



15 July 2018

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

ON MISSION TO THE WORLD, TRUSTING IN GOD ALONE

Today we are reminded that the Church is missionary by nature. From the very beginning, the Lord sent his apostles to preach the Gospel, drive out demons, and take care of the weak and the sick.

This is an enormous task which sometimes may even be met with rejection and opposition. But this should not be a reason for discouragement, but rather a stimulus to do our very best, while trusting only in the power of God's grace and of His Word. The weakness of the Cross is much more powerful than all the resources of this world.

Let us keep this in mind as we are about to start the Eucharistic celebration and offer it in a special manner for all those involved in apostolic works.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

Greeting

P – Blessed be Jesus, who sends us on mission to the world. May his grace and peace be with you all!

All – **And with your spirit!**

Penitential Act

P – As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries, let us call to mind our sins and ask the Lord for pardon and strength. *(Pause)*

P – Lord Jesus, you are the prophet sent by the Father to call all peoples to conversion. Lord, have mercy!

All – **Lord, have mercy!**

P – Lord Jesus, you sent your

apostles to preach the Good News to all nations. Christ, have mercy!

All – **Christ, have mercy!**

P – Lord Jesus, you want your disciples and apostles to trust only in the power of your word and your grace. Lord, have mercy!

All – **Lord, have mercy!**

P – May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All – **Amen!**

Gloria

All – Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right

hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen!

Collect (Opening Prayer)

P – 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 honor.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All – **Amen!**

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading

Am 7:12-15

Amos, a former shepherd from Tekoa in Judah, proved to be a disturbing prophet in the

Northern Kingdom where the Lord had sent him. His faithfulness to his God-given mission cost him the unceremonious expulsion we hear about in today's reading.

R –A proclamation from the Book of the Prophet Amos

Amaziah, priest of Bethel, said to Amos, “Off with you, visionary, flee to the land of Judah! There earn your bread by prophesying, but never again prophesy in Bethel; for it is the king’s sanctuary and a royal temple.”

Amos answered Amaziah, **“I was no prophet, nor have I belonged to a company of prophets. I was a shepherd and a dresser of sycamores. The Lord took me from following the flock, and said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”**

The Word of the Lord!
All – Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 85

R –*Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation!*

R. M. Velez

* **I will hear what God proclaims; the Lord – for he proclaims peace. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.** **R.**

* **Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.** **R.**

* **The Lord himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps.** **R.**

2nd Reading Eph 1:3-14

In a few powerful strokes, and in prayer form, St. Paul states that all blessings have their origin in God the Father, their center in Jesus Christ, and their pledge of fulfillment in the Holy Spirit.

R –A proclamation from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will, for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved.

In him we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will in accord with his favor that he set forth in him as a plan for the fullness of time, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth. In him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the One who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will, so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ.

In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s possession, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord!
All – Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

All – Alleluia! Alleluia!
“May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlight-

en the eyes of our hearts, that we may know what is the hope that belongs to our call.”

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 6:7-13

The activity of the apostles has to be characterized by total detachment from material things and readiness to suffer rejection like their Master.

P –The Lord be with you!

All –**And with your spirit!**

P – A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Mark

All – Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits.

He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick – no food, no sack, no money in their belts. They were, however, to wear sandals but not a second tunic. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave. Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them.”

So they went off and preached repentance. The Twelve drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

The Gospel of the Lord!
All – **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Homily

Profession of Faith

(Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed)

All – I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;

through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (*bow*)* and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.* For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P –As a sign of his love and concern for all mankind, Jesus keeps calling to active apostolate people of all ages and from all walks of life. Let us pray for them and for the beneficiaries of their apostolic labors by saying:

All–**King of apostles, hear us!**

C –For the whole Christian community, that it may remain faithful to its mission to preach repentance and fight evil in all its forms. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all the recipients of the message of salvation, that they may open their hearts to the Lord and pattern their behavior after his example. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For those who are tempted to rely on material resources, prestige or political power rather than moral values, that they may always remember that Jesus saved the world through the humiliation of the cross. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all those called to a life of total dedication in the foreign missions, that they may respond

promptly and wholeheartedly. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all the missionaries who experience rejection, that they may not be discouraged, but actually rejoice in seeing themselves treated the same way as Jesus was. Let us pray! **R.**

C –Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. (*Pause*)
Let us pray! **R.**

P –Lord Jesus Christ, Apostle of the Father, make us brave and holy so that we may spread your Kingdom in our society. You who live and reign for ever and ever.

