

July
11 2021



Jesus instructed
the Twelve to take
nothing with them
but a walking stick -
no food, no sack,
no money in
their belts.

Mark 6:8



FIFTEENTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

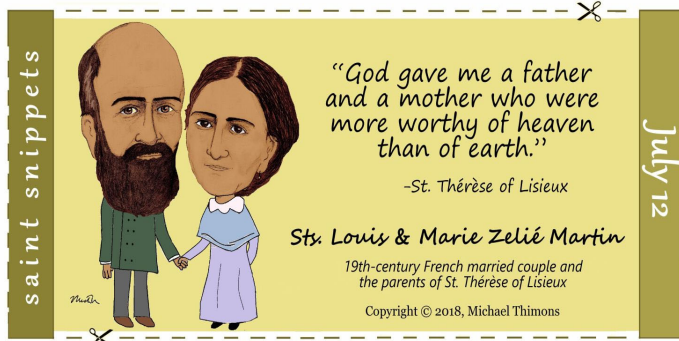


Feast of Faith

Invitation to the Eucharistic Prayer

After the presider washes his hands, he turns to the people and says, “Pray that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.” We have brought forward bread and wine, and now we are asked to see in these simple gifts upon the altar a sacrifice offered to God. Our response is rich in theological meaning. “May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands.” The words point to the unique role of the priest, whose hands, at his ordination, were anointed for just this purpose: that he might “sanctify the Christian people and offer sacrifice to God” (Rite of Ordination). We ask God to accept our sacrifice not because it is worthy of God, but simply “for the praise and glory of his name.” God does not need our offering, but allows us to give it so that we might grow in holiness. And God, never to be outdone in generosity, gives all that we have given back to us, “for our good and the good of all his Church.” This Mass benefits not just those who have gathered, but, in the mysterious economy of grace, the whole Church. In the words of Saint Paul, when one part rejoices, the whole body “share[s] its joy” (1 Corinthians 12:26).

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



God Chose Us

Who chose first, God or you? That is the question explored in today’s three readings. The second reading, from Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians, reads almost like a hymn. It praises God for choosing us, for calling us to serve, and for blessing us in our service. Paul makes it clear how honored we are and how special is the call to live as children of God. This is through no doing of our own.

The first reading and the Gospel use prose rather than poetry to describe the same truth: God did the choosing, not us. When the prophet Amos was berated for being a prophet, he retorted that the whole thing wasn’t his idea in the first place. Neither did the twelve apostles in today’s Gospel ask for their calling. Jesus sent them forth, two by two, to do the work of his kingdom.

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Readings for the Week

- Monday:** Ex 1:8-14, 22; Ps 124:1b-8; Mt 10:34 — 11:1
- Tuesday:** Ex 2:1-15a; Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34; Mt 11:20-24
- Wednesday:** Ex 3:1-6, 9-12; Ps 103:1b-4, 6-7; Mt 11:25-27
- Thursday:** Ex 3:13-20; Ps 105:1, 5, 8-9, 24-27; Mt 11:28-30
- Friday:** Ex 11:10 — 12:14; Ps 116:12-13, 15, 16bc, 17-18; Mt 12:1-8
- Saturday:** Ex 12:37-42; Ps 136:1, 23-24, 10-15; Mt 12:14-21
- Sunday:** Jer 23:1-6; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 2:13-18; Mk 6:30-34



Saints and Special Observances

- Sunday:** Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Tuesday:** St. Henry
- Wednesday:** St. Kateri Tekakwitha
- Thursday:** St. Bonaventure
- Friday:** Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- Saturday:** Blessed Virgin Mary

Today’s Readings

First Reading — Amos said, “The LORD took me from following the flock, and said to me, Go, prophesy to my people” (Amos 7:12-15).

Psalm — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

Second Reading — The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3-14 [3-10]).

Gospel — Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two (Mark 6:7-13).

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**Fifteenth Sunday
In Ordinary Time
July 11, 2021**

**Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.**

—Psalm 85:12

Treasures From Our Tradition

Does the scene of the disciples being sent out two by two bring to mind any other scripture? After the flood, Noah opens the door of the ark and sends his passengers out to renew the face of the earth. Certainly, Jesus has the same purpose. The purpose is fulfilled in your communion in the Body of Christ today, and in your being sent from the Eucharist into the world. The sending is so important that our word “Mass” derives from it. In Latin, the last words of worship are *Ite, missa est*, which means “Go, you are sent.” From that, people began to call Catholic worship the *missa*, or in English, the “Mass.” Our English words dismissal, missal, emissary, and mission are all related. We are not sent into the workaday world alone, but in relationship to one another.

Some people have acquired the unhappy habit of leaving worship as soon as they receive Communion and therefore miss the prayer, the dismissal, and the solemn blessing that are essential parts of the Mass. The dismissal is a seal on our Communion and reveals its purpose. Thanks be to God!

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Blessings and Glory

The second reading from Ephesians is rather long and with only six sentences, it is not easy to follow. If you take it apart, you see that Paul is very encouraging. He is giving a description of the many blessings God has given us.

He says that we are chosen by God and destined for spiritual blessings: First is Redemption, meaning that Christ saved us from punishment for our sins by forgiving them instead. Second is the plan of God for saving everyone, by making Christ ruler of the universe. We have to accept these gifts by letting go of the temptations around us and holding on to the love we have received from God. The things of the world, possessions, wealth, or power that pretend to make us happy are replaced with love of God; we then share that love with others, so that they know God loves them, too. As our experience of God's love grows, we begin to understand the mystery of how God lives in all people. Another blessing Paul notes is adoption by God to a new relationship as brothers and sisters of Christ; holiness is now for all believers, not just priests or religious.

