

*As you go,
proclaim the
good news*

MATTHEW 10:7

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

www.stpaulsyork.org

www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George

YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York

WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 190 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Offerings Offerings are received during the liturgy. They are presented along with gifts of bread and wine at the altar. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org or use the QR Code provided.

An AED/Defibrillator unit is located in the Good Shepherd room. It is placed on the wall left side of the Springettsbury door exit.

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury Ave) and the narthex (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

The Nursery is accessed through the front right double doors. The liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. Parents are asked to stay with their children. Quiet activities are also available in the Narthex for infant through preschool children to use with an adult.

Parents, please do accompany your child to the restroom during the liturgy and wait with them. This is a way for us to practice good safety protocol within our building.

*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God by John & Kathy Monk
And in memory of David Boyer by Mim Boyer.*

*We extend our appreciation and thanks to Cheryl Reifsteck, violinist,
and to the Rev. Robin Moutenay for serving as Presiding Minister.*



Lutheran Church in York, PA - St. Paul's Lutheran...

stpaulsyork.org

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Organist, Choir Director	Victor Fields	vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Children's Choir Director	Julianna Jones	jjones.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Sexton	Ted Weikert	tweikert.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	presch.stpaulsyork@comcast.net

Third Sunday After Pentecost

June 14, 2026

Holy Communion 9:30 AM

Musical Setting 5 With One Voice

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

arr. Cindy Berry

Stand turning to face the Baptismal Font

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

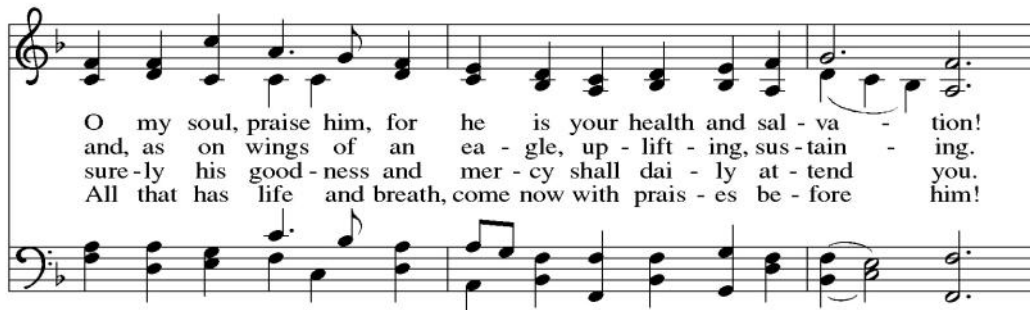
Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

ENTRANCE HYMN*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (LBW 543)*


1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros-per your work and de-fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a-dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus-tain - ing,
 sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy shall dai - ly at-tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . O God, the strength of those who hope in you: Be present and hear our prayers; and, because in the weakness of our mortal nature we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, so that in keeping your commandments we may please you in will and deed; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST LESSON **Exodus 19:2-8a** *back cover*

PSALM **Psalm 100** sung unaccompanied cantor/**congregation**

- ¹ Be joyful in the LORD, | all you lands;*
 serve the LORD with gladness and come before his presence | with a song.
- ² **Know this: The LORD him- | self is God;*
 he himself has made us, and we are his;
 we are his people and the sheep | of his pasture.**
- ³ Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his | courts with praise;*
 give thanks to him and call up- | on his name.
- ⁴ **For the LORD is good; his mercy is | everlasting;*
 and his faithfulness endures from | age to age.**

SECOND LESSON **Romans 5:1-8**

¹ Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² 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. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ 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.

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

Stand

ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL**Matthew 9:35—10:8***(back cover)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew
At the conclusion of the Gospel.
The Gospel of the Lord.

Glory to you, O Lord.**Praise to you, O Christ.***Sit***SERMON**

Pastor Stanley Reep

*Stand***APOSTLES' CREED****I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.****I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.****He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.****He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.****He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again.****He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.****He will come again to judge the living and the dead.****I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,****the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,****the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.****PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray to God our Father for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

O God, you ransomed Israel from slavery to be a holy people. Free us from all that weighs us down so that we may boldly proclaim your liberating love. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You sent Jesus as peace for all of humankind. Bring an end to war and conflict, bring hope to places devastated by destruction (*especially*), and sustain those who advocate for peace. God of grace,

You pour hope and love into our hearts in times of fear and doubt. Protect those experiencing housing insecurity. Uplift anyone struggling with hopelessness, illness, or other worries (*especially*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You call us to serve you through the use of our time, talent and treasure. Give us the wisdom to steward all that you have entrusted to us so that the needs of our neighbors are met both at home and abroad. God of grace,

hear our prayer.*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for (*Macrina, Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa, Gregory of Nazianzus, and all*) the saints who earnestly seek you and bear witness to your love. Guide us as we seek to follow your Son in lives of faith and obedience. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils that surround them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be, God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Sit

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

He Leadeth Me

arr. Cindy Berry

Stand

OFFERTORY

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

DIALOGUE *Spoken by Pastor and congregation*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE *The preface appropriate to the day is said.*

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and
suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened
his arms to all.
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we
share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

FRACTION RITE

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ.

