GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Sheffield, Alabama
Second Sunday after Pentecost
June 14, 2020
Collect and Scripture
(We begin Ordinary Time in the Liturgical Calendar. Jesus teaches his Disciples how to do their missionary work. We consider our own work and how to implement the gift of the Holy Spirit.)

The Collect
Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Matthew 9:35—10:8-23
Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he 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 laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers 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 Cananaean, 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 heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”

Exodus by Marc Chagall
The Cycle of the Seasons, an Illustration of One of the Visions of Hildegard of Bingen

Vocation of the Apostles, by Domenico Ghirlandaio, Fresco in the Sistine Chapel
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Psalm 100  Jubilate Deo

1 Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; * serve the
Lord with gladness and come before his presence
with a song.

2 Know this: The Lord himself is God; * he
himself has made us, and we are his; we are his
people and the sheep of his pasture.

3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his
courts with praise; * give thanks to him and call
upon his Name.

4 For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Romans 5:1-8

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our
Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace
in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of
God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing
that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character,
and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because
God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that
has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time
Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a
righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might
actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still
were sinners Christ died for us.

Exodus 19:2-8a

The Israelites had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of
Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the
mountain. Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the
mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell
the Israelites: You 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 obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured
possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but
you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the
words that you shall speak to the Israelites."

So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before
them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. The people all
answered as one: "Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do."