

# 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year C

*Whatever house you go into, let your first words be,  
"Peace to this house!"*

*And if a man of peace lives there,  
your peace will go and rest on him. (Lk 10:5-6a)*



## First Reading

*Isaiah 66:10-14*

Rejoice, Jerusalem, be glad for her, all you who love her! Rejoice, rejoice for her, all you who mourned her!

That you may be suckled, filled, from her consoling breast, that you may savour with delight her glorious breasts.

For thus says the Lord: Now towards her I send flowing peace, like a river, and like a stream in spate the glory of the nations.

At her breast will her nurslings be carried and fondled in her lap. Like a son comforted by his mother will I comfort you. And by Jerusalem you will be comforted.

At the sight your heart will rejoice, and your bones flourish like the grass. To his servants the Lord will reveal his hand.

## Second Reading

*Galatians 6:14-18*

The only thing I can boast about is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. It does not matter if a person is circumcised or not; what matters is for him to become an altogether new creature. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, who form the Israel of God.

I want no more trouble from anybody after this; the marks on my body are those of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, my brothers and sisters. Amen.

The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself was to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest. Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road. Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, 'Peace to this house!' And if a man of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on him; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house. Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is set before you. Cure those in it who are sick, and say, 'The kingdom of God is very near you.'"

## Meditation

*In Luke's gospel the mission of the seventy-two disciples takes on a double significance. On the one hand, it demonstrates that the proclamation of the kingdom is not the exclusive task of the Twelve. On the other hand, for the Jews of Jesus' time, the number 72 functioned as a symbol for the total number of the Gentile nations. It is not by chance that at various times on his way up to Jerusalem Jesus preached salvation to the Gentiles.*

*The seventy-two disciples confidently set out to conquer the world. We get a glimpse here of the driving force of Christian preaching inspired by the experience of the wind of Pentecost. Paradoxically, the most stable element in Christianity is the command always to go forward.*

*The goal of apostolic ministry consists not in seeking its own success but in preparing people for personal encounter with Christ. The missionaries are but precursors. It is for Christ that they labour. To pray is to call upon the "immeasurable scope of his power in us who believe" (Ep 1:19).*

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