

Bulletin: 16 Ord A 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Archbishop will be here August 2, 2017 to August 6, 2017. Mass at Saint Theresa will be August 5, Saturday, at noon. Mass at Holy Rosary will be August 6, Sunday, at 10:00 AM. Mass at Clarks Point will be August 3, Thursday, at 11:00 AM.

HOMILY

16 Ord A 2017, Seed, Wis 12:13&16-19; Rom 8:26-27; Mat 13:24-43

DESIRE TO ROOT OUT EVIL

The desire to root out evil is a universal temptation for humanity. Look at Hitler's concentration camps, Stalin's purges, the Spanish Inquisition, and the witch-hunts of medieval Europe. Our human history is littered with the bloody attempts to create by force a pure and uncontaminated society.

WE ARE NOT THE JUDGE OF EVIL

The gospel tells us that it is not up to us to be the judge of who is evil and who is not. Only God can judge the human heart. Thus, Jesus rejects the witch-hunts and the purified races. He says, "Let both weed and wheat grow together, side by side, until the harvest."

GOOD SOIL IS AN OPEN HEART

The seed of the Kingdom of God grows when people respond to it freely. Good soil is like a person's heart opened to grace.

MUSTARD SEED POWER AND PATIENCE

The parable of the mustard seed helps to explain an important message about power and patience. The Kingdom of God grows gradually from small beginnings like a mustard seed.

GREAT POWER

The seed of the Kingdom of God has great power. It has power to transform both individuals and the world, but never by force and never quickly.

PATIENCE

The mustard seed grows slowly. It represents patience. The lord is patient in order to allow us to respond to his love. The seed of God inside of us needs time to ripen and to grow. God has patience in us because he believes in us. He gives us time so that our true selves may flourish.

THE WAY OF JESUS IN NON VIOLENCE

The way of Jesus and all of us, is not to do violence to ourselves or to others. Our way is to allow God's gentle and persistent love to bring forth a harvest of good works within us.

Here is how to grow from a tiny mustard seed, to a beautiful life-giving tree:

1. Be open to Gods grace
2. Be patient
3. Tend your Garden of the soul, pull the weeds
4. Allow God to Transform you from within

WEEDS

Caution, there is such things as weeds, i.e. greed, judging, and arrogance.

GARDENS NEED TENDING

One thing I have learned about planting gardens in Alaska is that you have to tend the garden. If you do not water the seeds, thin out the sprouts, and pull the weeds around them, the garden will become a disaster. It will die.

OUR SOULS NEED TENDING

Our lives are like that. We need to tend to our spirits. To prevent being choked, trim unnecessary things in your lives away. When we do our part for God, i.e. trim away addictions, material possessions, and gossiping, then God will strengthen us from within.

REJOICE

Today is a time to rejoice because if we start getting overgrown, God reminds us to tend to the garden of our soul. Rejoice because our lord frees us from the burden of having to judge others. Rejoice because our Lord is patient, mild of judgment, and gives us time to grow into loving people (469 Words).

INTERCESSIONS

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL: Sixteenth Sunday Ordinary Year A

Celebrant

Our burdens are made light by our trust in God, who hears our prayers.

Deacon/Lector

That those called to proclaim the Gospel do so with faith filled zeal, we pray to the Lord.

That authorities of every nation govern in mercy and justice, let us pray to the Lord.

That those who are near death be at peace in the knowledge that they are forgiven, we pray to the Lord.

For those of our community who have died (especially): and for comfort to those who mourn the loss of a loved one, we pray to the Lord.

In Silence let us now add our own intentions for our families, our community, our country, and the world....., We pray to the Lord.

Celebrant

God, holy and strong, heed the Spirit's intercession and grant the prayers we make, we ask this through Christ our Lord.

READINGS

Wisdom 12:13&16-19

For neither is there any god besides you who have the care of all, that you need show you have not unjustly condemned; For your might is the source of justice; your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all. For you show your might when the perfection of your power is disbelieved; and in those who know you, you rebuke temerity. But though you are master of might, you judge with clemency, and with much lenience you govern us; for power, whenever you will, attends you. And you taught your people, by these deeds,

that those who are just must be kind; And you gave your sons good ground for hope that you would permit repentance for their sins.

Romans 8:26-27

In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because it intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will.

Matthew 13:24-43

He proposed another parable to them. "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the householder came to him and said, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?'

He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' His slaves said to him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn."' He proposed another parable to them. "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.'" He spoke to them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened." All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables. He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfill what had been said through the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation (of the world)." Then, dismissing the crowds, he went into the house. His disciples approached him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He said in reply, "He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned (up) with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all who

cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear.