

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY

ORDINARY Season of the Year A

First Reading † Isaiah 55:10-11

The rain makes the earth fruitful.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

For as the rain and the snow come down from the sky
and do not return before watering the earth,
fertilising it and making it germinate
to provide seed for the sower and food to eat,
so it is with the word that goes forth from my mouth:
it does not return to me unfulfilled
or before carrying out my purpose
and achieving what it was sent to do.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial † Psalm 64:10-14

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

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

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

And thus you provide for the earth:
you drench its furrows;
you level it, soften it with showers;
you bless its growth.

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

You crown the year with your bounty.
Abundance flows in your pathways;
in pastures of the desert it flows.

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

The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows clothed with flocks.
The valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout and sing together for joy!

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

Second Reading † Romans 8:18-23

All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I reckon that the sufferings of the present time are nothing in comparison with the glory which is destined to be disclosed to us, for creation is waiting with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.

Creation was subjected to futility not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it, in the hope that creation itself might be freed from slavery for the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation, until this time, has joined together in groaning and labour pains. And not only that: we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too are groaning in ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption as sons, for our bodies to be set free.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;

all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel [longer form] † Matthew 13:1-23

A sower went out to sow.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

That same day Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the shore, and he told them many things in parables. He said,

‘Listen, a sower went 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 at once,

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.

Anyone who has ears should listen!’

Then the disciples went up to him and asked,

‘Why do you talk to them in parables?’

In answer, he said,

‘Because to you it is granted to understand the mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven, but to them it is not granted. Anyone who has will be given more and will have more than enough; but anyone who has not will be deprived even of what he has.

‘The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah is being fulfilled:

Listen and listen, but never understand!

Look and look, but never perceive!

This people’s heart has grown coarse,

their ears dulled, they have shut their eyes tight

*to avoid using their eyes to see, their ears to hear,
their heart to understand,
changing their ways and being healed by me.*

‘But blessed are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear!
Amen I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see,
and did not see it; to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

‘So 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 the heart: this is the seed sown on the edge of the path.

‘The seed sown on patches of rock is someone who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But such a person has no root deep down and does not last; should some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, at once that person falls away.

‘The seed sown in thorns is someone who hears the word, but the worry of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and so it produces nothing.

‘And the seed sown in rich soil is someone who hears the word and understands it; this is the one who yields a harvest and produces in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, in another thirty.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel [shorter form] † Matthew 13:1-9

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A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

That same day Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the shore, and he told them many things in parables. He said,

‘Listen, a sower went out to sow.

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The Gospel of the Lord.

[Week \(Year I\)](#) | [Week \(Year II\)](#)