When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.

**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as once you re-
vealed yourself to your disciples.**

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Come Let Us Eat (LBW 214)

1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
 3 In . . . his pres-ence now we meet and rest,
 4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y Word,

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
 In . . . his pres-ence now we meet and rest.
 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y Word.

Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
 Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
 In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
 Je - sus ris - en will bring in the King - dom,

Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.
 Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.
 In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.
 Je - sus ris - en will bring in the King - dom.

It is not too late to **volunteer to share your musical talent** during the summer months. A sign-up sheet is available on the stand in the Good Shepherd Room. The Worship and Arts Committee has already begun their work of arranging for instrumentalists and ensembles for Sundays while Victor is on sabbatical.

This Week at St. Paul's

Church office open Tues–Thurs 9:00 AM—12 noon

Sunday, June 14

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
 10:30 AM Summer Fellowship
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

Monday, June 15

6:30 PM Council Meeting— Christ Hall

Tuesday, June 16

9:30 AM Pantry

Sunday, June 21

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
 10:30 AM Summer Fellowship
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Greeters	Ushers -	Altar Guild	Bread Bakers
6/14	9:30 AM	Harold Sargeant	Larry Moore	Laura Livingston	Tom & Sarah Throckmorton	Team 3L: Dan Garber, Joe Guarriello, Larry Becker	Larry & Janet Moore	Abby Jacobs

Altar Flowers beautify our worship space. Please consider providing flowers for an upcoming Sunday. The chart is posted on the Springettsbury Ave. Bulletin board. The cost is \$40 per vase.

St. Paul's Food Pantry Needs: Peanut Butter, Cereal, plastic and paper shopping bags. Monetary donations can be placed in a special envelope marked "Pantry". Contact Teresa Rohrbaugh to volunteer for Tuesday distribution days. Contact Patty Snyder to volunteer for Thursday delivery days or Sunday stocking days or contact the church office. Thank you to all who help!

The Christian Education Committee members thank everyone who helped with VBS. We had a great week of learning about the Power of the Holy Spirit in lives of early followers of Jesus and how the Holy Spirit continues to empower the church.

The Worship and Arts Committee in conjunction with the Congregation Council welcomes your feedback and insights regarding our Sunday morning worship schedule. In preparation for fall planning a decision will soon be made regarding time or times for the Sunday Holy Eucharist. Please communicate with a member of the committee or council soon. Thank you.

Summer Fellowship Time

Thank you to everyone who signed up to help. There remain a few slots open where items or help is needed. Know that you may bring something to augment the assigned theme. Thank you!

Date	Theme and help needed
July 5	<i>Fruit & Yogurt</i>
July 12	<i>Sandwiches.</i> We need two people to make a dozen sandwiches and cut them diagonally in half.
July 19	<i>Muffins.</i> 1 Helper/Host is needed.
July 26	<i>Deviled eggs, Ham & Cheese rollups</i>
August 2	<i>Cupcakes.</i> 1 Helper/Host is needed.
August 9	<i>Sandwiches.</i> We need one person to make a dozen sandwiches and cut them diagonally in half.
August 16	<i>Cinnamon rolls/buns.</i> 1 Helper/Host is needed.
August 30	<i>Fruit & Yogurt.</i> 1 Helper/Host is needed.
September 6	<i>Brownies.</i> 1 Helper/Host is needed.

The sign-up sheet remains on the stand in the Good Shepherd Room.

St Paul's collects clothing for Union Lutheran Church's Clothing Ministry and your help is requested. Union collects 'gently used' clothing (and shoes) for its clothing closet and offers it **free of charge** to needy families in the York City community. A bin has been placed in the Good Shepherd room to collect any clothing you would like to donate. These donations will surely be a blessing to our neighbors. Union's volunteers are very appreciative of our cooperation and our help. If you have large donations you may take them directly to Union Lutheran Church. Simply call them to arrange a time.



A Partnership Between Local Churches & LifePath Thrift Stores

Please remember to donate your no longer needed items to LifePath Thrift Stores. The stores then return a portion of the value of these items in the form of gift cards to your church to help those directly in your care.



How Does the Partnership Work?

Individuals or families donate their gently used items to LifePath Thrift Stores (formerly York Rescue Mission). Three locations: 2414 Eastern Boulevard, 283 West Market Street, and in the South York Plaza.

The LifePath Thrift Stores employee serving them will ask the name of their church. (St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 25 W Springettsbury Ave, York). We need to be specific as there are multiple St. Paul's Lutheran Churches.

Donors are still able to take advantage of the tax-deduction with every gift to LifePath Thrift Stores.

St. Paul's is signed up to partner with LifePath. Please keep LifePath in mind when you are cleaning out/decluttering. Visit LifePathYork.org for additional information.

