

Sunday 14th June 2020 – The Glory of the Lamb

Let the door of our heart be open to receive, O Christ; the soul of our being unlocked, to welcome you; and the gate of our life flung wide, for your entering in. Amen.

Ambrose of Milan (c.340-397)

Lectionary Reading Matthew 9:35-10:8

The Harvest Is Plentiful, the Labourers Few

Mat 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Mat 9:36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Mat 9:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few;

Mat 9:38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

The Twelve Apostles

Mat 10:1 And when he had called unto *him* his twelve disciples, he gave them power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Mat 10:2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother;

Mat 10:3 Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

Mat 10:4 Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles

Mat 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

Mat 10:6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Mat 10:7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Mat 10:8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Hymn Singing the Faith 410

- 1 Lord, your Church on earth is seeking
your renewal from above;
teach us all the art of speaking
with the accent of your love.
We would heed your great commission:
sending us to every place —
preach, baptise, fulfil my mission,
serve with love and share my grace.
- 2 Freedom give to those in bondage,
lift the burdens caused by sin.
Give new hope, new strength and courage,
grant release from fears within:
light for darkness; joy for sorrow;
love for hatred; peace for strife.
These and countless blessings follow
as the Spirit gives new life.
- 3 In the streets of every city
where the bruised and lonely dwell,
let us show the Saviour's pity,
let us of his mercy tell.
In all lands and with all races
let us serve, and seek to bring
all the world to render praises,
Christ, to you, Redeemer, King.

Hugh Sherlock (1905–1998) Ccli 287592

PSALM 100

1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

2 Know that the Lord is God.
It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.

4 For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

From *The New Revised Standard Version*

PRAYER

Father God, I know that the life-path I am treading is fraught with difficulties and problems but Lord, I trust You to lead and guide me through the maze of life, because You have promised to be with me to lead and to guide, to strengthen and to help.

Let me never lose sight of who I am in Christ and help me to trust You in all things, knowing that I am Your child, and that greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world.

Thank You that You are my Shepherd, Who has promised to lead and to guide, to protect and to uphold. Thank You that You are my Defence and my Defender and that You have promised to be my ever-present help in those times of unexpected difficulties and trials.

Thank You, Lord, that You remain faithful and dependable, even when I stray from the path that You have graciously laid out for me. May I never forget that You are my firm Anchor and the steady Rock upon which I stand, and that no difficulty in life is too great that You cannot overcome. Thank You in Jesus' name, Amen.