

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – JULY 2ND 2006.

Dearly beloved:

Next Sunday, July 2nd, is the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost. The Holy Gospel reading for this Sunday is the continuation of the reading of Sunday, May 21 (Fifth Sunday after Easter). After Jesus gave power and authority to His twelve disciples to preach the kingdom of God, He appointed seventy-two others and sent them to every town and place where He was about to go and tell the people the good news that He is coming and give instructions as to how they are to carry out their ministry. The disciples prepared the town for Jesus' coming.

When Jesus sent seventy-two of his disciples to go on mission, He gave them a vision of a great harvest for the kingdom of God. As we can see in different parts of the Holy Bible, Jesus frequently used the image of a harvest to convey the coming of God's rule on earth. In verse 3, He is saying that He is sending them like lambs in the midst of wolves. The prophet Isaiah foretold that wolves and lambs will dwell in peace. It refers to the second coming of Christ when all will be united under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In the meantime, we must expect opposition and persecution from those who oppose the gospel.

Jesus came as our sacrificial lamb for the sins of the world. We, in turn, must be willing to sacrifice our lives in humble service of our Lord and God.

“Lord, May the joy and truth of the gospel transform our life that we may witness it to those around us”.

Please read the following Bible verses, in preparation for this Sunday's commemoration.

Bible readings for Sunday, July 2nd, 2006.

(Fourth Sunday After Pentecost)

Before Holy Qurbana:

Deuteronomy	-	33: 23-29
Psalms	-	15: 1-5
Isaiah	-	65: 8-12

Holy Qurbana

General Epistles:	Acts	-	6: 1-7
Epistles of St. Paul:	I Corinthians	-	16: 14-22
Holy Gospel:	St. Luke	-	10: 1-16

- 1. Tomorrow, Monday July 3rd is the “Feast of St. Thomas”.**
- 2. Next Sunday, July 9th is “Fifth Sunday After Pentecost”.**

With prayers,
Thomas Alex