the abundance of salvation for a single human heart will be manifested .

Obedience brings about humility to the soul and changes the shame we have in us in the love for the other. No matter how lost and insignificant we all have become, or just made to feel that way. Because today the gospel tells us that the abundance of grace that brings together humankind within the net of salvation is revealed in prayer to the poor who out of nothing toils all night for hope and finds none.

Happy feast !



“Soul’s longing is to abide forever in humility before God, and to love her fellow-men.”

St Silouan

On the feast day of our chapel’s saint we find delight in prayer. Like the young people and the poor who prayed Saturday morning in the chapel together. If one would have come to pray on Saturday morning, without hope for his own soul, the prayer of the young together with the broken hearted would have cured the heart. The delight continued after the prayer around the table, where L. left after saying a few times how grateful she was. L, who normally does not accept easily from people even a cup of water.

Today small people and great people avoid St Silouan as intensely as they ignore the gospel. He tells us that to love God we have to start first with the love for our enemies. How could we love the One we do not see since we cannot love the ones we see? How could we love the One to whom we are in debt if we cannot love those who owe to us. St Silouan tells us that we need to start with small things, with the forgiveness of those who hurt us, in order to be able to love the One who heals us. We can only go from small to great. Not from infinite to finite but the other way around. It is true that we fail in small things as well. That’s why we need the prayer so Christ forgives together with us. We are not alone in that. The chapel of the community is alive and the people listen to St Silouan because they are souls full of sorrow that look for forgiveness of those who are brought about in their lives. And the prayer is the place where they find the support they need.

Mission church collections of 1 Sunday : Sept 18 2022 Donations \$200, candle/wine \$60, candle box \$29, book sale \$25

Volunteer appreciation night on Friday evening is what the community has been longing for for a while.. We've been waiting for a few years and now we are ready for the feast. All are invited, the ones who served, the ones who prayed, the ones who sang. It is a time to be thankful to those who out of their heart bring about good news to the poor.

At Bridges we reflected about the silence of the demon. On Saturday we heard the same gospel again. To silence the voice of wickedness that tries to use even the Truth to turn and twist around the upright of heart. This weakness is present in the city, as S testified on Tuesday morning. He came back to the city where it runs rampant in the streets. When he worked in a small town it was not the same. Here it is different. That's why he keeps quiet and tells nobody where he sleeps. In his old place in the cupboard in a parking lot. Only a couple of people whom he trusts, otherwise they come and always ask for something from him. They try to use you for whatever they need. He is still and quiet, coming to the mission to eat in the morning. Br Luke thought about having him at the house overnight. We have known him for years. He did not want to sleep at the house yet. At least not until winter comes. The silence seems to be enough for him.

Please pray for a friend and a brother of the community

Professor Richard Schneider is a real friend of the community and a real brother in Christ to the poor. He taught us many times about the Word of God here at the mission. He walked with us all this time in an unseen way. During this time he is on the path of pain. He has an illness that seems to have no cure. It is time for us now to pray for him and to let Christ know about his love for the poor and the gospel. To pray for the healing of soul and body , to pray for His mercy.

Prayer list for the sick and those who have recovered:

Richard; Bernadette, Elisha; Kayla; Harley, Maria and Carlos; Omar; Elisabeth; Ben, Kim; George; Bernadette, Maria Becatam ;Seena; Ocean ,Tony, Nikitha;
Dianne; Joy; Susie; Alex; Maurice; Lynn; Molly; Thomas; Varghese; Delia; Leela; Mary; Tanya; Basma; Aditi; Larry; Darius; Lori; Lisa; Cindy; Césare; Fatima; Debbie; Donald; Hermina; Raúl; EK Thomas; Nebu; Evangelia; Sarah; Shelley; Bill; Ruth, Kristian and Frank; Maria; Binja ; Mike; Luke; Anusia; Lavalin's son; Sana; Father George Patrick, and Father Michael Miklos/Pani Karen Miklos; Dominique and her daughter; Mike; Luke; Arjuna; Joy; Susie; Alex; Lynn; Molly'; Thomas; Alex; Fathima; Frank; Chris; Evlokia; Mikayla and Luca; Karunawathi, Gloria, Vijekumari, Ronda, and Regina; Delia; Valerie; Tom; Traian; Peter; Marco; Kim; Tihomir; Kate; Payton Clark; Sana, and her family in Egypt; Isaiah; Mary; Sydney; Peter; Christine; Stephanie; Iulia; Jason; Sophia; Alexander; Charles; Tom; Paul; Phillip and his wife Juliet; Cristeena; Ann brown's daughter; Silvia; Jincy; Shiron Crisreen; Allain; Seena and her husband; Waheeda and children; Faizah; Shirin and her family; Cristina; Daniela, Jerry; Delia ; Ragaie; Victoria; Mike; Farida; Roselyne and family ; Ana; Cornelia; Leon; Jerry; Ocean; Gloria; Anne; Marina; Marie; Edemene; Joanna and family; Rejoice; Romana, Coline, Michael, Peter, Henry, George, Kelly; Tom; Marina; Kumari; Susan; child James; Aaron; Sylvia; Fr Jonathan; Tharshini and her two children; Ann Tyron and her family; Sandra Gomaz's children; Sameen; Sophia; Amy; Swetha and children; Charitha; Jitesh's parents; Demene; Carol; Gloria; Hawa Bibi; Vimaladevi; Fr. John and Pani Marie; Lynn; Michelle; Emanuel(Mani); Stefanie; Geoff; Joey; Evangelia; Sophia; Melanie; Tanya; Piper; Darius; Zamalk; Nelly; Nahla; Mira; Sandral; Brenda; Vol; Gomaz; ; Helen; Paul; Wafaa.

Please pray for the deceased: Tom; Fred; Shrin; Andre; Andree; Akhir; Arjuna; Dillon; Elena; Pani Mary; Rejoice`s mother; Edmund; Pani Eleanor; Fr John; Alexandru; Constantin; Robert; Fr Aurel; Georgi; Rada; Petre; Stela; William; Samuel; Debbie; John; Amy, Willie; Dave`s wife; Ana; Shirin`s cousin in Jordan; Father Lawrence; Dave; Anne Tyran`s father; Edith, Sr. Mary Magdalene; Joice; BettyAnn; James; Pauanasuy Kamthasang; Maria; Andrei; Agostina; Carminda; Vimaladevi's sister; Sri's mother; Carol's Mother and 23 year old nephew; Demene`s mother, Dalalzaki.

September 26 – October 2

Tuesday	8:30 am 7:30pm	Morning Prayer Psalms Study – via Zoom	Wednesday	8:30 am 12:30 pm 4:00 pm 6:30 pm	Morning Prayer Noon Hours Vespers/Dinner Bridges/Compline 8pm
Thursday	8:30 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm	Morning Prayer Noon Hours Jesus Prayer	Friday	7:00 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm	Orthros Noon Hours Jesus Prayer
Saturday	9:00 am	Morning Prayer	Sunday	6:00 am 8:00 am 8:30 am 11:00am	Jesus Prayer Orthros Divine Liturgy Life Chain



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We are an apostolate of the ecumenical patriarchate "Mother Church of Christ's poor"
under the Omophorion of Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa

St. Silouan Chapel, September 25, 2022

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