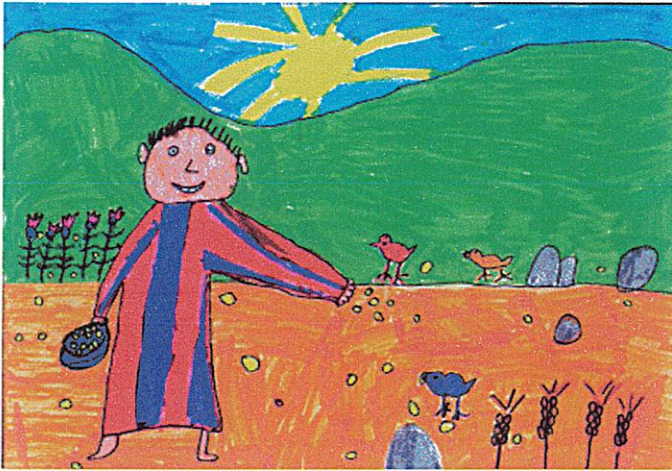


Our Faith on Sunday

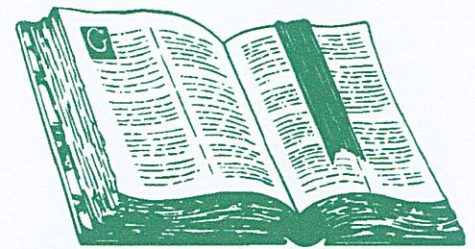
GOSPEL REFLECTION



In the gospel reading for this Sunday the Word of God is compared to a seed and we are compared to the soil. A seed is meant to bear fruit and so the question that is being asked of us in this reading is whether or not the Word is bearing fruit in my own life. And what are those fruits? We don't have to go any further than

those mentioned by Paul in his letter to the Galatians: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The parable of the sower and the seed shows us that we cannot take these fruits for granted. It is not enough that I attend mass on Sunday and listen to the Word of God. Jesus speaks about those who "understand" the Word. He is not referring to a purely intellectual understanding. When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, he told them to go and do the same. Truly understanding the words and actions of Jesus reported in the gospels means

repeating those words and actions in our own lives. In his explanation of the parable Jesus warns us to be on our guard against getting caught up in "the cares of the world" and "the deceitfulness of riches". Once again, we are reminded that being a Christian requires a choice. On another occasion Jesus tells us that we cannot serve God and money. We are called to "seek first the kingdom of God". Putting God before everything else is the "good soil" in which the Word will truly bear fruit.



POPE LEO XIV
THE HOLY SEE
APOSTOLIC EXHORTATIONS



TO ALL CHRISTIANS ON LOVE FOR THE POOR

2. This declaration of love, taken from the Book of Revelation, reflects the inexhaustible mystery that Pope Francis reflected upon in the Encyclical *Dilexit Nos* on the human and divine love of the heart of Jesus Christ. There we saw how Jesus identified himself "with the lowest ranks of society" and how, with his love poured out to the end, he confirms the dignity of every human being, especially when "they are weak, scorned, or suffering."¹ As we contemplate Christ's love, "we too are inspired to be more attentive to the sufferings and needs of others, and confirmed in our efforts to share in his work of liberation as instruments for the spread of his love."²

1. Francis, Encyclical Letter *Dilexit Nos* (24 October 2024), 170: AAS 116 (2024), 1422.
2. *Ibid.*, 171: AAS 116 (2024), 1422-1423.

Pope Leo XIV
General Audience Wednesday, 21 May 2025

We are used to calculating things – and at times it is necessary – but this does not apply in love! The way in which the "wasteful" sower [in the parable] throws the seed is an image of the way God loves us. Indeed, it is true that the destiny of the seed depends also on the way in which the earth welcomes it and the situation in which it finds itself, but first and foremost in this parable Jesus tells us that God throws the seed of his Word on all kinds of soil, that is, in any situation of ours: at times we are more superficial and distracted, at times we let ourselves get carried away by enthusiasm, sometimes we are burdened by life's worries, but there are also times when we are willing and welcoming. God is confident and hopes that sooner or later the seed will blossom. This is how he loves us: he does not wait for us to become the best soil, but he always generously gives us his word. Perhaps by seeing that he trusts us, the desire to be better soil will be kindled in us.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 16:15

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

COLLECT

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,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.**FIRST READING**

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'For as the rain and the snow come
down from heaven and do not return there but water the
earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the
sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that
goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall
succeed in the thing for which I sent it.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**PSALM**

Psalm 65(64):10a-d. 10e-11. 12-13. 14. R. Luke 8:8

R. Some seed fell into good soil and yielded its fruit.

You visit the earth, give it water;
you fill it with riches.
God's ever-flowing river brims over
to prepare the grain.

And thus you prepare it:
you drench its furrows;
you level it, soften it with showers;
you bless its growth.

You crown the year with your bounty.
Abundance flows in your pathways;
in pastures of the desert it flows.
The hills are girded with joy.

The meadows clothed with flocks.
The valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy; yes, they sing!

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Romans 8:18-23

Brothers and sisters: I consider that the sufferings of this
present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to
be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing
for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was
subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who
subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free
from its bondage to corruption, and obtain the freedom of the
glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole

creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth
until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who
have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait
eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL****Alleluia, alleluia.**

**The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower;
all who find him will live for ever.**

Alleluia.**GOSPEL**

Matthew 13:1-9

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the
lake. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into
a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach.
And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'A sower
went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the
path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds
fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and
immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil,
but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had
no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns,
and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on
good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty,
some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.'

R. The Gospel of the Lord.**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.****PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS****R.** 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.**R.** Through Christ our Lord.**Amen.****COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Cf. Ps 83: 4-5

R.**The sparrow finds a home,****and the swallow a nest for her young:****by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.****Blessed are they who dwell in your house,****for ever singing your praise.****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.