

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR B

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Tender God,
we know
you want
to welcome everybody
into your family of love.
Take away from us
all that is hateful,
unkind and unselfish,
and make us your disciples,
telling the whole world
about you
by the way we live and love.
We ask you this
through Jesus Christ,
your Son,
who lives with you
and the Holy Spirit,
forever and ever.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

The focus of our readings for this Sunday is "mission." The apostles (the word means "sent") are sent out to preach. They are warned, however, that they must be true to their mission and that for this they may be rejected. In our first reading, Amos was rejected because he preached the Word of God which was in opposition to the civil authorities. The message of God is not always in harmony with the ways of the world. What matters most is fidelity to the message. For the prophet/apostle, there can be no question of watering down God's message—even in the face of rejection.

FIRST READING: Amos 7:12-15

This is a reading from the prophet Amos.

(When Amos, the prophet,
was rejected in Israel,) he said to the priest,

"I was not born a prophet.

I was a shepherd

and I took care of sycamore trees.

But God called me away from my sheep
and said to me,

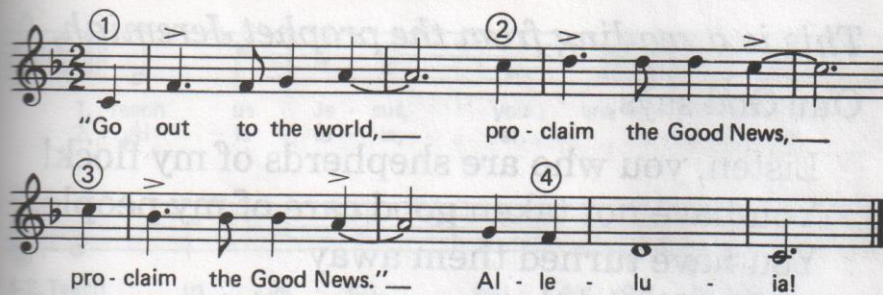
'Go, be my prophet. Speak to my people.' "

This is the Word of God.

RESPONSE: Psalm 71

1 I will pro-claim your pow - er. 2 I will pro-claim your won-der-ful
3 deeds! 4 I will pro-claim sal - va - tion, and your faith - ful love! —

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



GOSPEL: Mark 6:7-13

This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark.

Jesus called the Twelve Apostles together and began to send them to other places two at a time.

He gave them power over evil spirits.

He told them not to take extra things with them as they traveled.

He told them they could take a stick to help them walk,

but not to take food,

or a traveling bag or money.

They were to wear sandals, but he told them,

"Do not take along extra clothes.

And when you go to a house, stay there until you leave that town.

If the people will not accept you or listen to you, leave that town.

And as you leave, shake off the dust from your feet.

This will show them that they were wrong not to accept you."

So the disciples went and preached to the people, telling them to change their hearts and their lives.

They also sent away evil spirits, anointed the sick with oil and healed many people.

This is the Good News of the Lord.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

Ask the children what they remember about last Sunday's readings. Jesus, himself, was rejected as a prophet. In today's Gospel, Jesus sends his apostles to preach and warns them that they too might be rejected. Tell the children that these people were called "apostles" because that word means "a person who is sent."

- What instructions did Jesus give his apostles?
- Why do you think he gave them these instructions?

Help the children to see that an apostle must be free from a lot of possessions so he or she can really be free to go and work for God when they are sent.

Help them see that Jesus was asking the apostles to live simply, to trust in him and to be concerned about preaching.

Lead them to see that Christians today are also sent to preach. It might be a good time to talk about and pray for missionaries. The church is always "missionary," because the church must always preach the Good News. We are all called to do that. But some people are "sent" out as missionaries, as the first apostles were.