

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

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

Show favour, O Lord, to your servants
and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace,
that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity,
they may be ever watchful in keeping your
commands.

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 Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom

There is no god, other than you, who cares for
everything,
to whom you might have to prove that you never
judged unjustly.

Your justice has its source in strength,
your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.
You show your strength when your sovereign
power is questioned
and you expose the insolence of those who
know it;

but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in
judgement,
you govern us with great lenience,
for you have only to will, and your power is there.
By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your
people
how the virtuous man must be kindly to his
fellow men,
and you have given your sons the good hope
that after sin you will grant repentance.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Ps 85(86):5-6,9-10,15-16

Response:

O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice. (R.)

2. All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God. (R.)

3. But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me. (R.)

SECOND READING Romans 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness.
For when we cannot choose words in order to
pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our
plea in a way that could never be put into words,
and God who knows everything in our hearts
knows perfectly well what he means, and that
the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit
are according to the mind of God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds
for us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 13:24-43 (or short version <Mt 13:24-30>)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

< Jesus put a parable before the crowds: 'The
kingdom of heaven may be compared to a
man who sowed good seed in his field. While
everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed
darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When
the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel
appeared as well. The owner's servants went
to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that
you sowed in your field? If so, where does the
darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done
this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do
you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said,
"No, because when you weed out the darnel
you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them
both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I
shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel
and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the
wheat into my barn." >

He put another parable before them: 'The
kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which
a man took and sowed in his field. It is the
smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown
it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree
so that the birds of the air come and shelter in
its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom
of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and
mixed in with three measures of flour till it was
leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in
parables; indeed, he would never speak to
them except in parables. This was to fulfil the
prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables
and expound things hidden since the
foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house;
and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain
the parable about the darnel in the field to us.'
He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed
is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the
good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the
darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy
who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the

end of the world; the reapers are the angels.
Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and
burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time.
The Son of Man will send his angels and they
will gather out of his kingdom all things that
provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw
them into the blazing furnace, where there will
be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the
virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of
their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

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

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who in the one perfect sacrifice
brought to completion varied offerings of the law,
accept, we pray, this sacrifice from your faithful
servants
and make it holy, as you blessed the gifts of Abel,
so that what each has offered to the honour of
your majesty
may benefit the salvation of all.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,
has made a memorial of his wonders;
he gives food to those who fear him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we pray,
O Lord,
and lead those you have imbued with heavenly
mysteries
to pass from former ways to newness of life.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday Message

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 19 July 2026 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 4

THE PARABLE OF THE WEEDS

MATTHEW 13:24-43 (MATTHEW
13:24-30 SHORTER FORM)



Jesus continues teaching in parables, revealing different aspects of the kingdom of heaven. The Parable of the Weeds illustrates the coexistence of good and evil in the world.

The sower of good seed represents the Son of Man, while the enemy sowing weeds symbolizes the presence of evil. The harvest, representing the final judgment, underscores God's patience: the righteous and the wicked coexist for a time, but God will ultimately separate and bring justice.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed and the Parable of the Yeast emphasize the surprising growth and transformative power of the kingdom. The mustard seed, though tiny, becomes a large plant, and the yeast, though hidden, works through the whole dough. These images show that God's kingdom often begins in hidden, humble ways but expands and transforms creation profoundly.

Taken together, these parables teach about patience, hope, and God's sovereign plan. While we may witness evil or small beginnings in the world, God's kingdom is active and growing, often in ways unseen. The passage encourages believers to trust God's timing, participate faithfully in his work, and remain vigilant. ■

REFLECT

Jesus' parables in this passage invite us to see God's kingdom in action in our everyday lives. The Parable of the Weeds reminds us that life is never perfect — good and evil often exist side by side. Yet God does not call us to despair. Instead, we are encouraged to remain faithful, sowing goodness, practicing patience, and trusting that God will bring justice in his time.

The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast speak to the quiet, transformative power of small beginnings. A tiny seed becomes a sheltering plant, and a little yeast works through the whole dough. Our small acts of faith, love, and service may seem insignificant, but God can multiply them in ways beyond our imagination.

These parables challenge us to focus on what we can do, rather than the challenges around us. Every act of kindness, every word of encouragement, every prayer offered quietly, becomes part of God's growing kingdom. Discipleship is not about grand gestures alone, but faithful, patient commitment to letting God work through us, even in humble and unseen ways. ■

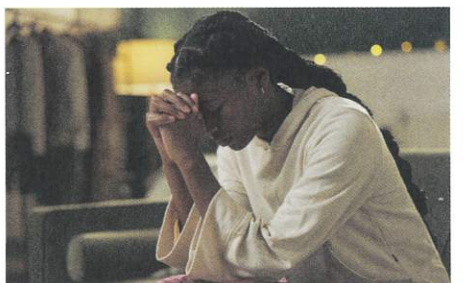
SAY

O Lord, increase my faith, that I
may do great things for You with
what is small."

St. Therese of Lisieux

DO

Take a moment each day to pray quietly,
knowing that even small prayers can transform
your heart and the world around you.

**LEARN**

God's kingdom grows quietly but powerfully,
and our small acts of faith, love, and service
participate in God's transforming work in the
world.