

raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.'

## THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

In the previous chapters Jesus has manifested his power to teach and to heal. Now he chooses men to whom he communicates this power. But they are called to share not only in his power but also in his own experiences of rejection. Jesus has compassion on his people who were lost and bewildered, like sheep without a shepherd. He looks for men and women who will be devoted to the pastoral care of his people. Their mission is directed for the moment to his own people. Ultimately the gospel will through them come to all peoples. Those whom Jesus chooses for the task of manifesting the kingdom, God's life and love, are ordinary people. He always chooses such people not just for what they are but also for what they can become through the gift of his word and power.

*(Homilies for the Weekdays of the Year – Martin McNamara)*

### Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who in the offerings presented here provide for the twofold needs of human nature, nourishing us with food and renewing us with your Sacrament, grant, we pray, that the sustenance they provide may not fail us in body or in spirit.

### Communion Antiphon

*There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek:  
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.*

### Prayer after Communion

As this reception of your Holy Communion, O Lord, foreshadows the union of the faithful in you, so may it bring about unity in your Church.

# Eleventh Sunday

Year A

14<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## One Shepherd, Few Workers

After the 40 days of Lent, the 50 days of Easter and the subsequent joyful feasts, we find ourselves back in Ordinary Time. We mustn't be in low spirits however, for we set out on this new stage of our spiritual journey, enriched and accompanied by the Risen, Victorious Lord.

We resume the reading of Matthew's Gospel, chapter nine. Jesus, feeling sorry for the crowds, for they are 'like sheep without a shepherd', has summoned his apostles and instructed them on the Mission. They are to proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is at hand, and they are to make it present through their lives.

### Entrance Antiphon

*O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help.  
Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!*

### Collect

O God, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your grace, that in following your commands we may please you by our resolve and our deeds.

### EXODUS 19: 2-6

In those days: The people of Israel came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: "You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore

you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

#### THE WORD OF THE LORD

The Book of Exodus tells about the deliverance of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery and the wandering in the wilderness (1446 – 1406 BC). In later years, the prophets would look upon this period as a time of grace, when God revealed himself to his Chosen People and they were invited to draw close to Him. This is what we see in today's short passage. Moses and the Israelites have arrived at Mount Sinai. It is here that God reveals Himself to His people, offering them a covenant by which He solemnly pledged His own unchanging faithfulness. At the same time, He proposed that His people be faithful, that they keep His commands, so that they might know the freedom and joy of living as God's children.

#### PSALM: 100(99):1- 3, 5

**Response:** *We are his people, the sheep of his flock.*

Cry out with joy to the LORD, all the earth. Serve the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing for joy.

Know that he, the LORD, is God. He made us; we belong to him. We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Indeed, how good is the LORD, eternal his merciful love. He is faithful from age to age.

#### ROMANS 5: 6-11

While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled,

shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

#### THE WORD OF THE LORD

For the next 13 weeks we will be reading Paul's Letter to the Romans. Paul, writing around AD 57, addresses himself to a young Church comprising both Jewish and Gentile converts. He therefore, seeks to present a basic statement of the Gospel. In today's passage, Paul begins to talk about the tension between justification and salvation. Salvation or life with God, lies in the future and yet, we are already saved, or justified through faith. In other words, justification is the first step on the road to salvation. As God's children, let us live joyfully today, in the knowledge that we have been saved by the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus.

***Alleluia, alleluia! the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel. Alleluia!***

#### MATTHEW 9: 36-10: 8

When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.’

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. The names of the twelve Apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, ‘Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Heal the sick,