

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you;
be my help.
Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my
Saviour!

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, strength of those who hope in you,
graciously hear our pleas, and, since without
you mortal fragility can do nothing,
grant us always the help of your grace,
that in following your commands
we may please you by our resolve and our
deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your
Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Ex 19:2-6

A Reading from the book of Exodus
From Rephidim the Israelites set out again; and
when they reached the wilderness of Sinai,
there in the wilderness they pitched their camp;
there facing the mountain Israel pitched camp.
Moses then went up to God, and the Lord called
to him from the mountains, saying, 'Say this to
the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons
of Israel, "You yourselves have seen what I did
with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagle's
wings and brought you to myself. From this you
know that now, if you obey my voice and hold
fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall
be my very own, for all the earth is mine. I will
count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated
nation".

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 99:2-3, 5

Response:
We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy (R.)
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him.
We are his people, the sheep of his flock (R.)

3. Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age (R.)

SECOND READING

Rn 5:6-11

A Reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans

We were still helpless when at his appointed
moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not
easy to die even for a good man- though of
course for someone really worthy, a man might
be prepared to die- but what proves that God
loves us is that Christ died for us while we were
still sinners. Having died to make us righteous,
is it likely that he would now fail to save us from
God's anger? When we were reconciled to God
by the death of his Son, we were still enemies;
now that we have been reconciled surely we
may count on being saved by the life of his Son?
Not merely because we have been reconciled
but because we are filled with joyful trust in God
through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom
we have already gained our reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The sheep that belong to me
listen to my voice, says the Lord,
I know them and they follow me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 9:36-10:8

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds, he felt sorry
for them because they were harassed and
dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then
he said to his disciples, "The harvest is rich but
the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the
harvest to send labourers to his harvest." He
summoned his twelve disciples and gave them
authority over unclean spirits with power to cast
them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and
sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles:
first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother
Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his
brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas,
and Matthew the tax collector; James the son
of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot
and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray
him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing
them as follows:

'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and
do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to
the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as
you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven
is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead,
cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received
without charge, give without charge.'

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

O God, who in the offerings presented here
provide for the two-fold needs of human nature,
nourishing us with food
and renewing us with your Sacrament, grant, we
pray,
that the sustenance they provide
may not fail us in body or in spirit.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

There is one thing I ask of the Lord; only this
do I seek:
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of
my life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

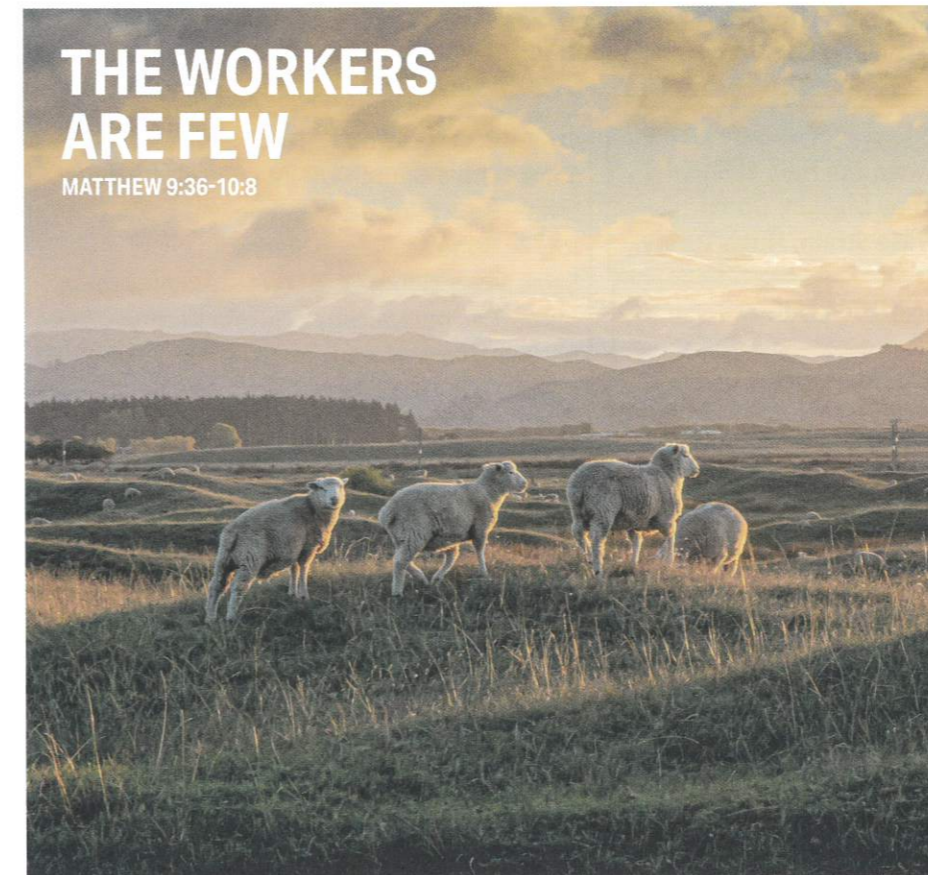
As this reception of your Holy Communion,
O Lord,
foreshadows the union of the faithful in you,
so may it bring about unity in your Church.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

