

Liturgy Alive of 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time - B

Greetings *(see second reading)*

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
has chosen us in Christ
to live in his presence
and with him to carry out his plan
of bringing everyone together under Christ.
May the Lord's peace and grace

be always with you. *R/ And also with you.*

Introduction by the Celebrant

A. Don't Keep the Word to Yourself

A good test of how strong our faith is would be how much we want to share it with the people around us. We cannot keep for ourselves what is good and rich and beautiful. If the gospel has shaped our lives and made it deep and precious for us, why not let it become Good News also to others? Not everyone is called to go out and preach it but just to let it speak for itself by the way we live it. Ask the Lord here in this eucharist to help us live and spread his Good News.

B. Let Your Life Speak God's Word

Ordinary people like you and me went out into the world with the message of Jesus, with nothing else to offer than the Good News, and yet the gospel spread far and wide. In the early centuries after Jesus' coming most of the converts were won over by seeing how the Christians lived, how they worshipped God and loved and served one another. In that way they lived and preached the heart of the gospel message. Is it perhaps this simplicity and directness which we need in our day? With the Lord Jesus among us, we ask him how best to make his Good News known.

C. Speak in My Name: You Are a Prophet

Who of us dares to stand up and speak out on seeing something in society or the local community that is against the gospel and genuine human values? To speak and spread the Good News is not always welcome to people. Even some faithful protest. It demands courage on the part of the messengers. For it will upset some of the leaders, and they will say you are meddling in politics when you are merely asking for justice or defending the voiceless poor. But speak we must, for it is God's word he has entrusted to us. A prophet is literally one who speaks for God. We ask Jesus for courage.

D. Chosen in Christ

It is not we who have chosen God, because we like him or because he conforms to our ideas about him or seems to answer our aspirations. It is he who has chosen us to become his sons and daughters. He has forgiven our sins and given us life through Jesus Christ. All is given us, all is grace. How rich we are! We are God's people called to give him glory in the name of all the world and to bring the world to him. With Jesus we thank the Father for having chosen us in Christ.

Penitential Act

Our lives may have been far
from being Good News to others.
Let us ask the Lord to forgive us.
(PAUSE)
Lord Jesus, in you we have been blessed
with all love and grace from heaven:
Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*

Jesus Christ, in you we have been chosen
to be holy and spotless in God's sight:
Christ, have mercy. *R/ Christ, have mercy.*

Lord Jesus, in you the Father chose us
to live through love in his presence:
Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*

Touch us with your healing hand, Lord,
and forgive us all our sins.
Make us free and rich in grace

and lead us to everlasting life. *R/ Amen.*

Opening Prayer

A. Don't Keep the Word to Yourself

B. Let Your Life Speak God's Word

C. Speak in My Name: You Are a Prophet

Let us pray that we may share with all
the Good News of Jesus our Lord
(PAUSE)
God of justice and mercy,
you have set us free from the evil of sin
by the life and death and rising again
of your living reflection and word,
your Son Jesus Christ.
Let his life and message inspire us
to voice his truth and bring his freedom
to everyone on this earth.
Give us no other assurance
than that we proclaim his Good News
and that our companion on the road is

your own Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

D. Chosen in Christ

Let us pray that we may live the life
of God's sons and daughters
(PAUSE)
Blessed are you, God our Father,
that you have chosen us in Christ
to be your sons and daughters,
set free by the blood of your Son.
Keep us free and make us live
a life that reflects the Good News
brought us by Jesus.
Make our spirit of love and service contagious,
that it may inspire people and attract them
to you, our living and loving God.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. *R/ Amen.*

Liturgy of the Word

Introduction to the First Reading: The Lord Took Me and Sent Me

Amos has to speak God's uncomfortable message of conversion to a self-sufficient people which paid only lip-service to God and speak he does.

Introduction to the Second Reading: God Has Chosen Us in Christ

Paul thanks God for his plan of love. For God has chosen all people to be his children through the blood of Christ and has destined us to be his people and heirs of eternal happiness.

Gospel Introduction: Sent to Heal and to Save

Jesus sends his apostles, and us, his disciples today, to liberate people from all powers of evil that make them less human and to heal them from all diseases, physical, spiritual and social.

General Intercessions

We and all the members of our communities are called by the Lord to make the Good News known. Let us all pray with one another and for each other that we may respond to God's call according to the grace he gives each of us. Let us say: *R/ Here we are, Lord, send us!*

- Lord, he was only a shepherd and a pruner of trees, but you called Amos and put your words in his mouth. Give us the courage to speak your word. And so we pray: *R/ Here we are, Lord, send us!*
 - Lord, they were only stammerers and timid people, but you called Moses and Jeremiah to speak out and lead. Make us voice your word without hesitation, even to people not well disposed to listen. And so we pray: *R/ Here we are, Lord, send us!*
 - Lord, they were only fishermen cleaning their nets, but you called your apostles to spread your Good News. Make us fearless to speak your word. And so we pray: *R/ Here we are, Lord, send us!*
 - Lord, he was only a tax collector behind his desk, but you called Matthew to heal people and to cast out devils. Wounded as we are, make us healers too. And so we pray: *R/ Here we are, Lord, send us!*
 - Lord, they are only teachers or parish priests or employees, but you call your people in our communities to tolerate no injustice, to defend the poor. Speak through them and through all of us for all that is right and good. And so we pray: *R/ Here we are, Lord, send us!*
- God our Father, let the life and message of Jesus so inspire us that we become willing to voice his truth and bring his kind of freedom to everyone on this earth, that he may be the Lord of all now and for ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord our God,
we have nothing to rely upon
except your strength.
Give us your own Son Jesus
in these signs of bread and wine.
Help us to be to the world today
his message of hope and justice.
As he breaks the bread of himself for us,
may we bring food to the hungry
and love and truth to the satisfied,
in the name of Jesus Christ,

your Son and our Lord for ever. *Amen*

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

The Father has chosen us in Christ to be his daughters and sons and to carry out his plan with and through Christ. For all this we thank and praise him with Christ.

Introduction to the Lord's Prayer

The Father has chosen us in Christ
to be his beloved children.
We call on him and thank him

in the words of Jesus himself: *R/ Our Father...*

Deliver Us

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil
and grant us peace in our day.
Keep us holy and spotless
and let us live through love in your presence,
as we wait in joyful hope
for the coming in glory

of our Savior Jesus Christ. *R/ For the kingdom...*

Invitation to Communion

This is Christ the Lord,
who has brought us by his blood
the forgiveness of our sins
and the riches of his grace.
Happy are we to be invited

to the holy meal of his love. *R/ Lord, I am not worthy...*

Prayer after Communion

Lord our God,
you have given us yourself
in your Son Jesus Christ.
Do not allow us to be possessive
but make us realize
that your life and love are ours for good
insofar as we are willing to grow in them
and to share them with our neighbor.
Give us this conviction
and the strength to put it into practice,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Blessing

God has entrusted to us his mission
of bringing the Good News of his Son
to a self-sufficient world,
ill-disposed to receive him.
We ourselves are often poor witnesses,
yet speak we must
by our words and our style of life.
May God himself be our strength
and may he bless you for this task:

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *R/ Amen.*

Let us go and proclaim God's Good News

to all who are willing to listen. *R/ Thanks be to God.*