

Reading for the Feast of Saints Simon and Jude

28th October 2026

First reading

Ephesians 2:19-22

‘Built on the foundation of the Apostles.’

Brothers and Sisters: You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the Apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy Temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 19(18):2-3. 4-5. R5a

Their sound goes forth through all the earth.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims the work of his hands.

Day unto day breathes forth a word, and night unto night imparts the knowledge.

No speech, no word, whose voice goes unheard; their sound goes forth through all the earth, their message to the utmost bounds of the world.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

O God, we praise you, O Lord, we acclaim you;
the glorious choir of Apostles sings to you, O Lord.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 6:12-19

‘All night he continued in prayer. And he chose twelve, whom he named Apostles.’

In these days Jesus went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named Apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

Short reflection on the reading for today

It is only Luke who tells us, as we read in today's gospel, that, before he chose the twelve, Jesus spent the whole night in prayer to God. This was a decision he prayed about; his choice of the twelve came out of his prayer. Indeed, Luke emphasizes that Jesus prayed before all the key moments of his life — just after his baptism, just before he set his face to go to Jerusalem, in the Garden of Gethsemane as he faced into his passion and death; on the cross just before his death. We will often find ourselves praying at important moments in our own lives too. At such moments, we recognize our need guidance and strength from above. Our prayer at such moments does not necessarily mean that everything will work out perfectly for us. Although Jesus spent the whole night in prayer before he chose twelve from among the disciples, one of those twelve, Judas, went on to betray him. Yet, we can be sure that our prayerful surrender to the Lord at such times will always create space for him to work, even when things do not work out as we had hoped.

