

# FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C

## PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Telling the whole world  
about you, God,  
and your Son, Jesus,  
is what you are calling us to do.  
May we always be unselfish  
and never count the cost.  
We make this prayer to you  
through Christ our Lord.

## FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

There does not appear to be a strong unity between the first reading and the Gospel this Sunday. The first reading speaks of the great joy the people will have when they return to Jerusalem from their exile. Isaiah illustrates this joy with the tender image of God as a mother. "Just as a mother holds her child on her lap, so will I hold you." Just as one sees that the child belongs to its mother, so everyone will know that the people of Jerusalem belong to God.

The Gospel focuses on the mission of the seventy-two disciples. Jesus send them out with the message, "The reign of God has come." This "sending" is accompanied by several specific instructions, the general idea being an attitude of availability and service.

*Like a mother, God loves us tenderly.*

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 66:10, 12-14a*

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

Our God says:


"Rejoice and be glad, people of Jerusalem.  
Be happy, all you who love that city.  
You have been sad, but now rejoice.

"Because, I tell you,  
I will give you peace and riches.  
And everyone will know that I am with you.  
Just as a mother holds her child on her lap,  
I will hold you and take care of you.  
Just as a mother gives comfort to her child,  
I will comfort you.  
Then you will know that I am your God,  
and your heart will be happy."


*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSE: *Psalm 131*

REFRAIN:



Like a child rests in its moth-er's arms, so will I rest in



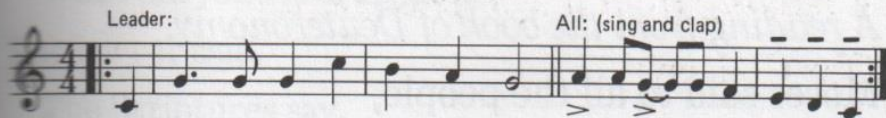
you. Like a child rests in its moth-er's arms, so will I rest in you.

VERSES 1-3: to Refrain



1. My God, — I am not proud. I do not look for things too great.
2. My God, — I trust in you. You care for me, you give me peace.
3. O Is-ra-el, — trust in God, — now and al - ways trust in God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



1. You call us, Lord, to fol - low you: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
2. You send us, Lord, to speak your Word: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## GOSPEL: *Luke 10:1-9*

*A reading from the Gospel of Luke.*

Jesus chose seventy-two more disciples.  
He sent them, two at a time,  
to all the towns and places  
he was going to visit later.  
Before he sent them out, he said to them,

“There is a big harvest to bring in,  
but there are not enough people to do the work.  
Pray that God, who is in charge of the harvest,  
will send more workers to help.

“When you are traveling,  
don’t take any money or anything extra.  
And don’t stop along the way to waste time.  
When you go into a house, say,

‘May there be peace in this house!’

“If the people there want peace,  
your peace will stay with them.  
If they don’t want it, it will not remain there.  
Stay in only one house  
instead of moving from house to house.  
Eat and drink with the people there,  
because if you are working with them,  
you deserve to eat with them.

“While you are in a town,  
heal the people who are sick and tell everyone,

‘The reign of God has come!’ ”

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

Because we have reflected on discipleship for the past two weeks, and will again on future Sundays, today it may be well to focus on the first reading.

*Before the first reading*, explain to the children that the people were far from their home; they were prisoners of another country. Perhaps examples of hostages, missing children, etc., may help. When they seem to understand why the people were in sorrow, read the first reading.

*After the reading*, ask the children how they think the people felt when they heard Isaiah’s message from God. Perhaps this could be compared to a lost child finding or being found by its mother. Most children will have had the experience of being taken lovingly into their mother’s arms. Most children know the joy of being held on their mother’s lap.

*Help them to see that God, too, is like a mother who holds us, comforts us, and gives us happiness and peace.*