

and have believed it:
and you too have been stamped with the seal
of the Holy Spirit of the Promise,
the pledge of our inheritance
which brings freedom for those whom God has
taken for his own,
to make his glory praised.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION cf. Eph 1: 17-18

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mk 6: 7-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

He called the Twelve, and began to send them out.

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits. And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses. They were to wear sandals but, he added, ‘Do not take a spare tunic.’ And he said to them, ‘If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district. And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them.’ So they set off to preach repentance: and they cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

14 JULY 2024

ONGOING MISSION

In the verse preceding today's Gospel, we learn that Jesus 'went about among the villages teaching' (Mark 6:6b). In the context of this activity, Jesus sends out the Twelve, and we are given a glimpse of the experience of the early missionaries, something we also find in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Importantly Mark records that Jesus gives them authority over unclean spirits. They are now able to heal as he did.

Going out two by two, they emulate the Old Testament law of witness (Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15) as well as replicating the way they were called – in pairs. The details of their garb might seem strange to us. Taking a staff is not only helpful for walking but also adds protection. The specifics of 'no bread, no bag, no money' distinguishes them from Cynic preachers, as does having only one tunic and will allow them to be recognisable as participants in Jesus' mission. Wearing sandals distinguishes them from barefoot slaves or from those who could wear boots. They are to stay with people who welcome them and so as travellers they may be offered hospitality.

The results of their mission are made evident, and their activity comes to the ears of Herod, yet their identity as Jesus' disciples is still unclear. They are thought to belong to John the Baptist. The context of mission in the days of Jesus is a far cry from today. How are we called and sent out today? What is our sense of proclaiming the Good News in the world?

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Am 7: 12-15

A reading from the prophet Amos.

Go, prophesy to my people.

Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, said to Amos, 'Go away, seer; get back to the land of Judah; earn your bread there, do your prophesying there. We want no more prophesying in Bethel; this is the royal sanctuary, the national temple.' 'I was no prophet, neither did I belong to any of the brotherhoods of prophets,' Amos replied to Amaziah. 'I was a shepherd, and looked after sycamores: but it was the Lord who took me from herding the flock, and the Lord who said, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."' "

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 84: 9-14. R. v. 8

R. Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, / a voice that speaks of peace, / peace for his people. / His help is near for those who fear him / and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; / justice and peace have embraced. / Faithfulness shall spring from the earth / and justice look down from heaven. **R.**
3. The Lord will make us prosper / and our earth shall yield its fruit. / Justice shall march before him / and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

SECOND READING

Eph 1: 3-14

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

Before the world was made, he chose us in Christ.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence,



determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ, for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved, in whom, through his blood, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins. Such is the richness of the grace which he has showered on us in all wisdom and insight. He has let us know the mystery of his purpose, the hidden plan he so kindly made in Christ from the beginning to act upon when the times had run their course to the end: that he would bring everything together under Christ, as head, everything in the heavens and everything on earth. And it is in him that we were claimed as God's own, chosen from the beginning, under the predetermined plan of the one who guides all things as he decides by his own will; chosen to be, for his greater glory, the people who would put their hopes in Christ before he came. Now you too, in him, have heard the message of the truth and the good news of your salvation,