The lawn was well manicured. Care was given to make certain that it was always green. Chemicals in this situation were applied with regularity to achieve the desired result. There wasn't much concern for the health of anything that might be trying to eke out a life beneath the surface. The lawn was perfect.

Positioned at the edge of this verdant turf was a cast image depicting St. Francis, Francis of Assisi. Known for his love of the natural world and of the birds of the air and the animals that lumbered, hopped, slithered or crawled upon it, the cast concrete statue was an oxymoron. Passers-by might have considered the inhabitants of the property to be religiously devout, having such a fine statue prominently displayed. But looks can be deceiving.

Francis was the son of a wealthy cloth merchant. His baptismal name was Giovanni (John) but it didn't take long for him to be called Francesco because of his father's travels to France. His youth was spent pleasure-seeking and working for his father's business. But his deep desire was to become a knight. He thought the life of a warrior would bring great fulfillment. He went to war. It brought only capture and imprisonment which led to serious illness. An illness so grave he returned home to Assisi to be nursed back to health.

While there he underwent a complete change of heart. One morning in February he went to chapel and heard the priest read from the Gospel of St. Matthew. The text assigned for the day was the 10th chapter verses 7-13. *"As you go, proclaim the good news, The kingdom of heaven has come near. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or staff; for laborers deserve their food."*

Francis accepted the verses of scripture as divine revelation for himself. When Francis left the church, he took off his shoes, staff, cloak, replaced his belt with a piece of rope over his long brown peasant's smock, and began his mission. Ten years later this garb was the uniform of five thousand men. Five thousand men, the number recorded in scripture that were fed from a few loaves and a few fish by Jesus' miraculous gathering, blessing, breaking and giving. St. Francis gathered around him men who would follow Jesus' life of poverty, preaching by word and example the Beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount. This was a completely new vision of Christian life. Earthly possessions were replaced with asceticism, joyful fellowship, strong sense of humor, and gladness in God's creation.

Most of us can't even begin to contemplate such a worldly abandonment for the sake of the gospel. It is an easy leap for me to entertain the joyful fellowship, strong sense of humor and gladness in God's creation. But those three alone would not advance the mission of the church as commanded by Jesus when he commissioned his disciples. It is proclaiming the good news of God's love in Christ Jesus and acknowledging

that the kingdom of heaven has come near, is near, is here, is being made known in the lifegiving generosity of God that will permit health and the ability of folks to eke out a life. There is so much going on beneath the surface, behind the façade of social media, where people are hurting and are in pain. The good news made known in Jesus provides true hope for all of us.

The Christian life is currently being depicted in many differing ways. Some want only to present the appearance of Christian. They display prominently images and symbols that through time have become like emoji. Others operate in such ways as using religious vocabulary. The hope is that these will achieve the desired result. Some, like in the days of Francis' youth, will embrace the concept of knights and holy war as bringing to life God's deepest desire for humanity. None of these, however, give much concern for the health of anything that might be trying to eke out a life. God sent his only Son Jesus so that we would have life, not just eke out a life, but to have an abundant life. This is life that is lived in relationship with God and with one another.

For too long humankind strategically positioned its own ideas and desires in the marketplaces and along paths and roadways that are traversed daily hoping to win over and suppress others along with the natural world, the birds of the air and the animals that lumber, hop, slither or crawl upon it. It is into this world that Jesus comes. He gathers followers, at first 12, commissions them and sends them out to the edges of the earth. They will Baptize and teach all that he taught them. Their teaching will be grounded in Jesus' suffering, his death on the tree of the cross, and his resurrection on that first Easter morning. His compassionate love for people who are harassed and helpless will provide the context for all who follow where he has led the way.

This morning we are reminded that through Holy Baptism we are called into service to love God and our neighbor. In proclaiming the good news, we proclaim God's way of hope and salvation made known through Christ Jesus. We aren't here to look like devout followers or to use religious sounding language to express God's love. We are here, like Francis, to throw off the things that weigh us down so that we are free to live into our baptismal commission.

May we be known for our love, not only for the natural world and for the birds of the air and the animals that lumber, hop, slither or crawl upon it, but for all people. Those who are harassed and helpless, those who struggle to eke out a living, and those whose religious devotion clouds the good news from being proclaimed and the kingdom from coming near.

Our health and wholeness come through Christ Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who cares solely for his beloved flock. There is great concern for you and for all people. Forgiveness is applied regularly to achieve the desired result. Love, compassionate love, is given. You are loved, called in baptism, and commissioned for service so that good news is proclaimed and God's kingdom comes near. Amen.

FIRST READING: Exodus 19:2-8a

[The Israelites] journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.³Then 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: ⁴‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now, 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, ⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

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

Psalm 100**SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-8**

[not printed]

GOSPEL: Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

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. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

^{10:1}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. ²These 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; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas

and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ⁸Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. [⁹Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff, for laborers deserve their food. ¹¹Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹²As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

¹⁶“I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the gentiles. ¹⁹When 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, ²⁰for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹Sibling will betray sibling to death and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²²and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When 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.”]

Next Sunday's Readings: Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39.

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