



## The Word

### The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Week ending July 16

#### **Call to Prayer and Sharing**

- ✦ *Leader invites all into a few moments of silent reflection to remember that we are in the presence of God. (reflective pause)*
- ✦ *Then: “In the name of the Father and of the Son . . .”*

#### **The Word of God**

- ✦ *Leader reads part or all of one of the scripture texts from the previous Sunday.*

Matthew 13:1-9

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.”

#### **Faith Sharing**

- ✦ *Leader reminds everyone of the Question of the Week which relates to the particular group gathered . . .*

**Children:** Can you remember a time a family member or friend tried to share the seed of a Godly gift with you, such as love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, compassion or forgiveness?

**Teens:** What types of seeds might Jesus be trying to plant within you?  
What might you do better to allow these seeds to grow?

**Adults:** How are you sometimes rocky or thorny soil? How might you become more fertile for God's seeds to take root?

We offer this form of contemplative sharing for pondering Scripture while considering the question, and for the faith sharing which follows.

- Listen/ Read (Lectio): Ponder God's word and listen for what touches your heart.
- Meditate (Meditatio): Notice what you notice. Allow God's word to resonate in you.
- Speak/Share (Oratio): Prayerfully share with the group your thoughts and feelings.
- Rest in God's presence (Contemplatio): Notice God's presence and be still, surrounded by God's love.
- Choose to act (Actio): Trusting in God's nearness, commit to action rooted in love.

*Time is provided for sharing responses to the question. Silence between responses is to be expected. Allow about 15 minutes for faith sharing. For larger groups, leader invites members to divide into groups of three or four for faith sharing.*

- ✦ *When the sharing comes to an end, the leader invites everyone to take a moment to silently and reverently hold what has been shared together.*
- ✦ *Continue with the meeting, turning to the agenda.*

### ***Concluding the meeting***

*At the end of the meeting, the leader closes with the following prayer:*

Good and Gracious God,  
your love for us surpasses all understanding.  
As we leave here today,  
be with us in all our comings and goings,  
and in all that we say and do.  
We pray this in the name of Christ Jesus who is our Light.  
Amen.