

Service for Week 8th -14th June 2026

By Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, you call us to be your witness; to make known your name and the love that God has for all.

Teach us to recognize that, through our words -the small seed we sow in others, though much will be rejected some may find fertile ground and bring hope and comfort to those around us.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven
hallowed be Thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done,

on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive them who trespass
against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory

for ever and ever.

Amen

Bible Reading Matthew 9:35-10:8

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

Holy words, Holy wisdom,

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

In order to spread the good news about God's love Jesus appointed twelve men to preach and to heal in his name. It is interesting to know the backgrounds of those men. There was as we know a group of fishermen -



Peter (Simon Peter), Andrew, James, and John, who had a fishing business which we know carried on when they left to follow Jesus. We think Philip, Thomas, and Bartholomew (Nathanael) were also fishermen.

Then there was Matthew (Levi) a Tax Collector employed by the Roman government to collect taxes in Capernaum. We also have a Revolutionary Simon the Zealot, believed to be part of radical Jewish nationalist group called Zealots, that opposed Roman rule.

We know that their Treasurer was Judas Iscariot, who was the bookkeeper for Jesus and the disciples. There was also James (son of Alphaeus) and Thaddeus (Judas / Lebbaeus) We don't know what their professions were but we think Thaddeus was perhaps a farmer.

I am sure that Jesus had a purpose in choosing this particular group of 12 men. If you or I were choosing people to lead an organization we would perhaps choose people who had some prior experience in the particular field we were operating. But we don't think any of these 12 men had experience of preaching and healing prior to meeting Jesus. We know from the gospels that they were working in their different professions right up to the point when they left, as the fishermen who left their nets, to follow Jesus.

But the other more important reason for choosing these 12 would have been their potential to engage with and spread Jesus' message to different people in that society. Farmers, agricultural workers and labourers, tradesmen and professional people. Also, business owners, tax collectors and people working for and with the authorities, and the revolutionary types on the fringe of society.

Jesus today calls every one of us to work for his kingdom. To work to make our world a better place. To tell others about God's love and God's forgiveness for our wrongdoing. We can do that in every aspect of our lives, in every profession or field of work, working or retired, living at home, in hospital or living in a nursing or Care Home. How? By the principles we live by and what we say to those we meet day by day. By sharing Jesus's message of God's love, peace and compassion with those around us.

Amen

Closing prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you have touched my heart and brought me joy. Your presence being with me in both the good times and hard times has given me a life in all its fullness. Help me now through your Spirit, to share with others around me as your disciples did, the blessing I have found in you.

Amen

Prayers inspired by Prayerfully Yours by Nick Fawcett