

### Mark 6:7-13

Jesus made a tour round the villages, teaching. Then he summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits. And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses. They were to wear sandals but, he added, ‘Do not take a spare tunic.’ And he said to them, ‘If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district. And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them.’ So they set off to preach repentance; and they cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them.

Jesus is revealed to us today a teacher and a commander, one with authority, who summons and sends. He instructs the Apostles to wear sandals and to carry a staff, everything else is superfluous and serves as a distraction to the task at hand. Discipleship means total commitment, Jesus wants 100% of us nothing less. We cannot sit on the fence in this regard, and this means making sacrifices like the Apostles had to but Our Lord is never outdone in generosity! Whatever we sacrifice for him, his return will always be the greater. We may not cast out devils or cure the sick but by remaining faithful to the things of a spiritual nature, (prayer and the sacraments), they may fuel those things of a practical nature, carrying out our duties well for love of Jesus. So wherever we are 'sent', to work, to the shops, to the park or in the home we will be able to carry the love of Jesus with us and bring his light into the life of others. Through cooperating with God's grace we sanctify ourselves and our work. Developing this supernatural outlook helps us to remember that we are aiming for heaven and this should give us cause for hope. We do our best and let God do the rest!

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Year B

11<sup>th</sup> July 2021

*Do we know God has a plan for us?*



This week's readings are about being sent on mission, but if we do not carry the light of the world, we will remain in darkness unable to see the good that needs to be done. Which is why our actions must flow from our prayer in communion with Jesus in the Eucharist. He is that light that will illumine our darkness and reveal to us the will of the Father. Regardless of the obstacles and challenges we face we can exclaim like Our Lady, “nothing is impossible to God,” it is by His grace that we are able to set out confidently on the path of faith. So, after receiving Jesus, sacramentally or spiritually, let us ask him to fill our hearts and minds with the light of the Holy Spirit. That we may discern our way along the right path which leads to eternal life.

### Opening Prayer

O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honour.

### **Amos 7:12-15**

Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, said to Amos, 'Go away, seer;' get back to the land of Judah; earn your bread there, do your prophesying there. We want no more prophesying in Bethel; this is the royal sanctuary, the national temple.' 'I was no prophet, neither did I belong to any of the brotherhoods of prophets,' Amos replied to Amaziah 'I was a shepherd, and looked after sycamores: but it was the Lord who took me from herding the flock, and the Lord who said, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."'"

The prophet Amos was a shepherd from near Bethlehem and was sent to the northern kingdom of Israel, in the height of it's prosperity, to warn the people and priests there that they were courting disaster. When he is rebuked and told to return home by Amaziah, because of the uncomfortable message he brings, Amos responds, "I was shepherd but it was the Lord who took me..." Discipleship is the greatest adventure, are will always as ready to follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit, as the prophet was to the call of the Lord?

### **Psalms 84(85):9-14**

*I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land.*

*Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven.*

*The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps.*

### **Ephesians 1:3-14** (shortened version)

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved, in whom, through his blood, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins. Such is the richness of the grace which he has showered on us in all wisdom and insight. He has let us know the mystery of his purpose, the hidden plan he so kindly made in Christ from the beginning to act upon when the times had run their course to the end: that he would bring everything together under Christ, as head, everything in the heavens and everything on earth.

St. Paul celebrates the mystery of God's salvation to be revealed at the end of time, that all things are to be brought together under Christ, the Head of his Body, the Church. This text alone is worthy of much of meditation because it reveals God's love for us.

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life; you have the message of eternal life. **Alleluia!**

*(Gospel overleaf)*

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Look upon the offerings of the Church, O Lord, as she makes her prayer to you, and grant that, when consumed by those who believe, they may bring ever greater holiness.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Having consumed these gifts, we pray, O Lord, that, by our participation in this mystery, its saving effects upon us may grow.