Paul also reminds us that we are chosen and destined to help God bring his plan, his Kingdom, to completion. When we teach children how to love and share, when we are honest with customers or suppliers, when we are not ashamed to show our faith in Jesus, when we are respectful of the poor, elderly, or disabled, we are slowly building the Kingdom of God, or as Paul says, "to bring all things together in heaven and on earth under Christ" (Eph 1:10)

Paul mentions three times in this reading about "the praise of God's glory." (Eph 1:14) When we are able to help or forgive, or just be a good example to others, we want them to know that God is in all the good we do. Instead of taking credit for the results, we give God the glory. No, you don't have to take off your glasses and put on a red cape before helping others. Just mention that God does the real work, we just try not to get in his way.

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Mark 6:8

CALLED TO BE EXTRAORDINARY

Mother Teresa challenged us to do ordinary things with extraordinary love. Basketball coach Jim Valvano said, "Every single day, in every walk of life, ordinary people do extraordinary things." Sometimes we see extraordinary vocations, such as the child prodigy musician. But usually those whom God chooses to call are reluctant participants who either run from the call or ignore it. Amos tells Amaziah "I was a shepherd and a dresser of sycamores." He looked after sheep and punched holes in fruit for a living! Now he was being called to prophesy. In Mark's Gospel the apostles are sent out two by two to begin their ministry. Paul takes it further, telling the Ephesians, "In him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the One who accomplishes all things." This call goes out to all of us! How are you being called to be extraordinary this day?

TWO BY TWO

Did you ever wonder why Jesus sent them out two by two? Not threes, not groups of four? Perhaps it is just the most practical configuration. Recall that in last week's Gospel Jesus was not accepted in his own town and was astonished by the lack of faith that he found there. The disciples would be too new in their faith to know how to deal with that kind of rejection. With three you always end up two against one. With a pair, the two could support each other emotionally and spiritually, and lift each other up in prayer. When traveling, having a companion was much safer than being on one's own, and if there were treacherous spots in the journey, they could help each other through. If you were begging for lodging, two might be able to get in, while a larger group might not be so fortunate. The Gospel gives no indication of who the partners were, but presumably they were sent in combinations that made each pair the strongest proclaimers of Christ. They were able to drive off many demons and cure illnesses.

SHAKE THE DUST OFF YOUR FEET

Jesus told the pairs of disciples, "Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them." Jesus is preparing the disciples for the experience he had in his home town. This is how you behave when you are not accepted. He didn't tell them to curse them or threaten them, just simply shake off the dust and move on. Rejection is a hard thing for any of us, and Jesus is teaching us how to handle it, as if to say "Pick your battles." This is a good reminder to us all in a time and culture when the climate is so politically charged. Know when it is best to shake the dust and walk away from social media, from an angry word, or from something that won't turn out well. Respond and stay true to your calling.

TODAY'S READINGS

Amos 7:12-15
Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14
Ephesians 1:3-14 [3-10]
Mark 6:7-13

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Prayer of the Faithful

Baptized and called by God, let us pray for all who are in need.

For all the missionaries of the church as they go out into the world two by two: may they bring the Good News to eager listeners, and may they be safe from those who would harm them, let us pray to the Lord.

For leaders of nations to listen to the prophets who call them to justice, fairness, and integrity, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who suffer in the summer's heat, for those who endure storms, wildfires, and floods, and for all who respond to their needs with generous hearts, let us pray to the Lord.

For our community of faith as we, like the Twelve, take up the call to bring the presence of God to those whom we meet, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who are called by God to pursue the priesthood and religious life, and for their supportive families and communities, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who are sick, for all who suffer from COVID-19, and for all who have died, especially N., N., and N., let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

**Loving God,
you destined us for adoption through Jesus Christ,
so that we might be forgiven and redeemed.
Graciously hear these our prayers
for the world that you love,
and grant them through Christ our Lord.**

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I WANT TO BE A FIREMAN WHEN I GROW UP, BUT I'M OPEN TO GOD'S BIGGER PLAN

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Then Amos replied to Amaziah, "I am not a prophet, nor am I the son of a prophet; for I am a herdsman and a grower of sycamore figs. But the Lord took me from following the flock and the Lord said to me, 'Go prophesy to my people Israel.'" Am 7:14-15

Scripture from the New American Standard Bible (NASB), © by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.Lockman.org

God's Word for Children

Through Jesus we have been given forgiveness for our sins.
 Read this list of rhyming words below.
 Then start at the top arrow and draw a line straight down to meet the bottom arrow to cross out the first letters of all the words.
 The whole list will then be the same word.
 This word tells how many sins Jesus forgives.

ball
call
fall
hall
tall

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Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus sent out his twelve apostles two by two.
 They told people they must be sorry for their sins.
 Read below to find out what else the disciples did
 (you can read the story in Mark 6:7-13).
 Then find each underlined word in the word search below.
 Look up, down, and across.

anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them."

w	a	u	q	k	r	g	v	h
d	n	p	a	c	u	r	e	d
x	e	o	j	l	o	a	j	i
f	s	i	c	k	t	l	e	q
c	s	n	b	q	h	o	i	l
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n	d	c	m	z	s	h	w	m

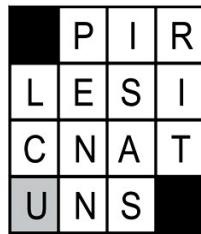


Letters from Heaven



Start with the letter in the shaded square. Draw a path from letter to letter to complete the Biblical statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

Jesus summoned the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over ...



U _____

Answer: *unlearn spirits*

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