

Almost everyone goes through a “religious phase”, a time when, for whatever reason, they find God and the things of God fascinating. But frequently, they do not cultivate this interest, grounding it in practice, prayer, and daily devotion. Those are precisely the means by which the Word grounds itself in us.

But the difficulty is that these actions are not particularly glamorous. To pray every day, whether one feels like it or not; to care for the sick, even when they are fussy and ungrateful; to attend Mass every Sunday, even when the priests give mediocre homilies and the choir needs a lot of work - this is how we sink deep and abiding roots.
Bishop Robert Barron

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.

Communion Antiphon

*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.*

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.

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Fifteenth Sunday

Year A

12th July 2026

Time of Sowing, Time of Birth

Today, and for the next two Sundays, we are reading chapter 13 in Matthew's Gospel - Jesus teaching in parables, revealing the Kingdom of God. Why in parables, why not in plain language?

Because parables, using every day experiences, confront & challenge us. As we hear the story, we unconsciously, place ourselves in the given situation; we bare the very depths of our hearts, revealing who we are & how we feel about things. Parables help us to see the world through the eyes of Jesus. Today we hear the parable of the sower. How does the seed, God's Word, fall in my life?

Entrance Antiphon

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

Collect

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.

ISAIAH 55: 10 -11

‘For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water 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 shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.’

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Today's short passage from Isaiah comes towards the end of his work and it is not so much prophetic as more part of the wisdom literature reflecting on the awe and mystery of God. God's word, Isaiah says, is totally other; it reveals and acts; it is truth and effectiveness. God's word cannot be doubted. Therefore, His promise of salvation cannot be doubted. It will be fulfilled! To emphasize this, Isaiah uses the image of rain and snow. It is impossible for them to fall on the earth without producing fruit. So it is with God's word. This reading prepares us for today's Gospel.

PSALM: 65(64):10 - 14

Response: *Some seed fell into good soil and yielded its fruit.*

You visit the earth, give it water; you fill it with riches.
God's ever-flowing river brims over to prepare the grain.

And thus you prepare it: you drench its furrows;
you level it, soften it with showers; you bless its growth.

You crown the year with your bounty. Abundance flows in your pathways;
in pastures of the desert it flows. The hills are girded with joy.

The meadows clothed with flocks. The valleys are decked
with wheat. They shout for joy; yes, they sing!

ROMANS 8: 18-23

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption, and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

We continue reading Chapter Eight from Paul's Letter to the Romans. Last week Paul spoke about God's Spirit, as being the key to all Christian living, making us Sons and Daughters of God. Paul now continues by reflecting on our expectation of glory. As God's Children we rightly look to the end times, to life with God. This is not just confined to men and women, but to the whole of creation, which has been entrusted to our care. Each day, whilst living on this earth, we and creation groan inwardly as we wait in hope, for life with God.

*Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower;
all who find him will live for ever. Alleluia!*

MATTHEW 13: 1-9

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, 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 produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

In the marvellous and inexhaustibly rich parable of the sower, we hear that some of the seed fell upon rocky ground and grew at once but soon enough withered because of lack of roots. Jesus explicitly tells us what this means. Sometimes people hear the Word of God. and receive it with joy, even enthusiasm, but because they do not allow that Word to sink deep down into their hearts, their faith fades quickly enough.