We Respond

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 65)

ANTIPHON: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

RESPONSE: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

LECTOR: Cry out with joy to God all the earth, O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise. Say to God: "How tremendous your deeds!" **R**.

LECTOR: Before you all the earth shall bow; shall sing to you, sing to your name!" Come and see the works of God, tremendous his deeds among men. **R**.

LECTOR: He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river dry-shod. Let our joy then be in him; he rules for ever by his might. **R**.

LECTOR: Come and hear, all who fear God. I will tell what he did for my soul. Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love from me. **R**.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

Or

Come to me, all who labour and are burdened, and I will refresh you, says the Lord.

TODAY'S READINGS Isaiah 66:10-14; Galatians 6:14-18; Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

NEXT WEEK (15th Sunday, Year C) Deut 30:10-14; Psalm 68; Colossians 1:15-20; Luke 10:25-37

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We all have a shared mission



In the gospel Jesus sends out the seventy-two disciples in pairs with a message of peace, a message of God's openness and acceptance, which for us all. The harvest is ready but, as with any harvest, the work is to be done now, even if the 'labourers are few.'

Jesus offers the disciples instructions for the dangerous journey ahead: they are to trust in God's love and not be pre-occupied by the little things. Also, they are not to be distracted by chit-chat, but to stay open to God's presence, and to receive the hospitality that's offered to them, and be with the sick, curing them.

Even those who turn away are to be reminded that the kingdom of God is very close. By trusting in what Jesus has to say, God's kingdom of peace and mercy will become a reality, both now and in the future.

Like the disciples, we're to meet people where they are, not simply have them meet us where we are. Unlike a door knocker or street preacher, we are to listen to people and walk with them. In this way, we will come to understand the words



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of Mother Teresa, "We've forgotten that we belong to one another".

As we begin to live like this, we will come to know what Pope Francis called the joy of the gospel. We can be missionaries, he said, if we "feel happiness in seeking the good of others, in desiring their happiness". This is a challenge for us but, as followers of Jesus, it is what we are called to do.

When the disciples come back overjoyed at what has happened. They are amazed to report that, in his name, the destructive forces have been overcome. They hear Jesus say that even Satan, our accuser, has been overcome, and in the presence of God 'nothing will ever hurt you'. Let us rejoice then, as we begin to open ourselves to God, and realise God is with us.

This joy is at the heart of the First Reading, where the prophet Isaiah says that, on their return from exile, God will comfort his people and give them peace. Then, in the Second Reading, Paul speaks of the peace and mercy that are the fruits of our becoming a 'new creature' in Christ.

Becoming a 'new creature' in Christ is a new way of being with one another and with God, so that we might share in the peace of God's kingdom both now and forever.