



USCCaruso
Catholic Center

Fifteenth 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: 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 honor. 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 the Prophet Isaiah:

Isaiah 55:10-11

Thus says the LORD:

Just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14 (Luke 8:8)

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

You have visited the land and watered it; greatly have you enriched it. God's watercourses are filled; you have prepared the grain.

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

Thus have you prepared the land: drenching its furrows, breaking up its clods, softening it with showers, blessing its yield.

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

You have crowned the year with your bounty, and your paths overflow with a rich harvest; the untilled meadows overflow with it, and rejoicing clothes the hills.

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

The fields are garmented with flocks and the valleys blanketed with grain. They shout and sing for joy.

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

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

Romans 8:18-23

Brothers and sisters:

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies

The Word of the Lord

Alleluia:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower. All who come to him will have life forever.

R. Alleluia, alleluia

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew:

Longer Form Matthew 13:1-23

On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

The disciples approached him and said, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He said to them in reply, "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted. To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because *they look but do not see, and hear but do not listen or understand*. Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says: *You shall indeed hear but not understand, you shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and be converted, and I heal them*.

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

"Hear then the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his

heart. The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit.

But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection/Family Discussion on the readings and Gospel:
by Deacon Paul Pesqueira

Homi-flection for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“They look but they do not see, and they hear and do not listen or understand.” *Matthew 13:13*

We live in a world of sensory overload. Some much information is coming at us. It is amazing the way our brain processes everything that comes at us. I would like to think that I can handle all the information that is coming at me. In reality, I miss things. Hopefully, not a lot is missed nevertheless sometimes I look and do not see. I hear, but do not listen.

Moving through my daily activities at the Catholic Center there is so much going. The staff is working on Campus Ministry programing, Advancement, Liturgy, getting ready for an event, or the students are meeting, studying or just talking. The energy can be wonderful. Sometimes it can be too much. My sanctuary is down the back stairs of the CC and walking into a cool dark church. I try and visit the Blessed Sacrament daily. A few quite moments with My Lord and My God.

I try and to look and to see what is in front of me. Is it a gold box? Or is it Jesus? Now that I am working from home, I miss that time at the Catholic Center. I miss being able to visit Jesus.

I want to see the homeless person and tell that person hello. I want to see the student who may be in need of an encounter with someone. I hope I can see and be helpful. I look at the individuals who come to Our Savior Parish and are walking around the grounds. I usually go up and speak to them. Being kind to others is just as important as any other ministry we have at Our Savior. We sometimes put hospitality and kindness together. Yes, we need to be kind and hospitable, it is important. But kindness is something I try to be aware of daily.

Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower this Sunday. As I listen to that gospel, I think about how I/we are formed. All the education is useless if we do not see or listen or understand the stranger or our neighbor. In the first reading from the prophet Isaiah he states the rain and the snow comes down from heaven to water the earth. Can our kindness do that? Can our formation as a child of God lead us to go forth and make this world fertile and fruitful?

Then the verse from second reading continues, “We know that all of creation is groaning in labor even until now.” Romans 8:22. To be willing to comfort somebody is a conscience act, it is the same with kindness. For those of us who have experienced labor; we know there will be pain. It is through that pain a new life is brought into this world. Is creation experiencing labor pains? Being able to move through the pain results in a new life. What can our world be like with the birth of a society that puts kindness and love first?

Who has been the sower in your life? Through my life experience and maturity, I can see and listen, not just look and hear. I pray for that gift of understanding that comes from the Holy Spirit. Whatever the situation that I am put in I hope I can bring kindness and love to it. Who has been the sower in my life? That leads me back to my sanctuary. The gold box, the tabernacle, My Lord and My God. I keep returning seeking to have God rain down upon me the gifts that I need in order to make those I come in contact with that kindness and love is being shared with them. Marana Tha, Come Lord Jesus.

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 our life together as a church and parish community may be rooted in the love and mercy of God: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.

All: Lord, hear us.

2. That Pope Francis, Archbishop Gomez, Fr. Richard and all who serve the church as bishops, priests, deacons, and ministers may reveal to the church and the world a “knowledge of the mysteries of the reign of God.”: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.

All: Lord, hear us.

3. That the nations and peoples of the world may work together to protect and share justly the many gifts of God’s creation: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.

All: Lord, hear us.

4. That God will bless the work of farmers and food producers with a bountiful harvest as a blessing for all the human family: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.

All: Lord, hear us.

5. That those who suffer for the sake of what is right and just may find hope and inspiration in Christ the Redeemer: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.

All: Lord, hear us.

6. That the souls of the faithful who have died may find rest and peace in the presence of God forever: *(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: 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.

All: Amen