

[86] ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME A

FIRST READING

You will be a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation.

A reading from the book of Exodus

19:1-6a

The people of Israel left Rephidim.
And two months after leaving Egypt,
they reached the desert near Mount Sinai.
They set up camp there at the foot of the mountain.

Moses went up the mountain to meet with the Lord God,
who told him to say to the people:

“You saw what I, the Lord, did in Egypt.
You know how like a mighty eagle
I brought you here to me.
Now if you will obey me and are faithful to me,
you will be my people.
The whole world is mine.
But you will be mine in a special way
and serve me as priests.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

100:1-2, 3, 5

R. (3c) We are his people: the sheep of his flock.

Shout praises to the Lord,
everyone on this earth.
Be joyful and sing
as you come in
to worship the Lord!

R. We are his people: the sheep of his flock.

You know the Lord is God!
He created us,
and we belong to him;

we are his people,
the sheep in his pasture.

R. We are his people: the sheep of his flock.

The Lord is good!
His love and faithfulness
will last forever.

R. We are his people: the sheep of his flock.

SECOND READING

We have been reconciled to God through the death of his Son;
we are saved by his life.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

5:6-11

Brothers and sisters:

Christ died for us at a time when we were helpless and sinful.
No one is really willing to die for an honest person,
though someone might be willing to die for a truly good person.
But God showed how much he loved us
by having Christ die for us,
even though we were sinful.

But there is more!
Now that God has accepted us because Christ sacrificed his life's blood,
we will also be kept safe from God's anger.
Even when we were still God's enemies,
he made peace with us,
because his Son died for us.
Yet something even greater than friendship is ours.
Now that we are at peace with God,
we will be saved by his Son's life.

And in addition to everything else,
we are happy because God sent our Lord Jesus Christ
to make peace with us.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

Mark 1:15

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The kingdom of God is near;
repent and believe the good news!

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Jesus summoned his twelve disciples, and sent them out.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 9:36-10:8

When Jesus saw the crowds,
he felt sorry for them.
They were confused and helpless,
like sheep without a shepherd.

He said to his disciples,
“A large crop is in the fields,
but there are only a few workers.
Ask the Lord in charge of the harvest
to send out workers to bring it in.”

Jesus called together his twelve disciples.
He gave them the power to force out evil spirits
and to heal every kind of disease and sickness.

The first of the twelve apostles was Simon,
better known as Peter.
His brother Andrew was an apostle,
and so were James and John, the two sons of Zebedee.
Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas,
Matthew the tax collector, James the son of Alphaeus,
and Thaddaeus were also apostles.
The others were Simon, known as the Eager One,
and Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed Jesus.

Jesus sent out the twelve apostles with these instructions:
“Stay away from the Gentiles
and don’t go to any Samaritan town.
Go only to the people of Israel,

because they are like a flock of lost sheep.”

“As you go,
 announce that the kingdom of heaven will soon be here.
Heal the sick, raise the dead to life,
 heal people who have leprosy,
 and force out demons.
You received without paying,
 now give without being paid.”

The gospel of the Lord.



Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary



Prayer:

(Invite children to pray, by asking them to imitate you.) (Sequentially trace a cross on your own ear, wait, then your head, wait, then over your heart, wait, then over you lips.)

Jesus, help me to hear You, Jesus help me think about You, Jesus help me love You and Jesus help me tell others about You. Amen.



Readings:

First Reading: Exodus 19:1-6
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 100:1-2, 3, 5
Second Reading: Romans 5:6-11
Gospel: Matthew 9:36-10:8



Reflection:

These readings from the Bible tell us about how God takes care of people. First, when He talked with His helper, Moses, God said we are His special people. That means He loves us very much. (Pause, slowly go to the crucifix and raise it up.) Look at this. It shows how Jesus loves us so much that He died to save us from sin. And, He told his friends, the apostles and disciples to continue His work by loving people too. He told them to help the sick people, and take care of the poor people.



Reflection Questions:

Do you think you could do that for Jesus?

Do you want to be one of God's special people?

How can you do that?

If someone is sad, what can you do for them?

If you see someone who gets hurt, what can you do for them?

Do you know anyone who is sick or maybe in the hospital? (Pause...get responses.) Let's pray for them... (Teach response) Lord, hear our prayer.



Activity:

Give each child a sheet of white paper and two colored markers. Have the paper prepared for the youngest children who may need an outline. Have them trace the outline with one marker, and write the words **Jesus loves me, and I love Jesus**. If time permits, children may draw people and flowers, etc. around the cross. As the children leave, put a cross-shaped sticker on each child's shirt or blouse collar, saying as you do, "_____ Jesus loves you."

(Remind children to quietly go back to their families in church.)

