

**15th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**St. Stephen's Parish**  
**July 12, 2020 - 9:30 AM**

**Entrance Song: Spirit And Grace (Ricky Manalo)**

**First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11**

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD:

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 the one who sows  
And bread to the one who eats,  
So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth;  
My words shall not return to me void, but shall do my will,  
Achieving the end for which I sent it.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 65:10-14**

**“The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.”**

**Second Reading: Romans 8:9, 11-13**

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

Brothers and sisters: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that; but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23 or 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.**

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."

[The disciples approached him and said, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He said to them in reply, "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted. To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because *they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand*. Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says:

*You shall indeed hear but not understand,  
You shall indeed look but never see.  
Gross is the heart of this people,  
They will hardly hear with their ears,  
They have closed their eyes,  
Lest they see with their eyes  
And hear with their ears  
And understand with their hearts and be converted,  
And I heal them.*

"But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

*(continued on the following page)*

“Hear then the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart. The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.” ]

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



### **Apostles' Creed**

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.

**Presentation of the Gifts: Parable (M.D. Ridge)**

**Communion Song: Unless A Grain Of Wheat (Bernadette Farrell)**

**Closing Song: Sing To The Mountains (Bob Dufford)**

**Postlude: Miracle Of Grace (Curtis Stephan)**



**Thank you for joining us!**

**Saint Stephen Parish of Walnut Creek**

**“To Live and to Love in Christ”**

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