

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11
Resp. Psalm: Psalm 65: 10,11,12-13,14
Second Reading: Romans 8: 18-23
Gospel: Matthew 13: 1-23

[Full readings can be found here!](#)

1. HEAR

Grab your bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries you can find the Gospel reading by clicking [HERE](#). (Bishop O'Connell's Gospel Reflection page.)

As an alternative to reading the Gospel, you can listen and audio with the proclamation for adults by clicking [HERE](#). (YouTube, Lumo Project Films channel, 3:39 min)

Children can also watch a video proclamation of the Gospel by clicking [HERE](#). (YouTube, Crossroads Kid's Club channel, 3:35 min)

2. PRAY

Prepare a special prayer area where everyone can gather. Place a small green cloth (the liturgical color for this Sunday), a Bible, a cross or crucifix, and a lit candle to help create a peaceful and prayerful atmosphere.

Psalm 65 reminds us that God lovingly cares for the earth and provides everything needed for life to grow and flourish. Just as good soil helps seeds produce a rich harvest, our hearts grow in faith and goodness when we welcome God's love. As you read this psalm together, take a moment to thank God for His many blessings and reflect on how you can be "good ground" for His word.

All: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest. (Lk 8:8)

You have visited the land and watered it; greatly have you enriched it.

God's watercourses are filled; you have prepared the grain.

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

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.

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



3. TALK

In this Gospel, Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower to teach us how we receive God's Word in our hearts. Just as a seed needs good soil to grow and bear fruit, we need to listen to Jesus and put His teachings into practice. As you reflect together as a family, think about how you can prepare your hearts to be good soil where God's love can grow each day.

After reading the Gospel, discuss the following questions as a family:

- Who is the Sower in this parable? What does the seed represent? What are the different types of soil that Jesus describes? What kind of soil do I want to be in order to receive God's Word? What can I do this week to help God's seed grow in my heart?

Next, ask any children, youth or adults present to draw four flowerpots and label each with the different types of soil from the parable: side of the road, rocky ground, ground with thorns and good soil. Then, as a family, write or draw examples of actions that will help your hearts become "good soil" for Jesus. (i.e., praying together, helping at home, sharing with others, listening to God's Word, spending time together, etc.).

To conclude this activity, all can pray together:

Jesus, help us to receive Your Word with joy and to care for the seed You plant in my heart, so that it may bear many fruits of love, kindness, and service. Amen.