

# Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

## 19 July 2020

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### **First Reading Wisdom 12:13, 16-19**

A reading from the book of Wisdom

There is no god besides you, Lord,  
whose care is for all people,  
to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly.

For your strength is the source of righteousness,  
and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all.

For you show your strength  
when people doubt the completeness of your power,  
and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it.

Although you are sovereign in strength,  
you judge with mildness,  
and with great forbearance you govern us;  
for you have power to act whenever you choose.

Through such works you have taught your people  
that the righteous must be kind,  
and you have filled your children with good hope,  
because you give repentance for sins.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Responsorial Psalm Ps 85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16**

***R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.***

You, O Lord, are good and forgiving,  
Abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;  
listen to my cry of supplication. ***R.***

All the nations you have made shall come  
and bow down before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

For you are great and do wondrous things;  
you alone are God. ***R.***

But you, O lord, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.  
Turn to me and be gracious to me.  
Give your strength to your servant. **R.**

**Second Reading Romans 8:26-27**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

The Spirit helps us in our weakness;  
for we do not know how to pray as we ought,  
but that very Spirit intercedes  
with sighs too deep for words.

And God, who searches the heart,  
knows what is the mind of the Spirit,  
because the Spirit intercedes for the saints  
according to the will of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation Matthew 11:25**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel Matthew 13:24-43**

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Jesus put before the crowds a parable:

"The kingdom of heaven may be compared  
to someone who sowed good seed in his field;  
but while everybody was asleep,  
an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away.

"So when the plants came up and bore grain,  
then the weeds appeared as well.

And the slaves of the householder came and said to him,

'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field?

Where, then, did these weeds come from?'

He answered, 'An enemy has done this.'

The slaves said to him,  
'Then do you want us to go and gather them?'  
But he replied, 'No;  
for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.  
Let both of them grow together until the harvest;  
and at harvest time I will tell the reapers,  
Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned,  
but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Jesus put before them another parable:  
"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed  
that someone took and sowed in his field;  
it is the smallest of all the seeds,  
but when it has grown  
it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree,  
so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

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

Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables;  
without a parable he told them nothing.  
This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet:  
"I will open my mouth to speak in parables;  
I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world."

Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house.  
And his disciples approached him, saying,  
"Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."

He answered,  
"The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man;  
the field is the world,  
and the good seed are the children of the kingdom;  
the weeds are the children of the evil one,  
and the enemy who sowed them is the devil;  
the harvest is the end of the age,  
and the reapers are angels.

"Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire,  
so will it be at the end of the age.

The Son of Man will send his angels,  
and they will collect out of his kingdom  
all causes of sin and all evildoers,  
and they will throw them into the furnace of fire,  
where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.  
Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.  
Let anyone with ears listen!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**