All–**Amen!**



Preparation of the Gifts

P –Pray, brethren . . .

All–**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

P –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.

Through Christ our Lord.

All–**Amen!**

Preface I

P –The Lord be with you!

All–**And with your spirit!**

P –Lift up your hearts!

All–**We lift them up to the Lord!**

P –Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All–**It is right and just!**

P –It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For through his Paschal Mystery, he accomplished the marvelous deed, by which he has freed us from the yoke of sin and death, summoning us to

the glory of being now called a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for your own possession, to proclaim everywhere your mighty works, for you have called us out of darkness into your own wonderful light.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory as without end we acclaim:

All–**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Memorial Acclamation

P –The mystery of faith!

All–**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again!**



All–**Our Father . . .**

P –Deliver us, Lord . . .

All–**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.**

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All–**Lamb of God . . .**

Communion

P –This is Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to his Supper.

All–**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Communion Antiphon

(*To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.*)

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in

your house, for ever singing
your praise.

Prayer after Communion

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

Through Christ our Lord.

All–Amen!

CONCLUDING RITES



P –The Lord be with you!

All–And with your spirit!

P –Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing. *(Pause)* May almighty God protect you from all evil and make you always aware of His saving wisdom.

All–Amen!

P –May He strengthen your faith with proofs of His love, so that you will persevere in good works.

All–Amen!

P –May He direct your steps to Himself, and show you how to walk in charity and peace.

All–Amen!

P –May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All–Amen!

P –Go in peace and be prophets of the Lord in your daily life.

All–Thanks be to God!

Trusting in God Alone

The sending of the Twelve was an act of tremendous importance in Jesus’ apostolic life.

After a whole night spent in prayer, he called them one by one *(see Lk 6:12f.)*, from various walks of life, to be his assistants, the “core group” among his disciples.

Their assignment was to go and do what Jesus himself had been doing in his apostolic life: to preach repentance, to cast out demons, and to heal the sick. *(See Mk 6:12 ff.)* Jesus took the initiative of sharing with them his own mission. For the time being, their apostolic activity would be limited to the people of Israel, but after the Ascension, their field of action would be widened to encompass the whole world. *(See Mk 16:15.)*

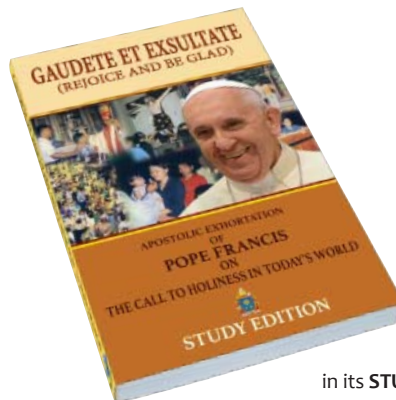
But whether they exercised their mission among their own

people or beyond the borders of Israel, two things were to characterize them: poverty and detachment. *(See Mk 6:8.)* After all, they were the disciples and ambassadors of the One who chose to possess not even a stone on which to lay his head. Their only assets were expected to be the “Message” they were bringing, and the power to expel demons and to cure the sick.

For all their “power,” however, they would always remain vulnerable people. Poverty and the danger of being rejected would accompany them at all times. In this also they would resemble the prophets of old *(see the First Reading)* and Jesus himself who had been rejected by his very townsfolk.

And yet, in spite of their personal weaknesses and the external oppositions, their mission would go on until the end of time. And they would overcome all obstacles, thanks to the continuous presence and assistance of the One who has overcome the world. *(See Jn 16:33.)*

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