

## Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

### FIRST READING

*Exodus 19:2-6a*

In those days, the Israelites came to the desert of Sinai and pitched camp. While Israel was encamped here in front of the mountain, Moses went up the mountain to God. Then the LORD called to him and said, "Thus shall you say to the house of Jacob; tell the Israelites: You have seen for yourselves how I treated the Egyptians and how I bore you up on eagle wings and brought you here to myself. Therefore, if you hearken to my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my special possession, dearer to me than all other people, though all the earth is mine. You shall be to me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation." The Word of the Lord.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalm 100:1-2,3,5*

**R We are his people: the sheep of his flock.**

Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;  
serve the LORD with gladness;  
come before him with joyful song.

**R. We are his people: the sheep of his flock.**

Know that the LORD is God;  
he made us, his we are;  
his people, the flock he tends.

**R. We are his people: the sheep of his flock.**

The LORD is good:  
his kindness endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

**R. We are his people: the sheep of his flock.**

*Men Helping Men Step Up and Become Better Spiritual Leaders  
by Following Christ and the Teachings of His Church*



## **SECOND READING**

***Romans 5:4-11***

Brothers and sisters:  
Christ, while we were still helpless,  
yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly.  
Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person,  
though perhaps for a good person  
one might even find courage to die.  
But God proves his love for us  
in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.  
How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood,  
will we be saved through him from the wrath.  
Indeed, if, while we were enemies,  
we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,  
how much more, once reconciled,  
will we be saved by his life.  
Not only that,  
but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
through whom we have now received reconciliation.  
The Word of the Lord.

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## GOSPEL

**Matthew 9:36-10:8**

At the sight of the crowds, Jesus' heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he said to his disciples,  
"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few;  
so ask the master of the harvest  
to send out laborers for his harvest."

Then he summoned his twelve disciples  
and gave them authority over unclean spirits  
to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness.

The names of the twelve apostles are these:

first, Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew;  
James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John;  
Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector;  
James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus;  
Simon from Cana, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him.

Jesus sent out these twelve after instructing them thus,  
"Do not go into pagan territory or enter a Samaritan town.  
Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'  
Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons.  
Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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## Discussion for Readings - Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

### Opening Reflection:

From the mountaintop of Sinai, God calls a ragged band of former slaves to become something astonishing: a kingdom of priests, a holy nation. That same summons echoes in the Gospel, where Jesus looks at the troubled crowds — people harassed, abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd — and responds not with judgment, but with compassion. His answer to human lostness is not to withdraw; it is to send. He calls twelve ordinary people, invests them with authority, and charges them to give freely what they have freely received.

Paul ties the two together in Romans: it was while we were helpless, while we were enemies, that Christ acted. Leadership rooted in the Gospel does not wait for people to become worthy of care. It moves first, in love, toward the lost. The harvest is real. The need is urgent. And the One who sends is the One who also equips.

### Discussion Questions:

1. The LORD instructed Moses to preach obedience to the Israelites so that they would be a holy nation and a kingdom of priests. However, the LORD also reminds Moses and thus the Israelites of how he treats those who do not hearken his voice (Egyptians). With this in mind, how do you remain obedient to the LORD?
2. Because of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, we are now reconciled to God. The perfect man willingly dying for an imperfect world. Does Christ's sacrificial love change the way you treat other's especially when reconciling issues with others?

3. Jesus reminds the twelve apostles that the love they receive from Him is free therefore loving others should never come at a cost. Christ emphasizes this love after instructing the twelve to proclaim to the world: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Today, the kingdom of heaven is still at hand, so how will you share this love with others to help grow God's kingdom.

### **Closing Action:**

This week, identify one person in your life who is “troubled and abandoned, like a sheep without a shepherd” (Mt 9:36). Bring that person to prayer each day, asking the Lord of the harvest to either send a laborer into their life — or to make you that laborer. Then take one concrete step toward them: a phone call, a visit, an honest conversation, or a simple act of service. Do it freely, without expectation of return (Mt 10:8). Let compassion precede commission.