



SUNDAY, JUNE 12–18 *(if after Holy Trinity)*

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 11

FIRST READING: Exodus 19:2-8a

A reading from Exodus.

²The Israelites⁷ journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.

³Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites:

⁴“You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.

⁵Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine,

⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

⁷So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him.

^{8a}The people all answered as one, “Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.”

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 100

FIRST READING *Rephidim = REF-uh-dim Sinai = SY-ny*

This little story affirms the singular and specific relationship between almighty God and the people of Israel. The church understands a similar relationship to have been established between almighty God and itself in the sacrament of holy baptism. It is the responsibility of the reader to help the people in the pew sense that this is their story. There are two crucial semicolons and one colon in verses 2 and 3 that demand the reader’s attention. Be careful not to “plow through” them. The power of God and the strength of the people’s resolve require a commanding reading.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-8

A reading from Romans.

¹Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand,
and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.
³And not only that,
but we also boast in our afflictions,
knowing that affliction produces endurance,
⁴and endurance produces character,
and character produces hope,
⁵and hope does not put us to shame,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak,
at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—
though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.
⁸But God proves his love for us
in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

The author illustrates that it is Christ Jesus who has established the relationship between God and humankind "while we were still weak." Verses 3-5 are one sentence and require careful attention to the commas so that the sentence builds to a climax at the end of verse 5 and not with the words "and hope does not put us to shame." These are two powerful little readings that will be more powerful still if the reader will dedicate some quiet time during the week in which to meditate on the truth they proclaim.

GOSPEL: Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

³⁵Jesus went about all the cities and villages,
teaching in their synagogues
and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom
and curing every disease and every sickness.

³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them
because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

³⁷Then he said to his disciples,

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;

³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

^{10:1}Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples
and gave them authority over unclean spirits,
to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.

²These are the names of the twelve apostles:

first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew;
James son of Zebedee and his brother John;

³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector;
James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus;

⁴Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions:

“Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town,
⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

⁷As you go, proclaim the good news,

“The kingdom of heaven has come near.”

⁸Cure the sick; raise the dead;

cleansing those with a skin disease; cast out demons.

You received without payment; give without payment.”

[⁹“Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts,

¹⁰no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff,
for laborers deserve their food.

¹¹Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy,
and stay there until you leave.

¹²As you enter the house, greet it.

GOSPEL *synagogues = SIN-uh-gogz Zebedee = ZEB-uh-dee Alphaeus = al-FEE-us
Thaddaeus = THAD-ee-us Cananaean = kay-nuh-NEE-un Iscariot = is-CAR-ee-ut
Samaritans = suh-MAIR-it-uns Gomorrah = guh-MOR-uh*

The temptation is to abbreviate the gospel by reading the shorter option. Resist it if you are able. The baptized will be helped in their daily proclamation of the gospel by these blunt warnings and terse instructions. Avoid with equal conviction the temptation to rush the reading because it is lengthy. Allow each imperative and every warning adequate opportunity to sink into the consciousness of the hearer.

¹³If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it,
but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.
¹⁴If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words,
shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town.
¹⁵Truly I tell you,
it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah
on the day of judgment than for that town.

¹⁶“I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves,
so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.
¹⁷Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils
and flog you in their synagogues,
¹⁸and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me,
as a testimony to them and the gentiles.
¹⁹When they hand you over,
do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say,
for what you are to say will be given to you at that time,
²⁰for it is not you who speak,
but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.
²¹Sibling will betray sibling to death and a father his child,
and children will rise against parents and have them put to death,
²²and you will be hated by all because of my name.
But the one who endures to the end will be saved.
²³When they persecute you in this town, flee to the next,
for truly I tell you,
you will not have finished going through all the towns of Israel
before the Son of Man comes.”]

The gospel of the Lord.