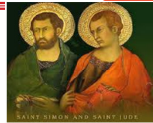


Ss Simon & Jude: *Simon is mentioned on all four lists of the apostles. On two of them he is called "the Zealot." The Zealots were a Jewish sect that represented an extreme of Jewish nationalism. Jude is so named by Luke and Acts. Matthew and Mark call him Thaddeus. He is the patron saint of desperate cases and lost causes.*



First Reading: *(Eph 2:19-22)* You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Ps 18:2-5

R./ *Their span goes forth through all the earth.*

Gospel: *(Lk 6:12-16)* Jesus went out to the mountain to pray; and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when it was day, 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.

REFLECTION

Jesus chooses his apostles. It is after spending sufficient time with the Father in prayer that he chose his apostles. It is Jesus who chooses the apostles from among the many. It is Jesus' initiative. They were called and chosen for the purpose of being his apostles, to carry forward his mission and not their own. **It is a grace that they were called and at the same time it is their responsibility to respond to the call.** We see these men as people who were generous to give themselves at the service of the Lord and to his kingdom. That is what the example of apostles Simon and Jude invites each of us too, to respond generously to his call.