



LIVING THE GOSPEL

**14th Sunday in Ordinary Time.
July 6th 2025**

Theme: "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few."

Gathering Prayer

All: O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Exploring the Word

Gospel Reading: Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself was to visit. ² He said to them, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest. ³ Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. ⁴ Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, "Peace to this house!" ⁶ And if a man of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on him; if not, it will come back to you. ⁷ Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is set before you. ⁹ Cure those in it who are sick, and say, "The kingdom of God is very near to you". ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not make you welcome, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹ "We wipe off the very dust of your town that clings to our feet, and leave it with you. Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God is very near." ¹² I tell you, on that day it will not go as hard with Sodom as with that town. ¹⁷ The seventy-two came back rejoicing. 'Lord,' they said 'even the devils submit to us when we use your name.' ¹⁸ He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ Yes, I have given you power to tread underfoot serpents, scorpions, and the whole strength of the enemy; nothing shall ever hurt you. ²⁰ Yet do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you; rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven.'

Gospel Focus

In this gospel, Jesus sends disciples out to places he intends to visit. They are given a share in Jesus' power for their preparatory mission. They are sent to preach, to heal, and to seek out places that will be open to Jesus' presence. They go with nothing but each other, instructed not to bring the usual things

that make travel more comfortable but rather to rely on the hospitality of those they will encounter. Their ministry is not one-directional; they bring something the people need but they also arrive in need of their generosity. Their need enables them to enter into a transformative relationship, the kind where God can get to work on hearts and minds.

Gospel Reflection

A recent radio interview featured a journalist who decided to spend a year doing jobs that most Americans will not do. One of these jobs was to harvest lettuce. For two months he was the only White person toiling among the Mexican migrant workers. He described the backbreaking labor vividly and how he had to become numb to the palms in his back and hands and arms to make it through the day. He had to ignore his fierce thirst in the relentless heat and sun, for to take a break to get water would put him hopelessly behind.

What was most impressive in his story was the way the people helped one another in the fields. When one person was sick and could not keep up the pace, all the others automatically took on a bit more of a load to help her get through the day.

In today's gospel Jesus invites his disciples to take up the very strenuous work of evangelization. As in the lettuce fields, the harvest is abundant, but those who are willing to take on this demanding work are few. Those who do take it up are "like lambs among wolves," gentle and loving, while facing fierce opposition that could even devour them. Like migrant workers in the United States whose presence is unwanted yet whose work is indispensable, laborers in God's vineyard also face frequent rejection.

Their vulnerability proclaims an alternative kind of power to that of the reigning systems: God's saving power of love in the crucified Christ. Throughout, they are bearers of peace proclaiming God's reign. What would entice anyone to take up such work?

The last part of the gospel points to the rewarding aspects of this difficult work. When proclaimers of the gospel can see that the power they use for good is able to transform evil situations, the ensuing joy is indescribable. It is essential for them, however, not to focus on the visible results of their handiwork and not to take false pride in what they may think has been accomplished by their own efforts. Their true joy comes from acknowledging the divine source of the power they are able to wield, as they entrust themselves fully to the One who has called them to mission.

Like the returning exiles addressed in the first reading, who are filled with rejoicing over the rebuilding of Jerusalem, they know that they rest under God's protective mantle, where they may "suck fully of the milk of her comfort," and "nurse with delight at her abundant breast." It is the Holy One who will "spread prosperity over Jerusalem like a river," carrying its inhabitants in her arms, fondling them in her lap, "as a mother comforts her child."

Those who respond to Jesus' invitation to go out into the fields never go alone. Like the workers cutting lettuce, they have partners who rally in support of anyone who is flagging, ensuring that none is left behind and that all together share in the joy of a successful harvest.

Old/New Testament and CCC links

First Reading - Isa 66:10-14c

Thus says the Lord: ¹⁰ Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad because of her, all you who love her; exult, exult with her, all you who were mourning over her! ¹¹ Oh, that you may suck fully of the milk of her comfort, that you may nurse with delight at her abundant breasts! ¹² For thus says the Lord: Lo, I will spread prosperity over Jerusalem like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing torrent. As nurslings, you shall be carried in her arms, and fondled in her lap; ¹³ as a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; in Jerusalem you shall find your comfort. ¹⁴ When you see this, your heart shall rejoice and your bodies flourish like the grass; the Lord's power shall be known to his servants.

Responsorial Reading - Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20

R: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy. (R)

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth, sing praise to the glory of his name; proclaim his glorious praise. Say to God, "How tremendous are your deeds!" **(R)**

"Let all on earth worship and sing praise to you, sing praise to your name!"
Come and see the works of God, his tremendous deeds among the children of Adam. **(R)**

He has changed the sea into dry land; through the river they passed on foot; therefore let us rejoice in him. He rules by his might forever. **(R)**

Hear now, all you who fear God, while I declare what he has done for me.
Blessed be God who refused me not my prayer or his kindness! **(R)**

Second Reading - Gal 6:14-18

Brothers and sisters: ¹⁴ May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither does circumcision mean anything, nor does uncircumcision, but only a new creation. ¹⁶ Peace and mercy be to all who follow this rule and to the Israel of God. ¹⁷ From now on, let no one make troubles for me; for I bear the marks of Jesus on my body. ¹⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Catechism of The Catholic Church

765. The Lord Jesus endowed his community with a structure that will remain until the Kingdom is fully achieved. Before all else there is the choice of the Twelve with Peter as their head. Representing the twelve tribes of Israel, they are the foundation stones of the new Jerusalem. The Twelve and the other disciples share in Christ's mission and his power, but also in his lot. By all his actions, Christ prepares and builds his Church.

787. From the beginning, Jesus associated his disciples with his own life, revealed the mystery of the Kingdom to them, and gave them a share in his mission, joy, and sufferings. Jesus spoke of a still more intimate communion between him and those who would follow him: "Abide in me, and I in you. . . . I am the vine, you are the branches." And he proclaimed a mysterious and real communion between his own body and ours: "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him."

2122. The minister should ask nothing for the administration of the sacraments beyond the offerings defined by the competent authority, always being careful that the needy

are not deprived of the help of the sacraments because of their poverty."⁵⁶ The competent authority determines these "offerings" in accordance with the principle that the Christian people ought to contribute to the support of the Church's ministers. "The laborer deserves his food."

2611. The prayer of faith consists not only in saying "Lord, Lord," but in disposing the heart to do the will of the Father. Jesus calls his disciples to bring into their prayer this concern for cooperating with the divine plan.

Sharing and Discussion

1. Jesus says, "The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few." Have you ever thought of sharing the Gospel—not necessarily in words, but through love, presence, and service? What holds you back from fully stepping into that "field"?
2. "Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, "Peace to this house!" How do you bring peace into the places and relationships you enter? Can you think of a time when you felt peace in the presence of someone? What was it like?
3. "Yet do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you; rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven" What do you think Jesus is trying to say here? Have you ever had a moment when you felt that just being loved by God is enough?

Closing Prayer

All: O God, you care for your faithful ones despite our failings. Draw us ever closer to you so that the tranquility and peace for which we pray might be alive in us as well. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.