

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who show the light of your truth
to those who go astray,
so that they may return to the right path,
give all who for the faith they profess
are accounted Christians
the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the
name of Christ
and to strive after all that does it honour.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Is 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.
Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow
come down from the heavens and do not return
without watering the earth, making it yield and
giving growth to provide seed for the sower and
bread for the eating, so the word that goes from
my mouth does not return to me empty, without
carrying out my will and succeeding in what it
was sent to do.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 64 (65): 10-14

Response:

Some seed fell into rich soil,
and produced its crop.

- You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain. (R.)
- And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth. (R.)
- You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.
(R.)

- The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. (R.)

SECOND READING

Rm 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never
be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed,
which is waiting for us. The whole creation is
eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was
not for any fault on the part of creation that it
was made so by God; but creation still retains the
hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery
to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom
and glory as the children of God. From the
beginning till now the entire creation, as we
know, has been groaning in one great act of
giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us
who possess the first fruits of the Spirit, we too
groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be
set free.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is
listening.
you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 13:1-23 (or short version <Mt 13:1-9>)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

< Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside,
but such crowds gathered round him that he
got into a boat and sat there. The people all
stood on the beach, and he told them many
things in parables. He said, 'Imagine a sower
going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds
fell on the edge of the path, and the birds
came and ate them up. Others fell on patches
of rock where they found little soil and sprang
up straight away, because there was no depth
of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they
were scorched and, not having any roots, they
withered away. Others fell among thorns, and
the thorns grew up and choked them. Others
fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some
a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen,
anyone who has ears!' >

Then the disciples went up to him and asked,
'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because'
he replied, 'the mysteries of the kingdom of
heaven are revealed to you, but they are not
revealed to them. For anyone who has will be
given more, and he will have more than enough;
but from anyone who has not, even what he has
will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in
parables is that they look without seeing and
listen without hearing or understanding. So
in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being
fulfilled: You will listen and listen again, but
not understand, see and see again, but not
perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown
coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they
have shut their eyes, for fear they should see
with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand
with their heart, and be converted and be
healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see,
your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly,
many prophets and holy men longed to see
what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you

hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of
the sower. When anyone hears the word of the
kingdom without understanding, the evil one
comes and carries off what was sown in his
heart: this is the man who received the seed
on the edge of the path. The one who received
it on patches of rock is the man who hears the
word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he
has no root in him, he does not last; let some
trial come, or some persecution on account of
the word, and he falls away at once. The one
who received the seed in thorns is the man
who hears the word but the worries of this
world and the lure of riches choke the word
and so he produces nothing. And the one who
received the seed in rich soil is the man who
hears the word and understands it; he is the
one who yields a harvest and produces now a
hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

(all bow during the next two lines)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look upon the offerings of the Church, O Lord,
as she makes her prayer to you,
and grant that, when consumed by those who
believe,
they may bring ever greater holiness.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and
my God.

Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having consumed these gifts, we pray, O Lord,
that, by our participation in this mystery,
its saving effects upon us may grow.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday Message

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 12 July 2026 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

MATTHEW 13:1-23 (MATTHEW 13:1-9
SHORTER FORM)



In this passage, Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower, describing how the message of the kingdom of heaven is received differently by different people. The sower scatters seed widely, illustrating God's generous offer of the Gospel. The focus is not on the sower, but on the soil — the hearts of those who hear the word.

The parable identifies four types of soil: the path, where the seed is quickly snatched away; rocky ground, where the word springs up but withers without deep roots; among thorns, where cares and desires choke growth; and rich soil, where the seed bears abundant fruit. Each soil represents a condition of the human heart, reminding us that the reception of God's word is affected by openness, perseverance, and priorities.

Jesus explains that the "seed" is the word of the kingdom, and the varying results show both the promise and the challenge of discipleship. Some hear but do not retain; others accept superficially; others are distracted by worldly concerns. Yet, when we are prepared to listen, the word produces abundant growth, revealing God's patience and the transformative power of his message.

The parable encourages self-reflection: are our hearts like rich soil, ready to receive, nurture, and bear fruit from the word of God? ■

REFLECT

Jesus reminds us today that hearing the word of God is only the beginning. The seed falls widely, generously, but the fruit it bears depends on the condition of the soil — the openness of our hearts. Some hearts are like the path: the word is quickly lost, easily distracted. Some are like rocky ground: initial enthusiasm fades without deep roots. Others are choked by the worries and desires of life, leaving little room for growth.

Yet the parable also shows hope. Where hearts are receptive, the seed produces abundant fruit — thirty, sixty, even a hundredfold. God's word is powerful, patient, and persistent. Discipleship asks us to cultivate our hearts: to listen, reflect, and nurture faith, allowing it to take root deeply.

This Gospel encourages honest self-examination. How do we respond when God speaks to us? Are we attentive and committed, or do we let life's distractions prevent growth? The promise is clear: when we open ourselves fully to God, his word transforms us, shaping our thoughts, actions, and relationships. Like rich soil, our hearts can bear fruit that endures, showing the power of God's kingdom in everyday life. ■

DO

This week, take a moment each day to reflect quietly on God's word, asking how it can take root in your life.

**LEARN**

God's word is powerful and fruitful, but it requires openness, attentiveness, and care in our hearts to bear the fruit of discipleship.

**SAY**

"Lord, make me a good and faithful servant of Your Word."
St. Francis de Sales