

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house.
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

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, protector of those who hope in you,
without whom nothing has firm foundation,
nothing is holy,
bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and
grant that,
with you as our ruler and guide,
we may use the good things that pass
in such a way as to hold fast even now
to those that ever endure.
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 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings.
The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you. 'Solomon replied 'Lord my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great? It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you as. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you'.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Ps 118:57,72,76-77,127-130. R v97

Response:
Lord, how I love your law!

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
Is to obey you word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold. (R.)
2. Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. (R.)
3. That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. (R.)
4. Your will is wonderful indeed:
therefore, I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. (R.)

SECOND READING Rm 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.
We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 13:44-55

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owes and buys the field.
'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.
'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds.
When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.
Have you understood all this? They said 'Yes'. And he said to them, "Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old".
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
Accept, O Lord, we pray, the offerings
which we bring from the abundance of your gifts,
that through the powerful working of your grace
these most sacred mysteries may sanctify our
present way of life
and lead us eternal gladness.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
Bless the Lord, O my soul.
and never forget all his benefits.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
We have consumed, O Lord, this divine Sacrament,
the perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son,
grant, we pray, that this gift,
which he himself gave us with love beyond all telling,
may profit us for salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday Message

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 26 July 2026 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1

THE PARABLES OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE AND THE PEARL

MATTHEW 4:12-23
(SHORTER FORM MT 4:12-17)



Jesus shares three parables that highlight the incomparable value of the kingdom of heaven. The Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Parable of the Pearl emphasize the supreme worth of God's kingdom.

In both, individuals recognize something of immense value — a treasure or a pearl — and willingly give everything to obtain it. These images convey that entering the kingdom requires total commitment: following Christ may demand sacrifice, yet the reward far surpasses all else.

The Parable of the Net illustrates the final judgment and the discernment inherent in God's plan. The net gathers fish of every kind, and at the end, a separation occurs between the good and the bad. This serves as a reminder that while God's kingdom welcomes all, human choices and response to God's word have lasting consequences.

Together, these parables teach about both the preciousness of the kingdom and the responsibility of discipleship. Believers are called to recognize its value, prioritize it above worldly concerns, and live faithfully while awaiting God's ultimate judgment. The imagery encourages discernment, commitment, and trust in the transformative power of the kingdom in our lives. ■

REFLECT

These parables invite us to consider what we truly treasure in life. The hidden treasure and the pearl challenge us to ask: what am I willing to give up to follow Christ? Faith calls for more than appreciation — it calls for wholehearted commitment. It may require letting go of comfort, habits, or attachments that distract us from living fully for God.

The Parable of the Net reminds us that life is a mixture of joys and challenges, good and bad. We do not control everything, but God calls us to live attentively and responsibly, making choices that nurture goodness and growth. Discipleship is about small, faithful actions — moments of kindness, prayer, and generosity that may seem hidden but are precious in God's sight.

Together, these parables remind us that the kingdom of God is a treasure worth seeking every day. Our task is to cultivate awareness, discernment, and willingness to act. Even modest efforts, offered with love, can be transformed into lasting blessings. Living with this awareness shapes our priorities and allows God's kingdom to grow quietly, steadily, and powerfully in and through us. ■

LEARN

God's kingdom is of infinite value, and that discipleship requires wholehearted commitment, attentiveness, and the willingness to cultivate faith through small, faithful actions. (CCC 1803)

SAY

Lord,
Help me to recognize the treasure of your kingdom.
Give me the courage to place you first and the wisdom to act faithfully in small ways each day.
Amen.

DO

Take a moment to reflect on what truly matters in your life and consider letting go of one distraction or attachment that keeps you from following Christ more fully.

