

## Fifteenth Sunday of the Year A



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

God speaks his word to us in many ways. Jesus compared the word of God to a seed, a seed which can make our lives fruitful. However, if a seed is to produce a harvest it must be planted in good soil. What kind of soil do we offer God's word?

If our lives are barren it can only mean that we have not allowed God's word to take root in our hearts. But God never gives up on us.

Lord Jesus, you sow the seed of your word in us. Lord, have mercy.

You wait patiently for us to accept your word. Christ, have mercy.

Your word makes our lives fruitful. Lord, have mercy.

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

**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.**

Let us pray:

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, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 55: 10-11

*The rain makes the earth give growth.*

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heaven 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

Psalms 64: 10-14

**Response:      Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.**

You care for the earth, give it water,  
you till it with riches.

Your river in heaven brims over  
to provide its grain.      **R/.**

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

You crown the year with your goodness.

Abundance flows in your steps,  
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R/.**

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

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans

Romans 8: 18-23

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.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Speak, Lord, your servant is listening;**

**you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

Matthew 13: 1-23

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glorify to you, 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## *The Apostles' Creed*

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

## *Offertory:*

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**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 Offering:*

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. **Amen.**

## *Preface:*

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And with your spirit.**

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

**It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Christ our Lord.

For out of compassion for the waywardness that is ours,  
he humbled himself and was born of the Virgin;

by the passion of the Cross  
he freed us from unending death,  
and by rising from the dead he gave us life eternal.  
And so, with the Angels and Archangels,  
with Thrones and Dominions,  
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,  
we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

**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.**

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

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

## REFLECTION

Receiving the Word

The word of God is to the human heart what a seed is to the earth.  
Just as a seed needs soil, so the word needs a receptive heart.  
The earth responds to the rain and sun  
so that even the desert blooms.  
But the arid human heart has the power to resist  
so that it remains barren.  
Lord, soften our hearts with your grace,  
open them with your gentle love,  
so that the precious seed of your word  
may take root in our hearts, and bear fruit in our lives.

### *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. Amen

### *Final Blessing:*

The Lord be with you:  
May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
Go forth, the Mass is ended.

**And with your spirit.**

**Amen.**

**Thanks be to God.**

Thank you for the sunshine on wet leaves, for my neighbour's smile, for the person who said 'good morning', for the gorgeous rose in my front garden which spoke of you.

I look at my world, our world,  
a sign of wonder,  
a symbol of God's creation:  
populations are displaced,  
mud slips,  
decisions are made,  
boundaries are re-located,  
countries are re-named,  
and I realize that nothing  
stays the same -  
change is painful,  
change is frightening.  
Yet change can bring new life.

I look at our world.  
I look at our churches: my church,  
source of life and light and warmth.  
Let your holy Spirit,  
weaving, moving, threading,  
living and breathing, among us,  
give us the courage to change,  
so we may move forward together  
in life, in death and in new life  
and draw closer to one another,  
and to the Cross ...  
that puzzling sign of wonder,  
symbol of God's creative love.