He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is 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 Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows:

'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

PILGRIMAGE IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL THROUGH GREECE AND TURKEY

11-23 SEPTEMBER 2023

Chaplain:
Fr Michael Goonan SSP,
Editor of *God's Word* and
St Pauls Sunday Bulletins

Organised by
Harvest Journeys

For more info scan the QR code, or
phone **1800 819 156**
www.harvestjourneys.com

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Reproduction of this bulletin in any form prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by **ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394 3444.** Scripture readings from the **Jerusalem Bible**, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from **The Psalms, A New Translation**, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © **St Pauls Publications**, 2023. **No 1988. Website: www.stpauls.com.au**

Breaking Open the Word

SIGNS OF GOD IN THE TIMES

Reading accurately the signs of the times and then responding appropriately is seldom an easy matter. In coming to Mount Sinai, the people of Israel have arrived at a decisive moment, as today's first reading notes. They are called to remember how God rescued them and to pledge themselves to be faithful to their covenant relationship. By doing this each member will share in the priestly duties of bringing others to encounter the living God. Faced with the needs of so many people Jesus had also arrived at a moment of decision. The people were in desperate need of shepherds to care for them. His response was to appoint the Twelve to share in his ministry of healing and proclaiming the reign of God.

For Paul, the most important sign of the times was not the fact that all humanity deserved to be condemned as falling short of the mark. Rather, it was God's unexpected response to our need and powerlessness. Paul stresses our desperate plight in order to emphasise the marvellous gift we have been given in the saving death of Jesus. No greater proof could be found to show us God's love for all people than Jesus dying for us while we were yet sinners. From Paul's perspective, there was never a question of us meriting such an act of self-sacrifice. The death of Jesus is an invitation to wonder, hope and joyfully trust that whatever has ruptured our relationship with God has been healed.

Christopher Monaghan CP

THE SAVING WORD

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A — 18 JUNE 2023

FIRST READING — Ex 19: 2-6

A reading from the book of Exodus.

You will be a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation.

From Rephidim the Israelites set out again; and when they reached the wilderness of Sinai, there in the wilderness they pitched their camp; there facing the mountain Israel pitched camp.

Moses then went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Say this to the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons of Israel, "You yourselves have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own, for all the earth is mine. I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation."'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM — Ps 99: 2-3, 5. R. v. 3

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

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. / Serve the Lord with gladness. / Come before him, singing for joy. **R.**

2. Know that he, the Lord, is God. / He made us, we belong to him, / we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **R.**

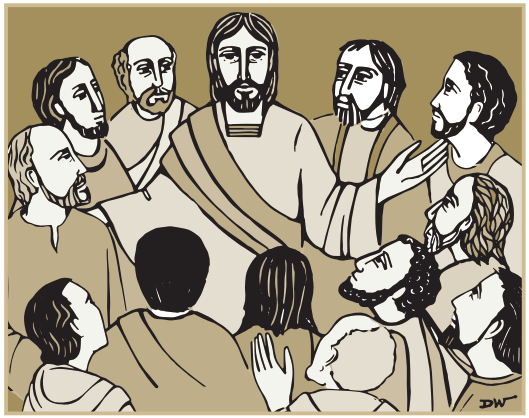
3. Indeed, how good is the Lord, / eternal his merciful love. / He is faithful from age to age. **R.**

SECOND READING — Rom 5: 6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

We have been reconciled to God through the death of his Son; we are saved by his life.

We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might



be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION — Mk 1: 15

Alleluia, alleluia! / The kingdom of God is near; / repent and believe the Good News! / Alleluia!

GOSPEL — Mt 9:36—10:8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He summoned his twelve disciples, and sent them out.

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'