



USCCaruso
Catholic Center

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Family Prayer Service

Presider: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Let us acknowledge the times which we have not been faithful to God.

Penitential Rite A

All: I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
(striking your breast, say:)
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
(Then continue with:)
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Opening Prayer:

Presider: Show favor, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever

All: Amen

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom:

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19v

There is no god besides you who have the care of all, that you need show you have not unjustly condemned. For your might is the source of justice; your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all. For you show your might when the perfection of your power is disbelieved; and in those who know you, you rebuke temerity. But though you are master of might, you judge with clemency, and with much lenience you govern us; for power, whenever you will, attends you. And you taught your people, by these deeds, that those who are just must be kind; and you gave your children good ground for hope that you would permit repentance for their sins.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 (5a)

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

You, O LORD, are good and forgiving, abounding in kindness to all who call upon you. Hearken, O LORD, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my pleading.

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

All the nations you have made shall come and worship you, O LORD, and glorify your name. For you are great, and you do wondrous deeds; you alone are God.

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

You, O LORD, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in kindness and fidelity. Turn toward me, and have pity on me; give your strength to your servant.

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans:

Romans 8:26-27

Brothers and sisters:

The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will.

The Word of the Lord

Alleluia:

Matthew 11:25

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew:

Longer Form Matthew 13:24-43

Jesus proposed another parable to the crowds, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the householder came to him and said, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' His slaves said to him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

He proposed another parable to them. "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.'"

He spoke to them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened."

All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables. He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfill what had been said through the prophet: I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation of the world.

Then, dismissing the crowds, he went into the house. His disciples approached him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He said in reply, "He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

“Just as 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 who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear.

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection/Family Discussion on the readings and Gospel:

by Fr. Joe Kim, OFM Conv.

Homi-flection for the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus shares with us 3 parables today in the gospel, and the homily, (or in this case, this homi-flection), focuses us to ponder and incorporate the gospel truths into our lives. There are many ways in which this reflection can be given, and for this Sunday, I would like to share the following short story and the reflections of a Benedictine Abbot to help us to understand what Jesus is inviting us to reflect on today:

A New York City taxi driver arrives at the final stop for his shift. He honked. After waiting a few minutes, he honked again. Because it was his last stop, he considered pulling away. Instead, he put the car in park and walked up to the door. He knocked. He heard an elderly voice, "Just a minute." He then heard the shuffling of bags moving across the floor. Then the door opened. It was a small woman in her 90's with a soft smile wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it. As she answered, the taxi driver caught a glimpse inside the house. It looked as if no one had lived there for years. All the furniture was covered in sheets, no clocks on the wall, and no knick-knacks on the counters.

"Could you carry my bag?" the lady asked. The cab driver walked her slowly down the steps of the front porch to the cab. Once in the cab, the lady handed the driver an address and asked, "Could you drive through downtown?"

"It's not the shortest way," The driver answered.

"I'm in no hurry. I don't mind," she said. "I'm on my way to hospice..."

The driver and passenger shared a quick glimpse in the rear view mirror, enough for her to see his concern and continue:

"I don't have any family left. The doctor says I don't have very long."

The driver quietly reached over and shut off the meter then asked, "What route would you like me to take?"

For the next two hours, they drove through the city. She showed the driver where she once worked, the neighborhood where she and her husband first lived, a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom when she was a girl. There were a few parts of town she asked the driver to slow down and she would sit, staring into the darkness, saying nothing.

After a couple hours, she suddenly said, "I'm tired. Let's go now."

They drove in silence to the address she had given him. When they arrived, two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as they pulled up. They must have been expecting her.

The driver opened the trunk to take out the suitcase. As he shut the trunk, she was already in a wheelchair.

“How much do I owe you?” She asked, reaching into her purse.

“Nothing,” said the driver.

“You have to make a living,” she answered.

“There are other passengers,” he responded.

Almost without thinking, the driver bent and gave the lady a hug. She held on tightly.

“You gave an old woman a little moment of joy,” she said. “Thank you.”

The driver gave a final squeeze of the lady’s hand and the two turned to go their separate ways. As he got in the car and glanced over to her, the door was shut.

He didn’t pick up any more passengers That night. In fact, he could hardly speak. What if that woman had gotten an angry or impatient driver? What if she got someone who refused to get out and go to her door? Refused to take the time driving around the city?

The taxi driver couldn’t shake the feeling that this single moment may be one of the most important moments of his life. (taken from <https://medium.com/@willkrieger/a-story-of-patience-758a4b6704b1>)

Patience. This story is about patience. The parables are about patience. How wonderfully our Lord understands our human hearts and how we allow impatience blur and blind the reality of the kingdom of God in our midst. I leave you with these words of Abbot Phillip: “The teaching today is that we must be slow to judge others, slow to think that we understand the Kingdom and how it is present, and slow to presume that we know the ways of God. Rather, we must look at others as possible Kingdom bearers, we must be still before the mystery of God so that we can begin to be aware of the Kingdom and we must look for God in all that happens to us and to others. When Jesus tells us parables, it is because He wants us to look at life in ways that are different from our normal ways. We should never think that we are the wheat and that others are the weeds! Rather we need to pay attention to the weeds of our lives and be aware of the wheat in the lives of others. When Jesus tells us that the Kingdom is like a small seed that can grow into a large tree, we should be aware of the gifts of others and aware that we are still small. When Jesus tells us that the Kingdom is like leaven, we should strive to be aware of how others are leaven already and that we can become leaven.

Let us be aware of God’s love for others, and *reflect* God’s love for others in our own lives through mercy and forgiveness.

*Can we be like the taxi driver? Can we slow down and foster the patience
So we can truly see others?*

Can we foster patience so we can open ourselves to the grace of the moment?

*Can we see as God sees? Can we in humility foster patience and faith in
the mystery of God's love and care for us?*

*What are the concrete ways you can foster the virtue of patience into your
daily life this week?*

Nicene Creed:

ALL: I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(bow)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

(raise from bow)

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen

Presider: We bring our prayers to God, whose love for us has no end.

Intercessions:

1. That the faith we celebrate at this Eucharistic table may make us wheat for the world hungering for justice and peace: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.
All: Lord, hear us.
2. That our Church's ministers may teach and proclaim neither judgement nor condemnation, but the mercy and forgiveness of God: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.
All: Lord, hear us.
3. That nations, states, and cities may find, in God, the Father of all, the "source of justice" and way of peace: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.
All: Lord, hear us.
4. That the poor, the homeless, the abused, the starving, all those in need may find a place of honor and compassion among us: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.
All: Lord, hear us.
5. That the sick, the suffering, and the recovering may find hope and healing in the God whose love knows no limits: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.
All: Lord, hear us.
6. That our deceased relatives and friends may "shine like the sun in their father's kingdom": *(Pause for silent prayer)*.
All: Lord, hear us.

Presider: We humbly bring our intercessions to you O Lord, trusting in You to answer them on your time not on our time.

Our Father:

Presider: At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Amen

Sign of Peace:

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen

Presider:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All:

And with your spirit.

Presider:

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

(At this time please offer a moment of silence before the Spiritual Communion is said.)

Spiritual Communion:

All: I wish my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints

Closing Prayer:

Presider: Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen