

July 14, 2024

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



# AWAKEN

Becoming Disciples of the Word

## Sunday's

### READINGS

Amos 7:12–15  
Ephesians 1:3–14  
Mark 6:7–13

Scan the code to read today's readings. →



## What You NEED to KNOW

### Scripture Background

#### Amos 7:12–15

Amos was a shepherd in Judah around 730 B.C. At this time, there was a division of the land that resulted in two kingdoms: Israel in the north and Judah in the south. Amos prospered during the reigns of King Uzziah of Judah (the southern kingdom) and King Jeroboam II of Israel (northern kingdom). He was a shepherd and a dresser of sycamore trees. He pruned stalks and protected the small fruit, eaten mostly by the poor, from insects. Amos travels to Bethel in the north to pay his tax to the priest at the shrine. The money was given to the king of Israel. Amos, who has been called by God to speak to his people, warns the Jews that they will suffer at the hands of foreigners if they do not repent and reform their lives. The priest scolds Amos and tells him to go home.

#### Ephesians 1:3–14

At the beginning of the Letter to the Ephesians, Saint Paul shares a blessing with the community. This form of blessing is found in the communal prayer of the Jewish people. We use the word *liturgical* to describe a communal prayer that is repetitively used in worship.

The Creed we recite during Mass is considered a liturgical prayer. When you read this part of Paul's letter you can almost hear, "We believe in God the Father almighty.... We believe in the love he destined for us.... We believe that in him we have redemption...." In this poetic and beautiful letter, we are given a summary of God's plan and action in our lives through the ages. We call this plan and action salvation history.

#### Mark 6:7–13

In the first five chapters of Mark's Gospel, we heard Jesus teach about God's Kingdom and we saw his wondrous actions, the power of God's love, healing body and soul. Today, Jesus calls the Twelve and tells them it is their turn. Can you put yourself in their place? They are probably still overwhelmed at Jesus' ability to perform miracles and speak with such authority. Now Jesus is asking them to go two by two and do the same. My response would probably be, "You have to be kidding!" Add to that the next set of instructions: no extra clothing, no food or sack, and no money. By the way, many people won't believe what you say." You can almost hear Jesus' thoughts as he watches their faces, "How much do they trust me?"



## Opening PRAYER

*Jesus, if I do not know you, I cannot trust you. Help me to respond each day to the urging of your Holy Spirit to grow in friendship with you. Amen.*



## Thoughts for REFLECTION

Today's readings focus on the need to speak, to proclaim, the Good News. What might you need to be comfortable speaking about your faith?

What might make you uncomfortable about proclaiming the Good News?

*Awaken* is written and edited by Jo Ann Paradise, D.Min.





## Points to Ponder

### Blessed by Blessing

Blessing someone or being blessed is a challenging concept. God blesses us. We bless God. We bless one another in God's name. Our understanding of blessing is connected to salvation history and so develops as we attempt to speak about God's relationship with creation. God creates with the desire for everything to live according to the nature he intended. This brings peace, fulfillment, and joy. Sin enters the world through our choices, and disorder follows. Yet, God continues to bless us. The most awesome and greatest blessing we receive is Jesus. When we ask for a blessing for ourselves or others, we are asking God to fulfil his plan. We often use the word *blessing* to indicate our belief that we are being provided for or protected by God. Finally, we use the word *blessing* to signify our relationship with God. It is an acknowledgment that all good comes from God. Our blessings call upon God's blessing.

- What actions can you take that will make you a blessing to others?
- Name some people who have been a blessing to you and tell why.



Lord Jesus, you are truly present. Amen!

When you approach the tabernacle remember that he has been waiting for you for twenty centuries.

—Saint Josemaría Escrivá

Strengthen belief in the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Visit the Pflaum Eucharist resources page.



## and CHURCH TEACHING

Connecting GOSPEL

## What Is the Meaning of Discipleship?

There are some words we use that hold expectations within themselves. When I use the word *chef*, I associate with it a person who is skilled with food. I expect a good meal from a chef. When I use the word *spouse*, I understand that implicit in that word is faithfulness to another. When we use the word *disciple* to identify the followers of Jesus, many things are implicit in the word. One of those is someone sent on mission. "The task of every Christian is based on that 'go'... which Jesus gave as an instruction to

his disciples and which implies going out, making haste, accompanying, thus becoming true missionary disciples" (*Directory for Catechesis*, 68). Witnessing through action and proclaiming through words is foundational for discipleship. Even if it was not something we heard much about in our parishes or homes, it has always been the teaching of the Church. Are you prepared to live out that aspect of being a disciple?

➔ To learn more, refer to CCC, 1877–1889 or go to Booklet 8, Session 2 in Growing Faith.



## Closing PRAYER

*Holy Spirit, source of all inspiration, give me the wisdom and strength I need to witness to the gift of our salvation in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

## FAMILY CORNER

Scan here for parent resources. ➔



### Question of the Week

What can our family do this week to spread the Good News through our actions?



### Family Prayer

God, help us to share your Good News through our actions. Amen.