I was brought up to believe I was lucky. Even
though we were poor, I was lucky to be a
Catholic; to be born in Liverpool – everybody
wanted to be born in Liverpool! If I complained
about my eyesight, my parents would say,
"You're lucky you're not blind." My upbringing
gave me a sense of confidence even if we didn't
have much.

Roger McGough

Sunday Message

THE WORD



In this passage, Matthew presents a striking image of Jesus' compassion. Seeing the crowds, "he was moved with pity because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." The metaphor of the shepherd is central: it conveys not only guidance but protection and care. Jesus' response is immediate; he does not simply feel sympathy but takes action.

He calls his twelve disciples and gives them authority to act in his name. This authority is specific and practical: to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and cast out demons. The mission is rooted in service, not status or power. Jesus sends them out "to the lost sheep of Israel," emphasizing that ministry begins with attention to those most in need and vulnerable.

The passage also shows the close link between compassion and mission. Jesus' pity for the crowd leads directly to commissioning others. His concern is not abstract; it has tangible consequences for those around him. For Matthew, discipleship means participating in this same pattern: seeing human need, feeling compassion, and acting with God's authority to bring healing, restoration, and hope. ■

REFLECT

Jesus looks beyond the surface,
beyond the busyness and noise, and
notices their struggle, their loneliness,
their need. "They were harassed and
helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."
How often do we pass by others without
really seeing them, or fail to notice the
burden they carry?

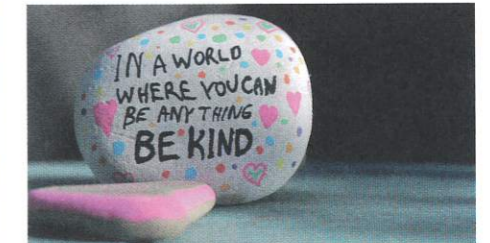
Jesus doesn't stop at feeling pity. He
acts. He calls his disciples and gives them

authority to heal, to restore, to bring hope.
Compassion, in his way, always leads to
action. Following him means allowing our
concern for others to move us beyond
words into deeds, however small they might
seem.

We are invited to be part of that mission
today. To speak a kind word, offer a helping
hand, or simply listen to someone who
feels lost. Like the disciples, we don't need

LEARN

The Church teaches that the mission of the
baptized is rooted in Christ's compassion:
seeing human need and responding with
service and love. (CCC 898, 900)



DO

Like the disciples, we can look for ways this
week to bring hope to those around us — a
visit, a message, or a simple act of service."



SAY

Lord Jesus,
You saw the crowds and were
moved with compassion.
Open our eyes to those who are
weary and in need.
Give us hearts ready to listen,
serve, and bring hope.
May our words and actions reflect
your love and care in the world.
Amen.

special power — only willingness to be
sent, to carry Christ's care into the world.

In this Gospel, discipleship is clear: see,
care, act. Compassion is not passive. It is
lived, shared, and multiplied. In reaching out
to others, we follow the shepherd who goes
before us and invites us to join his work. ■