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# Narrative Lectionary

Year 3 | The Year of Luke

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## Scripture Readings

### January 24, 2021

*The Third Sunday  
after Epiphany*

#### **..... About the text**

**T**HERE IS FISHING, AND there is fishing.

One kind is what we are familiar with from childhood. Some kind of bait is added to a sharp, barbed hook. The baited hook, attached to a line, is tossed out into the water. Eventually a hungry fish is tricked by the bait, bites down on the hook, and finds itself pulled out of its watery world into bright oblivion.

The kind pursued by Simon was different. Fish swim into a net, and are brought up together.

There is no hook, no trick.

That's the kind to which Jesus refers.

Like all metaphors, "fishing for people" breaks down. But the idea of gathering a community is no trick—no "bait and switch." It is about bringing together hungry hearts for Good News.



## Luke 5:1-11

1 Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, <sup>2</sup> he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup> Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." <sup>6</sup> When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" <sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; <sup>10</sup> 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." <sup>11</sup> When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed

1 Once when he was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret, the crowd was pushing in on him to better hear the Word of God. <sup>2</sup> He noticed two boats tied up. The fishermen had just left them and were out scrubbing their nets. <sup>3</sup> He climbed into the boat that was Simon's and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Sitting there, using the boat for a pulpit, he taught the crowd.

<sup>4</sup> When he finished teaching, he said to Simon, "Push out into deep water and let your nets out for a catch."

<sup>5</sup> Simon said, "Master, we've been fishing hard all night and haven't caught even a minnow. But if you say so, I'll let out the nets." <sup>6</sup> It was no sooner said than done—a huge haul of fish, straining the nets past capacity. <sup>7</sup> They waved to their partners in the other boat to come help them. They filled both boats, nearly swamping them with the catch.

<sup>8</sup> Simon Peter, when he saw it, fell to his knees before Jesus. "Master, leave. I'm a sinner and can't handle this holiness. Leave me to myself." <sup>9</sup> When they pulled in that catch of fish, awe overwhelmed Simon and everyone with him. <sup>10</sup> It was the same with James and John, Zebedee's sons, coworkers with Simon.

Jesus said to Simon, "There is nothing to fear. From now on you'll be fishing for men and women." <sup>11</sup> They pulled their boats up on the beach, left them,

him.

| nets and all, and followed him.

## Psalm 90:14-17

14 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

15 Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil.

16 Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

17 Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands—O prosper the work of our hands!

14 Surprise us with love at daybreak; then we'll skip and dance all the day long.

15 Make up for the bad times with some good times; we've seen enough evil to last a lifetime.

16 Let your servants see what you're best at—the ways you rule and bless your children.

17 And let the loveliness of our Lord, our God, rest on us, confirming the work that we do. Oh, yes. Affirm the work that we do!

The Narrative Lectionary presents the story of God's work in humanity through a single Gospel each year. This is Year 3: The Year of Luke.