

**Welcome to Holy Mass at Holy Cross Church**

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**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**11:00 am**

**July 10, 2011**

Intentions: +Denise Vinciguerra  
+Karen Lyons  
+Jimmy Draper

Requested by Mary and Dave Greenfield  
Requested by Maureen and Rick Navatka  
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Healing Intentions: Michelle Mallory  
Martha Shuman  
Lois Bogacki  
Jon Hall

Lu Luch  
Diane Spina  
Ray Bordynski  
Joseph Komuda

and all those in need of healing in our parish community

**The Liturgy of the Word**

**Reading I**

Isaiah 55: 10-11

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah**

The rain makes the earth fruitful.

Just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to him who sows and bread to him who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth. It shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 65: 10, 11, 12-13, 14

R: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

**You have visited the land and watered it; greatly have you enriched it. God's watercourses are filled; you have prepared the grain.**

R: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

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

R: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

**You have crowned the year with your bounty, and your paths overflow with a rich harvest; the untiled meadows overflow with it and rejoicing clothes the hills.**

R: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

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

R: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

**Reading II**

Romans 8:

18-23

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

All creation is waiting for God to reveal his sons.

I consider the sufferings of the present to be as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed in us. Indeed, the whole created world eagerly awaits the revelation of the sons of God. Creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but by him who once subjected it; yet not without hope, because the world itself will be freed from its slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. Yes, we know that all creation groans and is in agony even until now. Not only that, but we ourselves, although we have the Spirit as first fruits, groan inwardly while we await the redemption of our bodies.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

## **Gospel**

Matthew 13: 1-23

### **A reading of the holy gospel according to Matthew**

A sower went out to sow.

Jesus, on leaving the house on a certain day, sat down by the lakeshore. Such great crowds gathered around him that he went and took his seat in a boat while the crowd stood along the shore. He addressed them at length in parables, speaking in this fashion: *"One day a farmer went out sowing. Part of what he sowed landed on a footpath, where birds came and ate it up. Part of it fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprouted at once since the soil had no depth, but when the sun rose and scorched it, it began to wither for lack of roots. Again, part of the seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked it. Part of it, finally, landed on good ground and yielded grain at a hundred- or sixty – or thirty-fold. Let everyone heed what he hears!*

When the disciples got near him, they asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He answered, *"To you has been given a knowledge of the mysteries of the reign of God, but it has not been given to others. To the man who has, more will be given until he grows rich; the man who has not, will lose what little he has.*

*"I use parables when I speak to them because they look but do not see, they listen but do not hear or understand. Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them which says: 'Listen, as you will, you shall not understand, look intently as you will, you will not see. Sluggish indeed is this people's heart. They have scarcely heard with their ears, they have firmly closed their eyes; otherwise they might see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn back to me, and I should heal them.' But blest are your eyes because they hear. I assure you, many a prophet and many a saint longed to see what you see but did not see it, to hear what you hear but did not hear it.*

*"Mark well, then, the parable of the sower. The seed along the path is the man who hears the message about God's reign without understanding it. The evil one approaches him to steal away what was sown in his mind. The seed that fell on patches of rock is the man who hears the message and at first receives it with joy. But he has no roots, so he lasts only for a time. When some setback or persecution involving the message occurs, he soon falters. What was sown among the briars is the man who hears the message, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of money choke it off. Such a one produces no yield. But what was sown on good soil is the man who hears the message and takes it in. He it is who bears a yield of a hundred- or sixty- or thirty-fold."*

**This is the gospel of the Lord.**

### **Thoughts from the Pulpit The Seed and the Soil**

God speaks His word to us in many ways. Jesus compares God's Word to a seed, a seed which can make our lives fruitful. But if a seed is to produce a harvest, it must have good soil.

