

**The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time                      Year A**

Sunday, July 16, 2017

Readings: 1) Isaiah 55:10-11    2) Romans 8:18-23    3) Matthew 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

**Sunday Liturgy**

The focus for today's Mass is that the word of God is the source of eternal life.

In the first reading, Isaiah uses the image of rain that waters the soil and brings about the process of growth.

Saint Paul reminds us that all of creation is moving toward the great day when the fullness of redemption will be revealed.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells a powerful parable about the sower and the seed to describe the kingdom of God.

**GENERAL INTERCESSIONS**

**PRIEST:**

**Knowing that God provides all that is good,  
let us bring our prayers and petitions before our eternal Father.**

For the faithful of the church,  
may they be fertile soil for the growth of God's word.  
We Pray to the Lord.    People sing:    Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For every land, may they rejoice in plenty,  
foreshadowing the harvest to be shared in heaven.  
We Pray to the Lord.    People sing:    Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For those who are experiencing physical, mental or spiritual illness;  
may their faith in God bring them healing, hope and strength.  
We Pray to the Lord.    People sing:    Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For our beloved dead,  
may they find rest and eternal life in heaven.  
We Pray to the Lord.    People sing:    Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For all who gather here in this community  
seek ways to reach out in love to those who are alone.  
We Pray to the Lord.    People sing:    Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For our own personal intentions, ..... (long pause).  
We Pray to the Lord.    People sing:    Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**PRIEST:**

**Almighty and eternal God,  
our salvation comes from you alone.  
Hear and answer our prayers both spoken and unspoken.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**