



## **Introduction**

Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God's compassion with our needy world. From the Lord's table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with the hungry.

## **First Reading: Exodus 19:2-8a**

*At Sinai God assured Israel, "You shall be my treasured possession," and commissioned them to serve as mediating priests for the nations. The people commit themselves completely to God's will.*

<sup>2</sup> [The Israelites] journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.<sup>3</sup> Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: <sup>4</sup>"You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup> Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup> but you shall be for me

a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

<sup>7</sup> So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. <sup>8a</sup> The people all answered as one, “Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.”

### **Psalm: Psalm 100**

*We are God’s people and the sheep of God’s pasture. (Ps. 100:3)*

<sup>1</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all you lands!

<sup>2</sup> Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God’s presence | with a song.

<sup>3</sup> **Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom | we belong;  
we are God’s people and the sheep | of God’s pasture. R**

<sup>4</sup> Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the | courts with praise;

give thanks and bless God’s | holy name.

<sup>5</sup> **Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is | everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from | age to age. R**

### **Second Reading: Romans 5:1-8**

*We are no longer God’s enemies but have peace with God because we were brought into a right relationship with God through Christ’s death.*

<sup>1</sup> Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

**Gospel: Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]**

*The mission of Jesus' followers is to continue the mission of Jesus himself. Here, he instructs his first disciples as to how they might proclaim the gospel through their words and deeds.*

<sup>35</sup> Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup> therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

<sup>10:1</sup> Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. <sup>2</sup> These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, <sup>6</sup> but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' <sup>8</sup> Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received

without payment; give without payment. [<sup>9</sup>Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, <sup>10</sup>no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff, for laborers deserve their food. <sup>11</sup>Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. <sup>12</sup>As you enter the house, greet it. <sup>13</sup>If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup>If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

<sup>16</sup>“I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. <sup>17</sup>Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues, <sup>18</sup>and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the gentiles. <sup>19</sup>When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you at that time, <sup>20</sup>for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. <sup>21</sup>Sibling will betray sibling to death and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, <sup>22</sup>and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup>When they persecute you in this town, flee to the next, for truly I tell you, you will not have finished going through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”]