

**JUNE 14, 2020
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**



We are sent by Jesus to bless others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 9:35–10:23	The sending of the twelve
Monday	Exodus 19:2-8a	Israelites go to Mt. Sinai
Tuesday	Romans 5:1-8	How to be acceptable to God
Wednesday	Genesis 18:1-15	A son promised to Abraham
Thursday	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	Thanksgiving for illness recovery
Friday	Galatians 5:13-15	Christ gives freedom
Saturday	Psalm 100	The Lord is good
Sunday	Matthew 10:24-39	The call and cost of discipleship

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. **Matthew 9:35 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God of constant love and faithfulness, we thank you for your care; give us strength to extend your care to others through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

We thank you for this food, a gift of your steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen. (Psalm 100:5)

A Blessing to Give:

May the compassion of the Lord be with you and care for you like a shepherd cares for the sheep. (Matthew 9:36)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*All People That on
Earth Do Dwell*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What does it mean to you to bless someone?
- Our relationship with Jesus is meant to bless others. What does this mean to you?
- Jesus' followers were sent out to do the work of Jesus. Do you think this was easy or difficult? Explain.

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 9:35–10:23.

In the Old Testament lesson for this week (Exodus 19:2-8a) God once again establishes a covenant with the house of Jacob, just as God established a covenant with Abram in Genesis 12. God is making a priestly people, a holy nation to bless the world. In Matthew 9 and 10, Jesus now is establishing his covenant with his followers to bless others. Just as Jesus himself tells good news to people and heals every disease and sickness (9:35), his followers will go out and do similar acts of the kingdom (10:1 and 7). Those sent out by Jesus are doing the work of Jesus. The task was not easy for Jesus and will not be easy for his followers (10:16-23), but the Spirit of God will go with them (10:20). This passage is filled with compassion and is sobering at the same time. This is not someone else's ministry. It is the call all followers of Jesus have in some form. It is a daring mission that requires courage and wisdom (10:16). It is not an optional task. Our work as Jesus' hands, feet, and voice in the world day in and day out wins because we do not go alone, but with the Spirit of God. How do you accomplish the task of being Jesus' hands, feet, and voice in the world?

Pray: **Almighty God, send us out with your message of hope and compassion that heals through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Christian mission trips can be local or global and participants serve as Jesus' hands, feet, and voice in the world. There are many opportunities to serve on and/or financially support a mission team. Have you been on a mission trip? If so, share your story with someone and invite them to get involved. If not, find out more about supporting or joining a mission trip locally and globally.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing" (Psalm 100:1-2). *I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in My Heart* is a popular Christian song written in the 1920's and still stirs memories and joy in the hearts of many. Take a moment to make a joyful noise to the Lord and sing this well-known song.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org