

Reading for the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius

14th February 2026

First reading

Acts 13:46-49

‘Behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.’

In those days: Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, ‘It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.” ’

And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117(116):1. 2. R Mark 16:15

Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.

or: Alleluia.

O praise the Lord, all you nations;

acclaim him, all you peoples!

For his mercy has prevailed over us;

and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor;

to proclaim liberty to the captives.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 10:1-9

‘Your peace will rest upon him.’

At that time: The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no money bag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, “Peace be to this house!” And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the labourer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, “The kingdom of God has come near to you.” ’

Short reflection on the reading for today

Cyril and Methodius were brothers from northern Greece who in the ninth century preached the gospel in Moravia, modern day Czech Republic, Slovakia and parts of Hungary. As part of this service they translated the Scriptures and the liturgical texts into the local Slavic language, since only if the texts were in the vernacular could they communicate them to the local people.

In the process they invented a new alphabet, from which the present Slav alphabet is derived. For that reason they are honoured as the founders of Slavonic literature. Because of opposition they had to leave

Moravia and at the invitation of the Pope they travelled to Rome. There Cyril became a monk and he is buried in the Irish Dominican church of San Clemente, where an ancient fresco depicts his funeral. Methodius returned to Moravia where he preached the gospel in spite of great opposition, including opposition from local bishops who objected to his use of the vernacular.

Cyril and Methodius were labourers in the Lord's harvest.

In today's gospel, Jesus sends out 72, and he calls on those 72 to ask God to send more labourers to the harvest.

We are all called to be labourers in the Lord's harvest in one way or another. We may not be asked to travel far from our homes, like Cyril and Methodius. We can labour on behalf of the Lord where we find ourselves. The Lord will always provide us with opportunities to help to make his kingdom present to others.