

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;  
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

O God, who show the light of your truth  
to those who go astray,  
so that they may return to the right path,  
give all who for the faith they profess  
are accounted Christians  
the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the  
name of Christ  
and to strive after all that does it honour.  
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.**

**FIRST READING**

Amos 7:12-15

A reading from the prophet Amos.

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.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Psalm 84

Response:

**Let us see, O Lord, your mercy  
and give us your saving help.**

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** Ephesians 1:3-14

For Shorter Form read between > <

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.  
>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,  
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.<  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words are spirit, Lord,  
and they are life:  
you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Mark 6:7-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

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.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*(all bow during the next three lines)*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Look upon the offerings of the Church, O Lord,  
as she makes her prayer to you,  
and grant that, when consumed by those who believe,  
they may bring ever greater holiness.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

The sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for her young:  
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.  
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Having consumed these gifts, we pray,  
O Lord,  
that, by our participation in this mystery,  
its saving effects upon us may grow.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



## JESUS SENDS OUT THE TWELVE

(MARK 6:7-13)

### SAY

**“Give something, however small, to one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could.”**

(St Gregory of Nazianzus)

### LEARN

“The source of the Church’s mission is the conviction that Christ is risen and fully alive and present to the community of believing Christians.” (Archbishop John Niendstedt)

### DO

How can you be of service to God’s people this week? Is there a reluctance in you to volunteer for a worthy parish initiative? How can you support your fellow lay missionaries?

There may have been an atmosphere of excitement and a hint of trepidation amongst Jesus and his disciples as they set out to the villages of Galilee in twos to preach about the forgiveness of sins and to anoint the sick with oil.

The simplicity of this activity, bringing with them only their staff and sandals, is in direct contrast to the difficulties that have crossed their paths in Nazareth. Scripture scholar Ciaran O’ Callaghan, CSsR states that the staff and sandals symbolise the urgency of this missionary journey. There is no time to waste. Unlike missionaries from other religions who travelled the dusty roads of Galilee weighed down by their baggage and possessions, the disciples of Jesus will move quickly from one place to the next. This group of preachers are setting themselves apart from the rest.

They are given their instructions. When hospitality is given in a town, then stay in that place until it is time to leave. However, when the disciples encounter criticism or unwelcome, they are to move on and “as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them”. ■

### REFLECT

**T**he pilgrim journey taken by the disciples in today’s Gospel is not unlike the continuous task of the church in its work of preaching, teaching and healing. The argument can be made that the disciples of Jesus’ time had a more successful time in converting minds and hearts than the current missionary activity of the church. Why so, you might ask? The influence of atheists like Jean Paul Sartre and more current voices encourage

the move towards a personal freedom, where the human person refuses to be shackled by religion or by a God who imposes rules on our lives. The famous line by Sartre is quoted frequently: “If God exists, I cannot be free. But I am free, therefore God does not exist.” It follows then that the word ‘I’ overtakes the word ‘God’ in society’s quest for freedom and happiness. ‘I will decide who I will be.’ ‘I decide what I will do.’ With this current desire for autonomy in our world, can you imagine Jesus’ disciples knocking on the doors of people’s houses in the

year 2018 to tell the story of God, who is disclosed in the mystery of Jesus Christ? I wonder what kind of reaction they would get. As favourable as they got in Galilee, or a truly negative response as experienced by Jesus in Nazareth? The church is not working on fertile ground like the disciples of old. But we constantly have an opportunity to preach about freedom – not personal freedom but God’s freedom in electing us as his followers. As Bishop Robert Barron states, “we are set apart for God’s service. Nothing else matters.” ■