

The Missionary Church

The readings today remind us that the Good News of Jesus is not something to be kept to ourselves, but that, as Christians, we are commissioned to go out to others.



*Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the Church neglect its mission and the Gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.*

*Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervour, draw us closer in community;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.*

*Lord, you make the common holy: "This my body, this my blood."
Let your priests, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us share your children's liberty;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.*

*Lord, you show us love's true measure: "Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us, to a just society;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.*

*Lord, you bless the words assuring: "I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend,
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.*



In the first reading we hear the prophet being told by God, *“Go, tell my people.”* This is developed in the Gospel when we hear the story of Jesus sending out the 12 apostles with strict instructions as to how to behave in mission.

➤ **They were sent out in pairs**

Jesus said, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am in the midst of them”.

Christianity is a community religion. We do not operate in isolation from one another when we serve God in ministry. That is why coming together to celebrate our faith and the major milestones in life is so important. By sending the disciples out with another, Jesus is reinforcing that.

➤ **They were not to take anything for the journey except a staff and sandals**

Jesus wants his disciples to be reliant on the generosity of others. By accepting what others provide for them, they remember to accept what God is giving to them.

➤ **Once they entered a house, they were to stay there until they left the area**

Once the disciples accepted hospitality from one family, it might have been tempting for them to move to a better offer. Jesus is telling them not to do that, but to accept, in humility, what was offered to them initially.

➤ **If they were not welcome, they were to walk away**

Jesus does not force anyone to accept the Good News. It is freely given and freely received.

Remember,
you may be
the only Bible
that others
read.



We ask the Spirit's gifts to empower us for the work of ministry.
Let us go out each day and proclaim the Good News of Jesus by our
LOVE and our ACTIONS.

