

[99] **FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME B**

FIRST READING

Go, prophesy to my people.

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos

7:10-15

Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent this message
to Jeroboam the king of Israel:
“Amos is plotting against you in the very heart of Israel.
Our nation cannot put up with his message for very long.
Here is what he is saying,
‘Jeroboam will be put to death,
and the people will be taken to a foreign country.’”

Amaziah then told Amos,
“Take your visions and leave!
Go back to Judah and earn your living there as a prophet.
Don’t do any more preaching at Bethel.
The king worships here,
and this is our national temple.”

Amos answered, “I’m not a prophet!
And I wasn’t trained to be a prophet.
I raise livestock and take care of fig trees.
But the Lord told me to leave my herds
and preach to the people of Israel.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

85:8abc and 9, 10-11, 12-13

R. (8) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

I will listen to you, Lord God,
because you promise peace
to those who are faithful.
You are ready to rescue
everyone who worships you,
so that you will live with us
in all of your glory.

R. Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Love and loyalty
will come together;
goodness and peace will unite.
Loyalty will sprout
from the ground;
justice will look down
from the sky above.

R. Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Our Lord, you will bless us;
our land will produce wonderful crops.
Justice will march in front,
make a path for you to follow.

R. Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

SECOND READING

Before the world was made, God chose us in Christ.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

1:3-10

Brothers and sisters:

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
for the spiritual blessings that Christ has brought us
from heaven!

Before the world was created,
God had Christ choose us to live with him
and to be his holy and innocent and loving people.

God was kind
and decided that Christ would choose us
to be God's own adopted children.

God was very kind to us because of the Son he dearly loves,
and so we should praise God.

Christ sacrificed his life's blood to set us free,
which means that our sins are forgiven.
Christ did this because God was so kind to us.

God has great wisdom and understanding,
and by what Christ has done,
God has shown us his own mysterious ways.
Then when the time is right,

God will do all that he has planned,
and Christ will bring together everything in heaven and on earth.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

See Ephesians 1:17-18

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Jesus summoned the twelve and sent them out.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

6:7-13

Jesus called together his twelve apostles
and sent them out two by two with power over evil spirits.
He told them, "You may take along a walking stick.
But don't carry food or a traveling bag or any money.
It's all right to wear sandals,
but don't take along a change of clothes.

"When you are welcomed into a home,
stay there until you leave that town.
If any place won't welcome you or listen to your message,
leave and shake the dust from your feet as a warning to them."

The apostles left and started telling everyone to turn to God.
They forced out many demons and healed a lot of sick people
by putting olive oil on them.

The gospel of the Lord.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
Cycle B

Prayer:

Jesus, Thank you for calling each of us and giving each of us a special part to play in creating your Kingdom. Help us to listen to your call and to be good prophets in our own special way. In Your name, we pray.

Amen

Readings:

Amos	7:10-15
Psalm	85:8abc and 9, 10-11, 12-13
Ephesians	1:3-10
Mark	6:7-13

Reflection:

The last couple of weeks we have been hearing a lot about prophets. Today's first reading is about the prophet Amos who insists he is a rancher and a farmer, not a prophet, but God told him that he must bring God's message to the people of Israel. So even though he does not consider himself a prophet, he actually is. In the gospel Jesus sends the twelve apostles out to be prophets even though they considered themselves to be fishermen, accountants, merchants, etc. The word "prophet" is not a job title like "firefighter, doctor, teacher or student." It refers to a way of living one's life that shares the Good News about God through word and deed. Anyone who shares the Good News is a prophet no matter what they do for a living. We are all called to be prophets. There is no age limit. Sometimes kids are the best prophets. They speak about God with amazing love and simplicity. One of the best things about being a prophet is that we are each called to use our own gifts to proclaim the God's love. We are not all asked to stand out on a street corner and preach to strangers. We get to use the things and situations that we like and are good at to teach others about God.

Discussion

1. Who are some prophets in today's world?
2. What are today's prophets teaching us?
3. How can you, as a kid, be a prophet?
4. How do you use your talents to teach others about God?

Activity

This activity is designed to flow into the lessons for the next 2 Sundays.

Materials: Copies of the Gospel reading from the 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time (John 6:1-15). Arts and craft supplies, dress-up clothes, etc.

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Divide the children into groups of 3 or 4. They are going to create lesson plans to teach pre-school aged children the Gospel story of the multiplication of the loaves and fish which will be the Gospel in 2 weeks, the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time. You may need to adjust the group size and have extra adult help for each group of younger kids (K-1st graders). Each group will read the Gospel and decide how they will teach the story. They can use songs, games, skits, crafts, etc. They should include some prayer time with the little kids, too. Next Sunday, the groups will present their lessons to each other. The following Sunday, they will present them to the little kids.