

Sunday Message

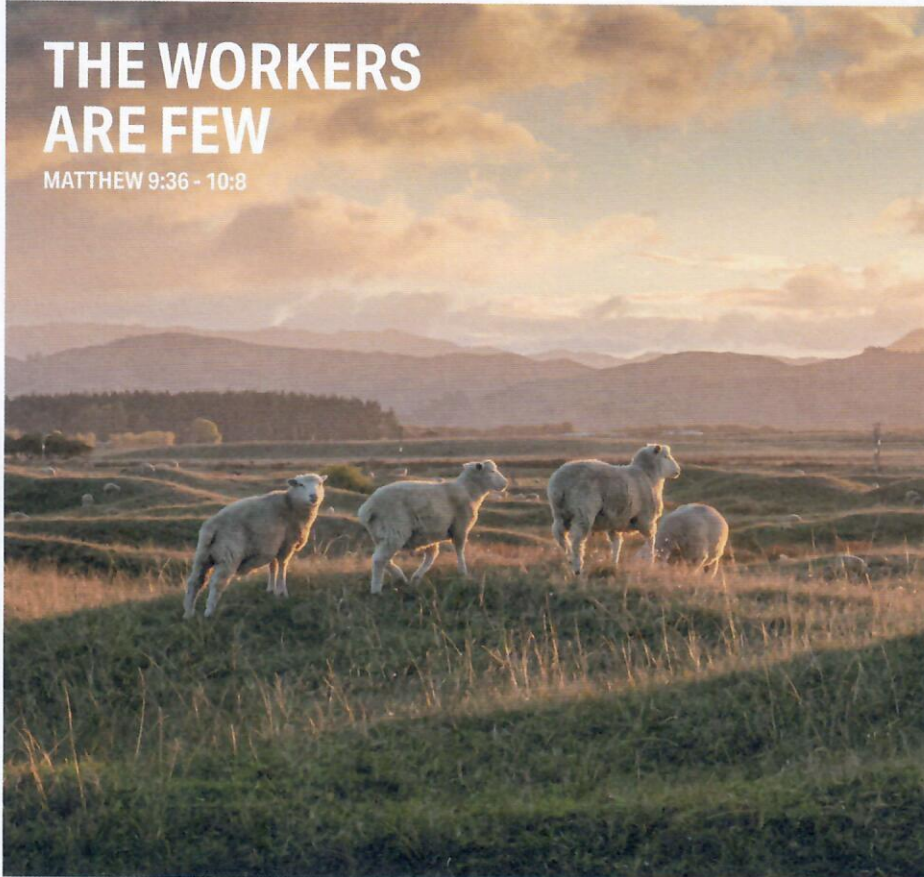
ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 14 June 2026 • Psalter Week 3

THE WORKERS ARE FEW

MATTHEW 9:36 - 10:8



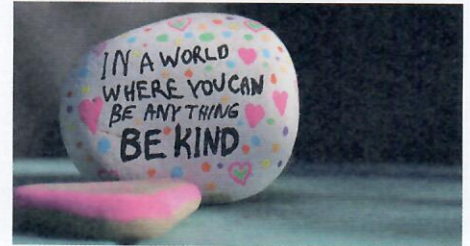
In this passage, Matthew presents a striking image of Jesus' compassion. Seeing the crowds, "he was moved with pity because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd". The metaphor of the shepherd is central: it conveys not only guidance but protection and care. Jesus' response is immediate; he does not simply feel sympathy but takes action.

He calls his twelve disciples and gives them authority to act in his name. This authority is specific and practical: to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and cast out demons. The mission is rooted in service, not status or power. Jesus sends them out "to the lost sheep of Israel," emphasizing that ministry begins with attention to those most in need and vulnerable.

The passage also shows the close link between compassion and mission. Jesus' pity for the crowd leads directly to commissioning others. His concern is not abstract; it has tangible consequences for those around him. For Matthew, discipleship means participating in this same pattern: seeing human need, feeling compassion, and acting with God's authority to bring healing, restoration, and hope. ■

LEARN

The Church teaches that the mission of the baptised is rooted in Christ's compassion: seeing human need and responding with service and love. (CCC 898, 900)



DO

Like the disciples, we can look for ways this week to bring hope to those around us – a visit, a message, or a simple act of service.



SAY

Lord Jesus,
You saw the crowds and were moved with compassion.
Open our eyes to those who are weary and in need.
Give us hearts ready to listen, serve, and bring hope.
May our words and actions reflect your love and care in the world.
Amen.

REFLECT

Jesus looks beyond the surface, beyond the busyness and noise, and notices their struggle, their loneliness, their need. "They were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." How often do we pass by others without really seeing them, or fail to notice the burden they carry?

Jesus doesn't stop at feeling pity. He acts. He calls his disciples and gives them

authority to heal, to restore, to bring hope. Compassion, in his way, always leads to action. Following him means allowing our concern for others to move us beyond words into deeds, however small they might seem.

We are invited to be part of that mission today. To speak a kind word, offer a helping hand, or simply listen to someone who feels lost. Like the disciples, we don't need

special power – only willingness to be sent, to carry Christ's care into the world.

In this Gospel, discipleship is clear: see, care, act. Compassion is not passive. It is lived, shared, and multiplied. In reaching out to others, we follow the shepherd who goes before us and invites us to join his work. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help.
Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!*

COLLECT

O God, strength of those who hope in you,
graciously hear our pleas,
and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing,
grant us always the help of your grace,
that in following your commands
we may please you by our resolve and our deeds.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Exodus 19:2-6a

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

In those days: The people of Israel came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: "You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 100(99):1-2. 3. 5. R. 3c

R: We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry out with joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Serve the LORD with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. **R.**
2. Know that he, the LORD, is God.
He made us; we belong to him.
We are his people, the sheep of his flock. **R.**
3. Indeed, how good is the LORD,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. **R.**

SECOND READING Romans 5:6-11

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters: While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die – but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:15

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

The kingdom of God is at hand;
repent and believe in the Gospel.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 9:36 – 10:8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time: When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. The names of the twelve Apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who in the offerings presented here provide for the twofold needs of human nature, nourishing us with food and renewing us with your Sacrament, grant, we pray, that the sustenance they provide may not fail us in body or in spirit. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek:
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.*

Or

*Holy Father, keep in your name those you have given me,
that they may be one as we are one, says the Lord.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As this reception of your Holy Communion, O Lord, foreshadows the union of the faithful in you, so may it bring about unity in your Church. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.