

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

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 ask the Lord of the harvest  
to send out labourers into his harvest.”

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples  
and gave them authority over unclean spirits,  
to cast them out,  
and to cure every disease and every sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles:  
first, Simon, also known as 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,  
the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions:  
“Go nowhere among the Gentiles,  
and enter no town of the Samaritans,  
but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.  
As you go, proclaim the good news,  
‘The kingdom of God has come near.’  
Cure the sick, raise the dead,  
cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.  
You received without payment;  
give without payment.”

The gospel of the Lord.