

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

12 July 2020

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading **Isaiah 55:10-11**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 64:10-14**

R. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

You visit the earth and water it,
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide the people with grain. ***R.***

For you have prepared the earth;
you water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges, softening it showers,
and blessing its growth. ***R.***

You crown the year with your bounty;
your pathways overflow with richness.
The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy. ***R.***

The meadows clothe themselves flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,

they shout and sing together for joy. **R.**

Second Reading Romans 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

I consider that the sufferings of this present time
are not worth comparing with the glory
about to be revealed to us.

For the creation waits with eager longing
for the revealing of the children of God;
for the creation was subjected to futility,
not of its own will
but by the will of the one who subjected it,
in hope that the creation itself
will be set free from its bondage to decay
and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation
has been groaning in labour pains until now;
and not only the creation,
but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit,
groan inwardly while we wait for adoption,
the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 8:11

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 13:1-23

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.

Such great crowds gathered around him
that he got into a boat and sat there,
while the whole crowd stood on the beach.

And he told them many things in parables.

"Listen! A sower went out to sow.

And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path,
and the birds came and ate them up.

Other seeds fell on rocky ground,
where they did not have much soil,
and they sprang up quickly,
since they had no depth of soil.

But when the sun rose, they were scorched;
and since they had no root, they withered away.

Other seeds fell among thorns,
and the thorns grew up and choked them.

Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain,
some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Let anyone with ears listen!"

Then the disciples came and asked Jesus,
"Why do you speak to them in parables?"

He answered,

"To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven,
but to them it has not been given.

For to those who have, more will be given,
and they will have an abundance;
but from those who have nothing,
even what they have will be taken away.

"The reason I speak to them in parables
is that 'seeing they do not perceive,
and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.'

With them indeed is fulfilled
the prophecy of Isaiah that says:

'You will indeed listen, but never understand,
and you will indeed look, but never perceive.

For this people's heart has grown dull,
and their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes;
so that they might not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and understand with their heart and turn-
and I would heal them.'

"But blessed are your eyes, for they see,
and your ears, for they hear.

Truly I tell you,
many prophets and righteous people
longed to see what you see, but did not see it,
and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

"Hear then the parable of the sower.

When anyone hears the word of the kingdom
and does not understand it,
the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart;
this is what was sown on the path.

As for what was sown on rocky ground,
this is the one who hears the word
and immediately receives it with joy;
yet such a person has no root,
but endures only for a while,
and when trouble or persecution arises
on account of the word,
that person immediately falls away.

As for what was sown among thorns,
this is the one who hears the word,
but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth
choke the word, and it yields nothing.

"But as for what was sown on good soil,
this is the one who hears the word and understands it,
who indeed bears fruit
and yields, in one case a hundredfold,
in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.