

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory with salvation for your people: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

THE 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.**



OPENING PRAYER

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.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 64: 10-14

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

1. You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches. Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. **(R)**
2. And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth. **(R)**
3. You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **(R)**
4. 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 Romans 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 unable to attain its purpose, 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! The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower; whoever finds this seed will remain forever. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 13: 1-23 (*shorter form 13: 1-9)

The Lord be with you **And with your spirit**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew **Glory to you, O Lord.**
**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.**

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
All bow for following 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.**



focus on sunday

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters,.....
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right and just.**

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

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.

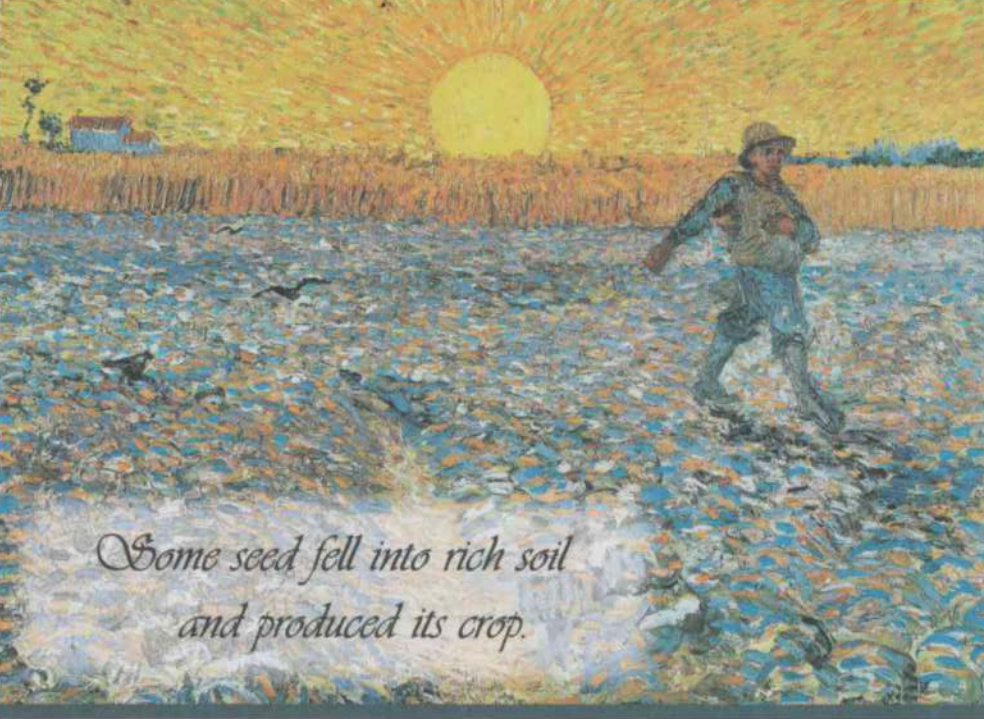
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen**
Go in peace, **Thanks be to God.**

Our faith is nourished and grows through the experiences of our lives. It can also weaken and disappear. We need the support of our Church and fellow - christians to strengthen and direct our growth when we lose our way.



Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.



What is the best soil for the word of God today? Jesus's story is both about the sowing and the ground that receives the seed. Much of the world today cannot hear the word of God through greed, violence, even the prideful belief that we do not need God.

The soil is hungry for good seed. The soil that receives the word of God is searching: for meaning in life, to create a world of justice and peace, and to care for our planet. It is soil hungry for real love, both among each other and for the wider world.

Jesus's message offers a meaning in life: that life comes from love and is directed to love. He offers the challenge to care for all. 'What you do for others, you do for me' is his invitation and challenge to our faith.

Our care for the earth comes from our faith that our world is God's, to be created and developed with God. Let's understand the soil that is receptive to the gospel values of prayer, inclusivity and justice.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger

Jesus' Story *Fr. Liam Hickey*

When Jesus saw a farmer sowing seeds in the ground, He was reminded of God Our Father, who gives the seed of life to all the world, and the seed of His Spirit is present in every person's heart. God Our Father can never stop loving us, but sometimes the seed of God's love is forgotten, when we miss giving thanks, and sharing, and when we hurt others. But the seed of God still loves us all the time.