



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
12th July 2020

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish, this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: The Bible is full of agricultural images, and often Jesus used them in his teaching. Today we hear one of his most famous parables – the parable of the sower. A parable is a made up story with a double meaning: there is the obvious meaning of the story itself, but then the *underlying* meaning, which is where the real message lies. In this story there are four "ways" in which we receive the Word of God. Which one am I? To begin, we praise our God this Sunday as we say:

Gloria

A: 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.

Opening prayer

L: 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.

A: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel reading *Matthew 13:1-23*

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 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!' Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied, 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. You, therefore, are to 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 his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

Jesus uses parables to make us think. He challenges us to get to grips with his message by reflecting on the underlying message in the story. Here he shows his understanding of the real world, and human nature. We will all receive his Word differently – some of us with an initial enthusiasm that quickly wanes, some of us distracted by worldly things, but some of us putting that Word into action and producing a result. None of us is always the same – at different moments in our lives we can receive God's Word in different ways. Especially as we begin to emerge from lockdown, what "sort of soil" am I? Is the Word of God resulting in a harvest in my life? Can I turn my thirtyfold into a sixty, or even a hundred?

A Thought for our Younger Friends

Have you ever heard of Aesop? He lived hundreds of years ago in Greece, and is remembered for writing lots of

short stories called **fables**. Aesop's fables are a way of teaching something important by means of a story. Google them and have a look! Jesus uses the same thing – he tells stories we call **parables** – which all have a “hidden” meaning. Part of the fun is finding out what the hidden message is and what it means for us. Today's story is a good example: Jesus talks about four types of soil. The hidden message is there are four types of people, who all react differently to God's word. Why not design a two-sided poster: on one side show the four types of soil and what happens to the seed, then on the other side show the hidden message – how people listen to the Word of Jesus!

Profession of Faith

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.

Intercessions

L: We want to welcome the Word and produce a good harvest for the Lord. Let us pray that his grace will work in us.

L: Let us pray for people who proclaim, preach and teach God's Word: that they may use their time and skills generously. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for all who listen to the Word of God, that it may take deep root in our lives. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for our parish communities, that as we begin to return to Church everyone may take care for their own safety and the safety of others. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

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

A: 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.

L: Listen to the Church, O Lord, as she makes her prayer to you, and grant us ever greater holiness. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Preparation for Spiritual Communion

L: Loving Father, in you we live and move and have our being, and while in this body we not only experience the daily effects of your care, but even now possess the pledge of life eternal. For, having received the first fruits of the Spirit, through whom you raised up Jesus from the dead, we hope for an everlasting share in the Paschal Mystery. At the Last Supper Jesus showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts now to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

Spiritual Communion

A: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that

I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

Thanksgiving Psalm

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

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

L: You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches. Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain.

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

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

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

L: You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.

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

L: The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

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

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray. Having shared spiritually in these gifts, we pray, O Lord, that, by our participation in this mystery, its saving effects upon us may grow. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

L: May the Lord ✕ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

A: Amen.

L: Let us bless the Lord!

A: Thanks be to God!