

## **Wednesday July 12 for the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

#### **GUIDELINES/SUGGESTIONS**

Here are a few guiding principles to keep in mind.

- Be sure to do the readings before the meeting.
- Stay on topic: the coming Sunday gospel and how it touches us.
- Listen openly to what others have to say.
- If someone shares something personal, respect their privacy keep it to yourself.
- This is not a debating society. While we may disagree with other people's points of view, we should always respect them.
- Be brief in your sharing to allow others to have their say.
- Be kind, considerate, patient, friendly, and flexible.

#### **INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL THEME**

Jesus describes himself as meek and humble of heart. The Lord ever invites us to come to him, especially when we feel burdened.

#### **READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL**

- In the words of Saint Benedict, "Listen with the ears of your heart."
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly reads aloud today's passage. Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

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."— Mt 13:1-9

#### **SILENT REFLECTION**

#### **GOSPEL REFLECTION** from Ascension Catholic Lectionary Commentary

Parables have been called "an earthly story with a heavenly meaning." Jesus tells a story and then challenges the listener to figure out the message for himself. On the other hand, parables can, in the words of William Barclay, conceal truth from those who are either too lazy to think or too blinded by prejudice to see. It puts the responsibility fairly

and squarely on the individual. It reveals truth to those who desire truth; it conceals truth from those who do not wish to see the truth.

Today's parable of the sower is very much based on the everyday experiences of the audience. They often see sowers sowing seed. The main point of the parable is God's offer of his Kingdom (salvation) to all. God is the Sower and we are the soil – of different types. If the seed falls on good soil (an open heart), it will likely produce an incredible harvest. Jesus encourages his audience to be good soil, receptive to his message. Jesus' offer of the Kingdom to all people would have stretched the mindset of those who believed that only the Jews belonged in the Kingdom. The parable invites each listener to look into his/her heart to see what kind of soil he/she is and to see how open and responsive he/she is to Jesus and his message.

### **QUESTIONS FOR SHARING**

- What verse or image in the readings caught your attention or drew you in? Any idea why? Was there a verse or aspect of the readings that challenged you?
- What are things we can do when we find ourselves weary and burdened?
- Name one thing today's Gospel says to us that we disciples of Jesus need to heed and act on.

### **IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?**

### **IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?**

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

A Prayer For Trust And Confidence In God by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard

My God, I want to have confidence in your love, but so many things seem to hold me back: past wounds, past hurts, past betrayals, past sins—mine and others'. Open my eyes. Open my heart. Enable me to take the leap of faith that is needed now. Holiness isn't a matter of starting to love you some time in the future, or even tomorrow. I don't have to wait until I become a better person, more worthy, more virtuous. It's a matter of trusting in your mercy today, just as I am. You showed this to the saints; show me, too, and give me a spirit of great confidence. I ask this thru Christ our merciful Savior.

Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting Time: July 5, 2023 06:30 pm **LINK**

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86903804010?  
pwd=MGJydS9qSW9LSzNGblZSM2xZcWpGZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86903804010?pwd=MGJydS9qSW9LSzNGblZSM2xZcWpGZz09)

Meeting ID: [869 0380 4010](#)

[Passcode: 086586](#)