

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Everloving God,
you care for all people
but especially those
who suffer.
We give ourselves to you
that you may work through us
for all who are sick or sad
in our families
and our schools.
We ask you to do this
through Christ, our Lord.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

There is not a single focus that unites the first reading and the Gospel.

The first reading establishes the notion of a chosen people. The people of Israel are a holy nation, God's own priests, because of the covenant God has made with them. The saving act of God in the exodus is motivation for fidelity.

The Gospel focuses on the mission of the church to the people of Israel. The disciples are called and sent (apostle means "one who is sent") to seek out the lost and care for them as a shepherd cares for sheep.

FIRST READING: *Exodus 19:2-6*

This is a reading from the book of Exodus.

When the people of Israel
were camping in the desert,
Moses went up on the mountain to talk to God.
God called to Moses and said,

"This is what I want you to say to my people,

'You have seen for yourselves
what I have done for you.
I saved you from the Egyptians,
and I brought you here safely
just as an eagle
carries her young one on her wings.
If you listen to my voice
and keep my covenant,
you will be more precious to me
than all other people.
You will be my own priests.
You will have a holy nation.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: *Psalm 100*

RESPONSE:

Leader:

All:



1. God, we come to wor-ship you:
2. God, you made us, we are yours:
3. God, your love is al-ways true:
4. Faith-ful God, we trust in you:

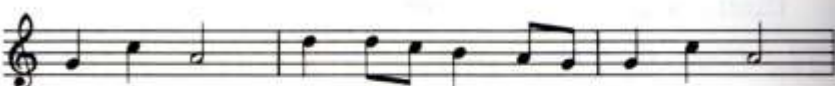


lis-ten to you... O - pen our hearts... to lis-ten to you...

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



Al - le - lu - ia! We hear the Good News... that



God is love, God cares for us; so al - le - lu - ia!



We hear the Good News... that God is love.

GOSPEL: *Matthew 9:35-10:8*

This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Jesus traveled
through many towns and villages
telling the people the Good News
and healing those who were sick.
When he saw how many people needed help,
he felt sorry for them
because they were like sheep
who didn't have a shepherd.
So he said to his disciples,

"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."

[Then Jesus called the twelve apostles together.
Their names are Simon Peter and his brother,
Andrew; James and John; Philip and
Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew, the tax
collector; Simon; Jude and James;
and Judas, the one who turned against Jesus.
Jesus gave the apostles power to heal people
who were sick or who had evil spirits in them.]

When Jesus sent the apostles out,
he said to them,

"Go to the people of Israel
who are like lost sheep.
Tell them,

"The kingdom of heaven is near!"

Heal people who are sick
or who have evil spirits,
cure lepers, and raise people from the dead.
You were given the power
to do these things freely,
so do them without asking to be paid."

The Gospel of the Lord.

[] Reader may omit text that appears in brackets.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS
WITH CHILDREN:

What did you hear? Encourage
the children to recall lines, thoughts
or images from the Gospel.

Why did Jesus feel sorry for the
people? Explain that image.

Read the words of Jesus again,
"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." What did he mean
by "harvest"?

Jesus sent his apostles out. What
did he ask them to do?

Do you remember the names of
the apostles? If you have included
this section in the reading, this is not
of primary importance, but children
often enjoy lists and memorizing. It
will also familiarize them with some
of the great leaders of the early
church.

Jesus said, "There is a big harvest
to bring in, but there are not enough
people to do the work." Is that true
of the church today? Who are some
people who are working in the
harvest today in the church?

Help the children focus on
ministers in your own parish: people
who collect food and clothing for the
poor, music ministers, priests,
teachers, sisters, people who visit
shut-ins, the St. Vincent de Paul
Society, doctors, youth ministers, and
so forth.